

	Scrapbook 34 Oct. 18, 1954 to Jan. 1 1955
1.	Roger Weill re 15¢ 1869 cover
2.	Jack Molesworth 1¢ 51 P1 4- 5¢47 D.T. 3¢61 Pink 10¢ 57
3.	John A. Fox Re. Circular 1d S1 dated May 1 1851
4.	Roger Weill Re: Hawaii cover Harris sale
5.	R. Delapierre Re 5¢ New York Plate of 9
6.	Harold Turk re Confed dated JAN 63
7.	Paul A Young Re Early Date CSA 2¢ Brown
8.	Sol Kaplan Re ¢ 1856
9.	H.A. Appleby LONDON RE De la RUE letter
10.	John D. Pope III Re 5¢ 47 cover to PARIS
11.	H.S. Cole re:1¢ 1850 10¢ 47 and 10¢ 47 Bisect
12.	M Jamet Re 10¢ 57 Cover
13.	F.W. Bohle re: Miscellaneous
14.	E.C. Krug re 5¢ 47 Cover to France RE 5¢ 47 cover 90 RI
15.	E. Jaeger re Two Covers error in Rating
16.	D.N. McInroy Re 5d 56 Henna? Re 10¢ 47 Green black
17.	Marcel Level Re Steamer 10
18.	Walter Senchuk re 5¢ 57 Red Br
19.	Geo Alten re Re 1d Book cover Re: Valentine cover
20.	H.J. Lemley Re. West Plains Mo Cover
21.	E. B. Jessup re Hawaii Covers
22.	M.C. Blake Various
23.	Mariner's Museum
24.	Raynor Hubbell 20 Green BISECT
25.	Kenneth E. Hammond 1d 51 PII ^E
26.	Millard Mack Cover to Spain
27.	L.L. Shenfield Bisect 20¢ Green Steam 10
28.	Jack Molesworth 5d 47 90RI D.T. 10¢57 1d P1 4
29.	Phil. Foundation Re 12¢51 Bisect N.O. Re 2¢ B.J. Bisect 6¢69
30.	Henry Hill re 12¢ 57 Cover Re 5¢56 V.S. 5¢ 57
31.	Geo W.Linn A cover to St. John N.B.
32.	Dr. O. Bacher re; F.L. from S.F. with 12& 51 Bisect
33.	Lee Chadwick re: Fake 24 ¢ 61
34.	Lester Downing Re Stampless
35.	Dr. A.R. Davis Re way Re War Rate
36.	H.G. Duckworth Re 1¢ 51
37.	Ezra D Cole re Fake 10¢ 5S Cove Re Fake 1¢ S1 Type I
38.	John A Fox Lincoln Cover
39.	Perry Fuller 2 1¢ 1851
40.	J.G. Fleckenstein 30¢ 1869 cover
41.	Gordon Harmer re 1d S1 Ocean Mail Cover
42.	Jack Molesworth 1d51 96R4 IC 1¢ 51 Types- 10¢ Pink
43.	Chas. F.Meroni re:confed cover thru Mexico
44.	Dr. Jas J. Matejka Jr. re Sitka Alaska cover

45.	Van Dyk MacBride Re "Due e" Cover
46.	D.W. McInroy Re: 5¢ Providence 1¢ 57 from J.M.
47.	C.E. Miller 1¢ 1851 1¢ 1857
48.	Millard Mack 3¢ 69 cover to Victoria 1¢ 69 cover
49.	Henry A. Meyer Miscellaneous
50.	Philip G. Rust 24D 1869 Cover
51.	Philip G. Rust 10¢ S5-S7 – Type IV 64L1
52.	Adolph Steeg Re 12¢ Geneva NY Bisect
53.	Phil Ward Re Franklin Institute Award
54.	Stanley H. Wright 1¢ S1 - P13 Crack
55.	Jack Molesworth Re 30¢ 61 S.M. Cover 5d Taylor from Peru 3¢ S7 to Hong Kong
56.	E.C. Krug/ E.D. Cole Re Lots in H.R. Harmer Sale London 12/6
57.	Dr. A.R. Davis Re N.Y. Circular mail marking
58.	Henry K. Jarrett re 5¢ N.Y. Blue Paper
59.	Raymond Weill Re 3 Od 1869 cover
60.	Robt A Siegel re 1¢57 Type IV "Louisville & Cin S.B."
61.	Philip H. Ward Jr. Re 90¢ 1873 cover
62.	Edgar B. Jessup Re Gerber 7R1E Ex. Colby Herst.
63.	M. Jamet re 1857 cover 10¢ IV 5¢ brick
64.	C.M. Phillips Jr. Re: Miscel. Covers
65.	Henry Meyer, Jos. A Herbert Jr. Re Covers with Fake "7"

TELEPHONE
RAYMOND 0022

RAYMOND H. WEILL Co.
ROGER G. WEILL-RAYMOND H. WEILL

Philatelic Dealers

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407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

October 18, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

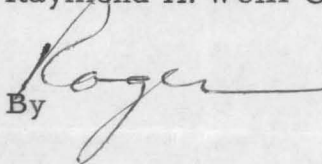
Dear Stan:

Will you please expertize the enclosed 1869 cover. If you find it to be good, it might be worth cleaning up a bit. Please see what you can do with it. Include expertization, etc. fee when returning.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

rgw:lc
enc.

Oct. 21, 1954.

Mr. Roger G. Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Roger:

Herewith the 15¢ 1869 cover as per yours of the 18th. I have examined this very carefully and feel sure that it is genuine in all respects.

I am not sure what the black postmark is at left bottom but the date appears to be "APR 21" 1870, and at right the red New York Registered of "APR 22." The rectangular on face in red is probably "Hamburg of Apr 31 70 (31 - 4 - 70), and the red framed "RECOMONDIRT" is the Prussian for Registered. In April 1870 the rates, per 1/2 ounce, to Hungary were -

"Via North German Union direct 10¢ plus 8¢ registration"

and

"Via North German Union Via England - 15¢ plus 8¢ registered."

You will note the addressor routed the letter originally "Via England" but when he registered it he had it sent "direct" hence the 18¢ rate. The 3¢ stamp is a bit faded and the perforations are quite ragged. This also applies to the 15¢ stamp to some less extent. Incidentally the 15¢ stamp is a Type II S.U.S. #119. In my opinion, the cover should be left as it is and no attempt made to repair or improve the condition or appearance.

A registered letter to Austria as early as 1870 is quite a scarce item.

My fee for the above is \$3.50 which includes return registered postage. I have endorsed the cover on the back as genuine.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

P.S.—If you bought #103 in the recent Harris sale and you still have it, may I see it? I suspect the stamp was added.

PAID
NOV -1 1954

TELEPHONE
RAYMOND 0022

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

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407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

October 25, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

We were surely pleased to read that you found the 1869 cover alright. Thank you for giving us so much information about it.

Enclosed is the Hawaii item from the Harris sale about which you inquire. We would be very glad to have your comments on it.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

Roger
By

rgw:lc
enc.

Nov. 1, 1954.

Mr. Roger G. Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Roger:

Thanks for yours of the 25th with check for \$3.50.

I am returning herewith the cover from the Harris sale. It is my opinion, and please bear in mind that I may be wrong, that this was a stampless cover to which the stamp was added. I had quite a bit of correspondence with Admiral Harris in the middle 1940's re - this class of covers of which he had several - some with pen canceled stamps added - some with handstamped canceled copies. I regard with suspicion any cover with the San Francisco marking "Paid 8 Ship", that is, that such covers were doubtless stampless. I believe that had this 13¢ stamp been attached prior to the Honolulu postmark, that the latter would have been used to cancel the stamp as was the general custom. This use was 1854 and I have a record of other covers of this same period.

Again I emphasize that the above is just my personal opinion and cannot be accepted as an established fact, because the stamp could have been used as we see it.

I enclose a photo print (No. 1) - Exhibit A - of a stampless cover which belongs to Henry Meyer - This never had any stamp as I made a photo of it by ultra-violet to see if by any chance a stamp had been removed. This use was Dec. 13, 1854 - Jan. 1, 1855. I also enclose Print No. 2 - This is a fake photograph - I added a pencanceled stamp to this cover to show how such covers have been (3) faked. You may retain these prints if you wish.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 4, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your return of the 5¢ 1847 and 10¢ 1857. I shall look forward with interest to your full report based on the photos which you have taken. The position 90R1 certainly looked o.k. to me.

I hope that you had an enjoyable time visiting Stan Jr. in Norfolk and that he enjoyed and found educational his work cruise. He is quite fortunate in getting such travel in along with his Naval tour of duty.

Enclosed is a cover with about the richest PINK that I ever had the pleasure of owning. I therefore presume that it is a "pigeon blood" and am sending it along for your confirmation of this fact. I would appreciate your signing the reverse with whatever comments you feel appropriate.

With best regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 5, 1954

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

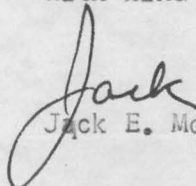
Dear Stan,

Enclosed is a beautiful 1¢ 1851 strip that is supposed to be position 83, 82, 81 L4, the latter a type III and the other two Type IIIa's.

I would very much appreciate your checking the plating and the types and also and especially checking it for soundness as there appears to me that it may have an internal cut or two. At least, dipping in fluid showss evidence of ssame.

Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly. A Special Delivery air mail reply would be appreciated.

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/p
encl

Changes made

Nov. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the One Cent 1851 strip of three as per yours of the 5th. This strip is from Plate 4, and the types are as follows:

III - IIIA - IC

See my One Cent book, Vol. 1, chart on page 234. This gives the three types as,

III - III - IC

but this is an error as 82L4 is a Type IIIA rather than a III as the bottom line is not broken in this strip. I enclose a photograph of the strip duly signed on the back. John Fox described 83L4 as a IIIA in the Lehman sale. It is not a fine IC but rather a fair example of that uncatalogued type, which is somewhat rare.

I examined the strip under my binocular but failed to note any damage. I also put it in tetro and the result was the same. It appears to be in perfect condition, and therefore a very rare strip. My fee for the examination and signed photograph is \$4.00.

Regarding the 10¢ 1857 Type III which you sent me this past week. I am now enclosing a photo print that I made by ultra-violet. I believe that this is a cleaned copy but I am unable to prove my suspicion. I note what may be evidence - as for example - on the nose - blurr marks at bottom under the "T" of TEN - also in bottom margin at right S.E. of the "S" of "CENTS." This green stamp is easy to clean and to leave practically no trace and when this happens how can we prove a suspicion. The above is the best that I can do so use your own judgement. My advice would be to present the facts and sell "as is" rather than to offer it as an unused copy. My fee, including photo print is \$3.00.

Regarding the 5¢ 1847 which you submitted. This stamp is the 90R1 double transfer - there is no doubt about that - but apparently someone attempted to improve the appearance by retouching. At least that is my impression. I enclose a photo print herewith of your stamp, also in a separate envelope three prints and a diagram of the D.T. 90R1. The left frame line of your stamp appears too strong, it has the appearance of retouching. The blackness of the ink down this line may be due to "oxidation." If this is true a bath in peroxide might bring out the brown. Please return the three prints and the diagram, after you have made a careful comparison with the print of your stamp. Incidentally, this diagram was made years ago and does not show all of the doubling, especially in the two large "5." My fee for this examination is \$3.00.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 7, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 3¢ Pink cover of Auburn, N.Y. of Aug. 31 (1861). You are quite right - this is an exceptional PINK and a very rare stamp. I have endorsed it as such on the back and I doubt if I could have made my opinion of this cover any stronger. While this is not the Pigeon Blood, it is perhaps just as rare - It is a much paler tint than the Pigeon and is unquestionably the very earliest of the printings of the 3¢ 1861, a color that was too pale and on that account was not satisfactory. This is a very valuable cover and should go to a collector who would appreciate an item as rare as this.

My fee on this is \$5.00.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. FOX

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

=====

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

October 20, 1954

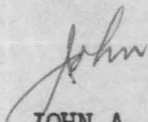
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stan:

The enclosed cover puzzles me! I know it can't be and wonder what is wrong. I guess the printed date on the circular. Yet, in the contents of the circular 1851 is used again. Thought you would be interested in looking at it.

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

Sincerely,


JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew

Oct. 23, 1954.

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

Dear John:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 cover as per yours of the 20th. I feel positive that this use was not May 1, 1851, but surely May 1852. It is odd that the postmark date of "May 1" matches the date-line inside of May 1, 1851 but surely this was a typographical error. No 1¢ stamp could have been used as early as May 1, 1851 because no deliveries had been made anything like that early and further, had this been May 1851, the circular rate would have been 3¢ per sheet.

Mildred and I are leaving today to drive to Norfolk to meet Stan Jr.'s ship arriving next week after a trip around the world. You doubtless remember him. He is now an Ensign in the Navy aboard a Destroyer.

We send our best to Virginia and you.

As ever yours,

TELEPHONE
RAYMOND 0022

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

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407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

November 5, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

Since you are skeptical about the genuineness of the Harris-Hawaii cover returned in your November 1 letter, we are going to send it to the Foundation. I do not think they would have any better information than you, but unless they certificate the stamp as being genuinely used on the cover, we are going to return it to Harmer Rooke.

Thanks very much for giving us this information and also for the prints. Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By *Roger*

rgw:lc

Nov. 8, 1954.

Mr. Roger G. Weill,
407 Royal St.,
New Orleans 16, La.

Dear Roger:

Re -- yours of the 5th. I wouldn't place much dependence in a P.F. certificate on a U.S.-Hawaiian cover, but the chances are they will authenticate it as genuine. Please keep me advised one way or the other. There is no doubt that the Committee attempts to do fine work but they frequently fail to consult the right specialists, and use their own judgment and consequently make errors.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

RAYMOND H. WEILL Co.
ROGER G. WEILL - RAYMOND H. WEILL

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Philatelic Dealers

407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

January 12, 1955

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

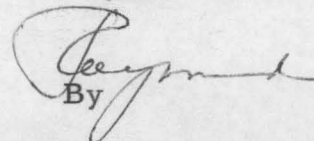
We have just had a report from the Philatelic Foundation about the Hawaii 13¢ dk. red on cover. This was lot 103 in the Harmer Rooke-Harris sale of Oct. 4, 1954. You had previously doubted the genuineness of this cover. The Foundation has declined to give an opinion and this just about confirms your findings. We are returning it to the auctioneer.

Thanks very much for the information regarding the Columbian stamps which are stuck together. We are still a little hesitant to attempt to monkey with these blocks and so will first try to sell them as they are.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

rhw:lc

Willy Balasse

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=====

BRUXELLES-BOURSE, LE October 20th, 1954
54, RUE DU MIDI

M. Stanley B. Ashbrook,
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave,
FORT THOMAS N.Y. (U.S.A.)
=====

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,


Mr. Klep, being ill for the moment, communicates me your kind letter of October 13th.- Mr. Klep asked me to answer to you, untill his health is quite all right again, and he will then answer to your real interesting opinion on the plate of nine of the 5 c. New-York.-

What I know is that Mr. Klep doesn't own a full sheet of nine.- He only is in possession of a photograph of it, but also a reconstructed plate of nine in brown.- I think those items come from the States.-

I take this occasion to congratulate you of that most important place you take in the International Philately and especially for your wonderfull books on the 1 c. and 10 c. of the 1851-57 issues.-

With my kindest regards, I am,

Cordially yours,



R. DELAPIERRE
Rédacteur en chef du "Balasse Magazine"

Nov. 13, 1954.

Mr. R. Delapierre,
% Willy Balasse,
54 Rue Du Midi
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Delapierre:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of October 20th.

I can highly recommend to you an article that has just been published by my esteemed friend, Mr. Clarence Brazer of New York City. It is a paper that was read before the "Twentieth American Philatelic Congress," Saint Louis, Mo. - Oct. 22-24, 1954, and entitled, "New York Postmaster's Minature Plate of Nine." Papers read before the Congress have been published in book form and a copy @ \$3.00 (plus postage) may be obtained from the editor, John D. Pope III, #4 St. James Court, St. Louis 19, Mo. U.S.A.

Sincerely yours,

LAW OFFICES
HAROLD L. TURK

TELEPHONE TRIANGLE 5-2303

26 COURT STREET
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Oct. 27, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

The last issue of "Stamps" contains your request for information as to earliest dates of cancellation of Confederate States issues. While Scott's Catalog states (at page 495), as does your article, that the earliest known cancellation of the 10¢ blue Jeff Davis (Conf. States #11) is "April 23, 1863," I have a beautiful copy of this stamp, tied to piece by dated cancellation "JAN. 18, 1863."

Sincerely yours

Harold L. Turk

LAW OFFICES
HAROLD L. TURK

TELEPHONE TRIANGLE 5-2303

26 COURT STREET
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Nov. 5, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I have your letter of Nov. 2nd as to the 10¢ Confederate States #11 with dated cancellation "JAN 20, 1863." I enclose it for your examination.

I note with interest your comment that there is "something wrong somewhere" and that "we know positively" that the stamp was not issued prior to April 1863. In my many years in professional and public life I have learned that one can never be absolutely positive about anything, especially in the field of research into events occurring almost a century ago.

During the past six months the enclosed stamp was separately examined by several experts, the last one a friend of Mr. Lamont Hall whom you may know. Each of them concluded, as you have, that there was something wrong somewhere, and two of them expressed the belief that the cancellation date must have been a "mistake" on the part of the postmaster who stamped the date. But all this is idle speculation on their part. I may add that in each instance the expert who examined the stamp offered to buy it. However, it is not for sale.

I have stated the facts merely to acquaint you with my experiences thus far with the stamp; and I will very much appreciate your valued opinion after you have examined it.

Very truly yours,

HLT:cs

Harold L. Turk

Nov. 8, 1954.

Mr. Harold L. Turk,
26 Court St.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Turk:

I did use the term "we know positively" etc. and I believe that you will agree that I used the term advisedly because official records exist to back up my statement. I believe you will find confirmation of same in the Dietz book on the postal history of the Confederate States of America. My other statement that "something wrong somewhere" took into consideration several possibilities, viz;

- (1) That the canceling postmark was fraudulent.
- (2) That the year logo might not be plain enough to positively be sure it read "1863."
- (3) In the event the year logo was actually "1863" its use was surely in 1864 or 1865. Regarding this feature. The great majority of Southern post offices apparently did not possess year logos after 1861 and some of them used the 1861 logo thru 1862 and 1863. For example, the office at Sumter, S.C.

I enclose a photograph of a 5¢ 1861 green showing a postmarked date of Sumter, S.C. on Jan. 9, 1861. This stamp was not issued until October 1861, and I might add that students of Confederate postal history are quite positive of this fact.

Kindly return the print.

I am returning your item herewith and I will let you be the judge as to whether you believe it comes under any of the three categories that I cited above.

I note that you submitted the item to several experts but Mr. Turk I trust that you will forgive me if I express the opinion that it would be a very incompetent expert who would imagine for a minute that this stamp could possibly have been used in the month of January of 1863. I regret to state that I have never heard of Mr. Lamont Hall.

May I thank you very kindly for sending the item to me.

Sincerely yours,

26 COURT STREET
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Nov. 10, 1954.

Dear Mr. Oakbrook:

Thank you for your letter of the 8th in which you returned the item I had sent for your inspection. I enclose the photo of the 5¢ 1861 which you enclosed.

The three categories you set forth as "Possibilities" appear to me to be surmise & speculation, and certainly do not rule out the actual cancellation of the stamp on "JAN. 20, 1863." At best I have been leaving lots of gum with the item.

With kind personal wishes,

Sincerely

Harold L. Turk



8065 GRAND RIVER AVE.

DETROIT 4, MICHIGAN

Oct. 28, 1954

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

Dear Sir;

In the current issue of "Stamps" magazine I read your request for any information concerning an earlier postmarked date on any Confederate general issue. I have a copy of #8, the 2¢ brown red postmarked May 3, 1863 from Richmond, Va. The item is on a piece, not an entire, but I have every reason to believe it authentic. For several years I have intended to send it in to Scotts as the first known date they list is also May 8th.

If you are interested in seeing it let me know and I shall be glad to send it to you, as I believe it will advance the earliest known cancel by 5 days.

Very truly yours,
Paul A. Young

KEEP IT AS LONG AS NECESSARY, I
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR ANALYSIS
AFTER EXAMINING IT.

B. Young

Nov. 10, 1954.

Mr. Paul A. Young,
8065 Grand River,
Detroit 4, Mich.

Dear Mr. Young:

Herewith I return with thanks your 2¢ 1863 Confederate on piece with a Richmond postmark of May 3, 1863.

It is rather unsatisfactory to express an opinion on the postmark or cancelation on a stamp when the item is a piece, but in this case, after a careful examination, I am of the opinion that this item is genuine. Richmond did use this particular type of postmark in April and May 1863 and the black ink has the genuine look. I found nothing suspicious about the item, therefore, I am recording it in my records as a genuine use and the earliest use known to me of this stamp.

Sincerely yours,

Mr Paul A Young

8065 Grand River

Lebanon (4) Mich

Dear Mr Young

Here forth I receive with thanks
your 24 1863 Confederate on piece
with a Richmond postmark of
May 3 1863.

It is rather unsatisfactory
to express an opinion on ~~an~~
the postmark or cancellation on
a stamp when the item is a
piece, but in this case, after a
careful examination I am of
the opinion that this item is
genuine. Richmond did use this
particular type of postmark in
April and May of 1863 and
the black ink has the genuine

look. I found nothing
suspectable about the item,
therefore I am recording it in
my records as a genuine use
and the earliest ~~to~~ use
known to me of this stamp.

Sincerely yours—

Nov. 8, 1954.

Mr. Sol Kaplan,
413 Race St.,
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Sol:

Herewith the copy of S.U.S. No. 12 - the 5¢ 1856. This is quite a "dark red brown" (as listed) and I suppose from the ragged impression the copy is slightly oxidized. If so, then a bath for about five minutes in peroxide should restore some of the red color. When I do this I first soak a copy in very hot water for about three or four minutes, dry between clean white blotters, then bath in peroxide. The paper is normal for a printing in 1856, rather hard and crisp. I put the stamp in tetro and a casual examination failed to disclose any crease or thin spot, but when held to a strong light the paper appears thin under Jefferson's head.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

26 Suffolk Rd
Barnes
London
S.W.13.

Dear Mr. Arkhrook

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd, it's very interesting about the recent discovery of the 5c Type plate. I hope the prints from it will be offered in pairs of 100 or even of 400, rather than cut up into singles or blocks of four, as so often happens.

I myself had a small but rather interesting find, a month or so ago. It is in the form of a letter, I enclose a copy, from De la Rue's to a Lady de Hoghton in 1864, from the letter I should think that Lady de Hoghton was organising a fete or Charity show, to raise money for the Southern Cause. This is not

at all unlikely, as Public opinion in England especially in the upper classes, was almost wholly with the South.

Also included in with the letter were some of the actual stamps, Pair of 1c, irregular block of three De la Rue 5c and strip of three 5c local print. These stamps all bear the actual notes of De la Rue on them, though the 5c local are the only ones actually damaged by this, the others being marginal, with the notes in the margin, also included were a single of each of the 1863 10c and 20c stamps, probably D & E on letter but unfortunately with no notes on them, so that it can't be proved.

Even so I expect that I am one of the few owners of stamps made in the Confederacy and sent out through the Blockade during the War, even if they are unused rather than used on envelopes.

Yours sincerely

W.A. Appleby

110 Bunhill Row

E.C.

Oct. 20th. 1864.

My dear Lady de Hoghton,

In answer to your telegram I have the pleasure to enclose you a collection of Confederate Postage Stamps-

- A The yellow ones marked A are very scarce indeed and fetch 10 francs each stamp in Paris-they are printed from Plates we sent out at the commencement of the War in the Nashville.
- B Blue Five cents are also very rare- they are printed in the Confederate States from Plates we furnished the Government.
- C Blue Five cents are from a Specimen sheet of the same plate printed by us before we sent out the Plate
- D&E Are not so rare as they are the Stamps produced in the Confederacy after our Plates ~~were~~ were worn out.

I hope that you will be able to realize the few stamps I am able to send you to the advantage of the poor Confederates I only wish I could send your Ladyship more.

I am, My dear Lady de Hoghton

Yours faithfully

W.T. De La Rue.

The Lady de Hoghton.

Nov. 6, 1954.

Mr. M. A. Appleby,
26 Suffolk Rd.,
Barnes,
London S.W. 13, England.

Dear Mr. Appleby:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of the 2nd. I was greatly pleased to receive a copy of the letter from De La Rue, especially at this time, because of the discovery of the old 5¢ Confederate plate. I am wondering if you would be kind enough to loan me the letter and the stamps, so that I could make a photograph? If you will send same to me by registered mail I will return immediately.

I am enclosing a copy of my "SERVICE" Issue for November. This goes to a small group of close friends who are interested in the serious collecting of 19th Century U. S. and Confederate.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

34-9

Nov. 19, 1954.

Mr. M. A. Appleby,
26 Suffolk Road,
Barnes,
London S.W. 13, England.

Dear Mr. Appleby:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of recent date enclosing the De La Rue letter and the Confederate postage stamps. I sincerely appreciate your kindness, and trust I may be able to return the favor. I am returning the items herewith and am reimbursing you, (I hope) for your forwarding expense.

I note that you were with the H.R. Harmer firm for a period of years, so I am wondering if there is any truth in a story that came to my attention recently. It was to the effect that during the blitz, the premises of the De La Rue firm were bombed and their records scattered far and wide in the street. That the public picked up many items including a lot of "proofs" of Confederate stamps as well as stamps of many countries. Last spring a number of die proofs of the Confederate 5¢ De La Rue were offered at auction in New York. There was a rumor that these came from the scattered records. It all sounds very improbable to me.

Again many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 23, 1954.

Mr. M. A. Appleby,
26 Suffolk Road,
Barnes,
London S.W. 13,
England.

Dear Mr. Appleby:

It was very kind of you to advise me of your Confederate cover with use from North Carolina on April 11, 1865. I doubt if this could be classed as probably the latest use of the 5¢ Typograph but still such is possible.

I have not attempted to compile a record of the latest uses known of individual stamps.

It might interest you to learn that in recent months a very important discovery was made. During the early part of the war between the states a vessel from England and loaded with supplies for the Confederacy was seized by a U. S. war ship and taken to the Port of Philadelphia. Among the cargo was a large shipment of postage stamps from De La Rue and a printing plate of the 5¢ Typo - a plate of 400. Recently that old plate was discovered and it has been cleaned and prints struck which will shortly be offered to collectors.

Very truly yours,

34-9

26 Suffolk Road

Barnes

London

S.W.13.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

Thank you for your letter of the 6th enclosing your "Service" paper which I found very interesting.

I am happy to enclose herewith the De la Rue letter together with the stamp that were with it, so that you may photograph them. I'm afraid that you will have to photograph the letter twice to get both sides.

Personally, I do not believe there were in the hands of a collector before. The lot it was in (Robson house sale) comprised the enclosed letter and stamp, four or five autographs of prominent Confederates, Jeff Davis, Beauregard etc, three cut outs of Confederate flags, Poem

concerning the death of Jabo Street, which seems to have been torn out of a book, a French 1869 5fr. stamp and a Charity stamp portraying Handel. The letter and stamps concerned were in an old envelope, while the rest were stuck haphazard on an old piece of paper. This to me hardly looks like the work of a collector. I worked in H.R. Harmer's for four years, amongst other things looking after all the material sent in for auction, and I'm willing to bet, that there were sent by some dear old lady, who noticed an advert and remembered the packet containing Foreign stamps that mother once had, and upon finding them, sending them on, just as they were, probably thinking "They are not all stamps but maybe they'll buy these other things as well." Possibly the owner was related to Lady de Houghton, these things being passed down through the family.

Also I think the stamps sent were not made
into ~~one~~ more than one lot, otherwise
the French 5fr stamp would hardly have
been left in with the Confederates.

Anyway I won't waste any more of your time
and hope this letter hasn't kept you from
anything else

Yours sincerely

H.A. Appleby

26 Suffolk Road

Barnes

London

S.W.13

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

I read with interest your list of earliest knowns in the Weekly Philatelic Gossip recently. Though I do not know whether you are interested, I have a cover which is probably the ~~last~~ latest one of the 1862 5c Richmond Print on ^{De la Rue} ~~hand~~ Paper it is April 11 1865. This is on a cover bearing a pair of this stamp per cancelled, and with manuscript "W^{ash}boro N.C. Apr. 11th/65" which extends on to one of the stamps. The cover is addressed to Appomattox County Va! I believe this was in mail looted by the enemy, as in the same lot (about 8 covers) was another cover bearing 10c Scott 12 Keatinge & Ball

also with manuscript "W^mboro N.C April" etc, though
it's addressed to an entirely different point.
Quite possibly this Mail fell into Union hands
and a Northern trooper took a couple as
Rebel" souvenirs, maybe sending them to
someone over here whom he knew collected
Foreign stamps. This is the only way that
I think these two covers addressed to
different points could get together

Yours sincerely

H.A. Appleby

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

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

FORMERLY
HAYNES AND KOENIG
TELEPHONE-CENTRAL 1-0109
CABLE ADDRESS
PATENT

November 5, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook;

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed is an 1847 issue cover which I have just acquired.

Please let me have an analysis of the postal markings. It seems to have been a double weight (rate) letter which went by England but I have not gotten beyond this point in the story. Also ~~enclosed~~ is my check for \$3.50 which I imagine is your fee. If this is not correct, please let me know and I will send you any balance promptly.

Sincerely
John D. Pope III

Nov. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Pope:

Herewith the 5¢ 1847 cover as per yours of the 5th. This is indeed quite a nice item - a use from New York to Paris in January of 1848, some six months after the 5¢ stamp was issued, therefore early. This was prior to the U.S.-British treaty of December 1848, hence the 10¢ payment was merely the U.S. domestic.

I note that this letter was routed by the "Caledonia." This was a British mail ship of the Cunard Line and while my records are a bit incomplete, it is my belief that the Caledonia sailed from Boston on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 1848, for Liverpool. Thus this letter was a double rate (over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.), and postage was due in France from the addressee from the U.S. frontier via England, under the terms of the Anglo-French postal treaty. The rectangular orange red marking reads,

COLONIES
& ART. 13

This was a marking applied in England and referred to the rating on mail originating overseas and sent to France by Britain.

I am not sure what is the meaning of the manuscript markings in the center of the cover, but at upper left is a "28" which was probably the postage due from the addressee, viz., "28" decimes - or approximately 32¢ in our money at that time (a decime 0 a 1/10 of a franc).

It is rather unusual to find a cover to France with 1847 stamps used as early as January 1848, the general custom that early was to pay the postage in cash.

I have endorsed the cover on the back as genuine in all respects.

I believe you especially like 1847 covers used abroad and I am sure you are making no mistake by adding such items to your collection. They are unquestionably a very desirable and safe philatelic investment.

May I thank you very kindly for your check.

With kindest regards -

Yours sincerely,

JAN
13
1848



Dr. J. C. Garrison

W

Mrs. Maria W. Garrison

Paris

By
John D. Pope

5-20

Re -

A 628

H. SCHUYLER COLE
WILLOW HILLS LANE
CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

OCT 14 1954

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

Dear Mr Ashbrook—

The 14 1851 books arrived in good shape and I am delighted to have them. They should be of greater and greater interest as time goes on.

As I am "green as grass" in the finer points of the 14 1851 denomination, I would like to have you look at another stamp for me, which is attached. I identify it as a Plate 4 Type III copy, but I do not know if it would be considered a fine example

H. SCHUYLER COLE
WILLOW HILLS LANE
CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

of this type. You illustrate
poor and typical examples in your
book, but not, as I recall, the
best examples of this type, other
than the true 99R.

I would greatly appreciate
your opinion of this as an
example of Type III.

There is a tiny crease in
the upper left hand corner,
but otherwise condition looks
good.

Thank you for this kindness.

Yours very truly,

H.S.C.

Oct. 15, 1954.

Mr. H. S. Cole,
Willow Hills Lane,
Box 177C - R.R. No. 1,
Cincinnati 27, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 14th. You are quite correct. This stamp is from Plate 4 (IV) and it is a Type III - top and bottom lines broken. I would not class it as a fine copy, but rather "nice" or "good," not taking into consideration any defect such as a crease or thin spot. This is a "B" relief stamp and appears to be 16L4. See diagram, Vol. 1, page 234. On this diagram 16L4 is listed as a IIIA, but this was an error. For relief comparisons see Vol. 1, page 232.

This stamp is dirty and if you acquire it, it might be improved by a bath in very hot water, carefully brushing it on a clean white blotter. It is not advisable to use anything like soap, etc., though a bath in tetrochloride might help, at least will not harm the blue ink.

There is no fee for the above but you can, if you wish, reimburse me for the return postage.

I am wondering if you would be interested in a cover that I have for sale for a client. It has a pair of the 1¢ 1851, plate 2, 23L2 - 24L2. Stamp 23L2 is the big crack from Plate 2 as per Vol. 1, page 195, Fig. 18E. This cover has in addition, a 3¢ 1851, a 5¢ rate to France from New Orleans in September 1856. I consider examples of the Plate 2 crack on cover quite desirable. The price is \$75.00. I will be glad to submit it if you would care to see it.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 4, 1954.

Mr. H. S. Cole,
Box 177 - C,
Rural Route No. 1,
Cincinnati 27, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Herewith I am enclosing your 10¢ 1847 with the red town postmark. I made a very thorough examination of this copy and I am pleased to report that in my opinion this is a perfectly sound specimen and genuine in every respect. I made enlarged photographs by ultra-violet of the front and the back and found no evidence of the removal of any former cancellation. Further, I plated the stamp and found it is from 32R on the 10¢ plate. I noted a small mark in the right foot of the right "X" as per diagram herewith. Evidently this mark is not consistent on this position as I have no former record of it. It may be a slight misplacement of some of the black ink, surely not a constant plate marking.

It is perhaps possible that this stamp was used from Cincinnati. I enclose two stampless covers of 1849-1851 and one is a "JUN" use, as per your stamp. The letters of the stampless are similar to those on your stamp but a bit different so perhaps the stamp was used in some other Ohio city. Note the "O" on your stamp. If you wish to retain these two stampless, the charge is \$1.00, otherwise just return them to me.

Further regarding your 10¢ 1847 cover that I examined this week and found genuine. For your information, this cover was in the sale of the "John F. Seybold" - (Syracuse, N.Y.) collection which was sold by J. C. Morgenthau & Co., New York on March 15, 1910. It was Lot 45 and was described as follows:

"Right vertical half used on letter cancelled in red New Haven, June 7 (1851), the stamp likewise - was cancelled in red and covering the cut. These vertical bisects are much rarer than those cut diagonal." (unquote)

The sale price was \$30.00.

Evidently the cover was purchased by a well-known collector of that period by the name of Hawkins and when the "Hawkins collection" was sold by J.C. Morgenthau on Nov. 11-15-16, 1910, this cover was Lot 7. It was described as follows:

"Right vertical half of 10¢ black used as 5¢ (29B) on original from New Haven, June 7, 1851, and it bears this cancellation in red, the stamp also being cancelled in red, very fine, very rare." (unquote)

The sale price was \$36.00.

#2 - Mr. H. S. Cole - Nov. 4, 1954.

The collection of the late Stephen Brown was sold at auction in New York by Harmer Rooke & Co., on Oct. 30 to Nov. 4, 1939. In that sale this cover was Lot 219, and was described as follows:

"10¢ black, Scott's 29B, BISECT, a perfect right-hand vertical half, used as a 5¢ stamp from New Haven, Conn., to New Bedford, Mass., with red New Haven grid cancellation tied both sides of the bisected stamp to neat blue cover; the cover is also endorsed in manuscript 'PAID 5.' Ex-Seybold collection. One of the finest known Bisects, cat. \$1200. (See Photograph - Plate V" (unquote)

The sale price was \$310.00 and the buyer was the late Nicholas Sanabria, a New York dealer of that day.

To complete the "pedigree," I note that the cover was Lot 98 in the sale of the Lehman collection by John A. Fox, held on Oct. 28th, 1954.

Very truly yours,

H. SCHUYLER COLE
WILLOW HILLS LANE
CINCINNATI 27, OHIO

Nov 7 1954

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

Dear Mr Ashbrook;

Thank you very much for your long letter
re the two items that I brought to you.
I had purchased the 10¢ bisect at the
Lehman sale as you know, and wished to be
sure that it was completely sound. The
10¢ '47 with the red cancellation has now
been added to my collection.

I am attaching my check for \$10. covering
your bill, and returning the two covers
herewith which you sent me to compare with
the 10¢ '47 cancellation. I am glad to
have seen them.

I enjoyed meeting you, and would like to
return when I am not pressed for time, as
I was on Wednesday.

Again, let me thank you for your kindness.

Yours very truly,

H.S.C.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Oct. 19th 1954.

Am in a great rush so am mailing you a letter from Stolow and one from Philad. Foundation.

Don't know much about Stolow and less about his Manager Finbar Kenny.

You'll notice Stolow returned nine stamps (incl. the 90 ¢ 1869 which you examined and found genuine in your letter to me June 27th 54.)

Finbar Kenny's statement: Can not be included in the sale as same is a prefabricated proof! -

Now back to letter from Foundation. Please note amount I wrote in pencil on every item I sent Foundation.

I figured 75⁰⁰ is a lot of money to pay for certificates - but I am anxious to compare report from Found. with Finbar Kenny's.

Will gladly take your advice and enclose 10⁰⁰ for your trouble and interest you have taken in me!

over.

Please answer soon, I wish to settle with
Stolow as soon as possible!

Postage incl. registered fee will reach you
as soon I hear from you.

Your note rel. the 100 1847 came this very moment.
all I can say "thank you!"

With kindest regards

Cordially yours,
F. W. Bohle.

MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

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

Opéra 99-46

C.C.P. PARIS 4493-61 - R.C. SEINE 819.181

Paris, the 22nd of october 1954

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK
P.O. Box 31
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.
FORT THOMAS, Ky.
(Etats-Unis)

Dear Mr Ashbrook,

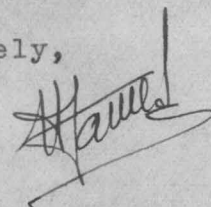
Thank you very much for your letter of october 5, and for the expert opinion you gave about the U.S. local "Boyd's Express". My customer was very satisfied. But I must say that he was really delighted when he read your letter giving the details about the brick-red strip of three and 10cts strip of three you returned me some weeks ago. I think you have made a photograph of this item, I should be very glad to have one.

I am sending you to-day a cover belonging to the same customer, and which is also very interesting. Would you kindly give your expert opinion about it? Thank you in advance.

Concerning the colour slides of U.S. stamps, I did not heard before about the law you mention, and I am happy you have a permit to make them. I think your idea is very good of sending only the transparency. I think I can manage to mount them in Paris. Would you please write about the quantity you could send, so that I arrange to have dollars in U.S. in order to pay you.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Yours sincerely,




MAURICE JAMET

timbres anciens

10, Rue d'Alger

PARIS 1^{er}

 Opéra 99-46

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

Paris, le 22 Octobre 1954

Mr Stanley B. ASHBROOK

P.O. Box 31

33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, Ky.

(Etats-Unis)

POUR EXPERTISE.-

Une bande de 3 du 10 Cents vert dentelé U.S.A., sur lettre

Frs:45.000.-

Nov. 2, 1954.

Mr. Maurice Jamet,

10 Rue d'Alger,

Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Herewith I am returning the U. S. 10¢ 1857 cover as per yours of the 22nd of October. As requested, I have signed same on the back.

My fee is \$3.00, which includes return postage.

Regarding the color slides. I have just returned from a short vacation and just as soon as I can clear my desk I will try to send a few to you.

With regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

B558

Mr. Shann



My friend



PAID 1854



Yours truly
Wm. C. White
5/15/54

By M. Jamet
1/1-54

Oct. 13, 1954.

Dear Mr. Bohle:

I have yours of the 8th and if you will forward Lot 31 to me I will make a careful examination and forward to Harmer. I noted this item but at the time did not consider it might be fine enough for you.

Sincerely yours,

Mailed you a letter on the 13th, you are quite right the stamp was not fine enough to suit me.

but I was anxious to verify results as the stamps had no certificate from the Foundation!

F. W. P.

*Another important letter will reach you in a week or so!
Many thanks
F. W. P.*

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.,
FORT THOMAS, KY.

VIA AIR MAIL



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. F. W. Bohle,

5487 Kales Ave.,

Oakland 18, Calif.



Rev. 8-53

Post Office Department

Received from:

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

P. O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

FORT THOMAS, KY

One piece of ordinary mail addressed

to

F. H. Bohle

5487 Kales Ave

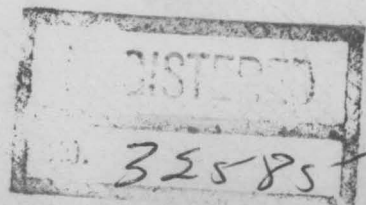
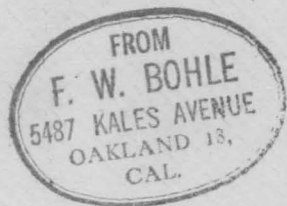
Oakland (18) Calif

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

GPO 16-69310-1

POSTMASTER.





95
18
07

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

P. O. Box 31

33 North Ft. Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Return Receipt Requested

FEE PAID



Oct. 22, 1954.

Mr. F. W. Bohle,
5487 Kales Ave.,
Oakland 18, Calif.

Dear Mr. Bohle:

Herewith I am returning the papers contained in yours of the 19th. I hardly know what expression to make other than the following - I don't know anything about the Stolow firm or anything about Mr. Kinney, except that several of my intimate friends in New York do not have any regard for them and refuse to have any dealings with them. It is my impression that they are of foreign origin and are a very slick outfit. I do hope and trust that your dealings with them will prove satisfactory but I believe it would be advisable to proceed with a bit of caution in the future and try and make as thorough an investigation of them before any further dealings. I may be wrong of course but offer this advice in good faith.

Regarding the fees charged by the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation. It is my opinion that such certificates are absolutely necessary and that surely you will find they are an excellent investment. It is real insurance, and an insurance policy is an excellent investment in case the time ever arrives for it to pay off. A buyer should be furnished with a clear title to any property he purchases and a valuable stamp with an assurance of genuineness will generally command a higher premium, the latter no doubt in excess of the cost of the insurance fee.

I note that the Stolow firm does not agree with my opinion on a 90¢ 1869. I have forgotten about the copy and probably do not have a photograph of it so about all I can state is that I hope my examination was not in error.

As you do not owe me any fee, I am returning a ten dollar bill that I found in your letter.

Mrs. Ashbrook and I will be away from home all of next week as we are driving down to Norfolk to see our son return from a round-the-world cruise on a U. S. Destroyer. He is an Ensign in the Navy and we haven't seen him since last March.

Naturally I will be much interested in any new development.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Oct. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Here are the two covers as per yours of the 20th. I think the Harmer cover is a very beautiful stamp and cover - stamp is correct color and impression for a use in March 1851. Everything is in order and regular for the period, red N.O. grid - red Paid, etc. I signed it on the back.

The other cover has a copy of the 5¢ '47 double transfer 90R1. This cover was in the Brown sale and was lot as noted - bought by Souren @ \$30.00. I feel sure that Ezra's price is okay. I enclose a photo print I made in 1939 of the stamp and the Baltimore rate stamp "5" used to cancel the stamp.

I noted the errors in the Harris sale catalogue so I put down the names of the buyers and omitted the prices as I will get a correct list later on.

I believe Rust stated that the cover with the 10¢ 1847 with a two-line, "Steam Boat" (to Canada) had a memo on the back, "From the Krug Collection." I do not think he intends to send it to me, but if he does I will advise you later regarding it.

Re - Lehman #95. I have already written this up at length in my next Service. I described the Knapp cover. Lehman paid \$500.00 for this cover in the Fox sale - A.P.S. Convention 1950. This is really an extremely rare cover. Search your catalogues and see if you can find any - yes, there is one in the Rust sale but where else? (two 5¢ '47). I note the covers that you purchased in the Harmer sale of the 18th and that you will send them up after we return - fine.

Again re - Lehman 54. Search your auction catalogues and see how many 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 covers you can find with stamps tied by red towns right on the nose, like lot 54. No wonder Lehman paid \$250.00 for it. Note Lot 185 - Emerson sale Nov. 16, 1946 - a single. Wasn't the price \$170.00? (off cover)

I have your other letter to answer.

Regards -

Yours etc.,

MORRISON CAFETERIA COMPANY

INCORPORATED

Birmingham, 5, Alabama.

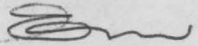
Sunday, Nov. 14, 1954.

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

Dear Stan,

Here is the cover we discussed over the phone. I hope you find it O.K. for it is one of my best 1847s. Keep it until you are sure if you decide differently.

Sincerely,



Enclosed

Lot 24- Sale of H.R. Harmer 10/18/54

Cost Bid \$90.00

5% EDC 4.50

SBA 5.00

\$99.50 -Registered for

Nov. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

Herewith your 5¢ 1847 cover to Nantes, France from New Orleans on March 1, 1851. I am pleased to report that there is no question in my mind but what this cover is genuine. I gave this a most thorough examination and this stamp was used originally as we see it. Because this was a Garnier and because the stamp is in an unusual position I just wanted to be absolutely sure. All the tests that I made show beyond any doubt that the red grid on stamp and cover is the same red as the N.O. postmark.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

Blue FL
Dated Bordeaux
Sep 8 1851

Steamer anglais.

J. Harmer 12th March



Red

Black

Red



1851

PAID Red



Red

Red

Lol-24 H.R. Harmer
Sole 10/18-54

By ECR

SEFF

France

8500-

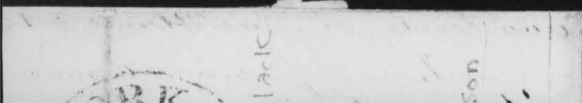
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3

A623

A6

08
128
REEN
2
EC



Oct. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Here are two photographs that I thought you would like to have of covers in the coming Fox sale of Oct. 28th.

Lot 134 - 5¢ U. S. internal from N.O. on Jan. 19, 1857 - New York Feb. 1 - This has the "G. B. 40C." It is the earliest use that I have recorded of this transit marking, in fact, the only cover with it in my records of the first quarter of 1857. It must have been an error in rating as this was a double page letter (blue F.L.). Note the due is only "5 decimes."

Lot 214. H.S. of 3 of the 5¢ 1856 canceled by the large Boston "Paid in grid." Letter inside is dated Boston 22 Dec 1857 - French receiving is "4 Jan 58" on back, in black "Boston Br. Pkt" "Dec 22" Red British 1858 - JA 4. Two French with "58" This was Lot 68 Emerson Sale of Oct. 19, 1937. Lot 2470 in Knapp sale of May 8, 1941. (Sale price \$225.00).

I believe that it is odd that this has the "G B 1F 60C" mark. I believe that Boston found this was over 1/4 oz., hence billed it as "unpaid" with a debit of "6" - (pen to left). The French Due in pen is "16" decimes. I consider this cover rather unusual but undoubtedly genuine. Do you see any reason to disagree?

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

P.S.--Keep these prints for your record.

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

I received yours of the 17th and was indeed pleased to hear from you again. Thanks very much for the Photos.

Lot 214-The U.S.-French Treaty did not rule out other ways of mailing. Your theory that Boston found this to be over 1/4 oz. and debited France 6¢ makes the 16 due normal but the 1F60c should not be there and I believe Boston would have marked it "Short Paid" or whatever mark they used for such mail.

I have no doubt that both covers are genuine but show excusable errors in rating which during this period may be expected, by both the Public and Postal Clerks.

I happened to be the lucky one to come across the lot and bought the 6 best covers.

I consider the one showing both Credit and Debit the most outstanding rating error of the U.S.-British Treaty period. I enclose copy of my analysis and perhaps it would be fun forming your own opinion before reading mine. Please keep these as long as you wish as you no doubt will want to take photos.

It seems to me that we will now & then come across covers, mailed during this early period, which are unusual and show errors in rating. By no means should such covers be condemned but we must decide if the errors are reasonably excusable and if the markings are genuine.

Sincerely yours
Eugene Jager

A MOST UNUSUAL AND RARE COVER

Liverpool marked it "ABOVE 1 Oz." and therefore the Postage should have been 4/- or 96¢ as no Triple Rate existed at this time of the U.S.-British Treaty.

Page 9 par.1 of the Treaty Details clearly states: "Payment by the party of anything less than the entire postage goes for nothing. The offices of exchange will treat such letters as wholly unpaid."

Yet, here we have a letter showing a 10¢ CREDIT to the U.S. and also a 38¢ DEBIT against the U.S. both supplied by Liverpool and indicating that the 2/- paid in England was allowed to stand and that another 2/- or 48¢ was to be collected in the U.S. which was clearly against regulations.

Also the ms. notation by Liverpool? of Paid 24 unpaid 24 seems in error and should have been 48 in both instances unless the 24 was meant to be pence, the equal of 48¢.

This evidently led to another error in the Packet marking which also should have been 48 instead of 24(¢) but it was the latter amount which was collected in the U.S.

The cover below is the single rate of 1/- per 1/2 oz.

"Paid late" indicates that another 1/- supplementary charge had to be paid to get the letter aboard the "ASIA" because the mails for this steamer were already closed.

A MOST UNUSUAL AND RARE COVER

Liverpool marked it "ABOVE 1 Oz." and therefore the Postage should have been 4/- or 96¢ as no Triple Rate existed at this time of the U.S.-British Treaty.

Page 9 par.1 of the Treaty Details clearly states: "Payment by the party of anything less than the entire postage goes for nothing. The offices of exchange will treat such letters as wholly unpaid."

Yet, here we have a letter showing a 10¢ CREDIT to the U.S. and also a 38¢ DEBIT again the U.S. both supplied by Liverpool and indicating that the 2/- paid in England was allowed to stand and that another 2/- or 48¢ was to be collected in the U.S. which was clearly against regulations.

Also the ms. notation by Liverpool? of Paid 24 unpaid 24 seems in error and should have been 48 in both instances unless the 24 was meant to be pence, the equal of 48¢.

This evidently led to another error in the Packet marking which also should have been 48 instead of 24(¢) but it was the latter amount which was collected in the U.S.

The cover below is the single rate of 1/- per 1/2 oz.

"Paid late" indicates that another 1/- supplementary charge had to be paid to get the letter aboard the "ASIA" because the mails for this steamer were already closed.

Oct. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

As we are leaving tomorrow for a little vacation of about ten days I am returning the covers contained in your letter of the 20th. They are certainly very interesting. I studied one of these a long time, figuring that the letter was over an ounce and required four rates, and that credit had been evidently given for two and a debit made on the other two. But this seemed almost incredible yet there was the evidence - "above one ounce" - "Paid 24" - "unpaid 24" - a red credit 10 and a black debit 38. No correcting or crossing out of the red 10, etc. I had never run across any such an item before and I concluded my deduction was all wrong and that there must be some other explanation and then I opened your little envelope, and noticed your explanation. I did not know what to make of the manuscript "Paid 24" or the Boston "24." What seemed to distract me was a credit of 10 on a 48¢ payment and a debit of 38 on a due to be collected of 48 rather than 24.

Now for the other one. I figured that the sender thought it was over 1 oz., hence paid two rates but that the Liverpool office figured it was a single, hence rated it as such. I note your explanation which is entirely new to me. I did not know there was a "Supplementary Mail" charge of an extra rate at Liverpool. I have no data on such a Service and charge, and will greatly appreciate the favor if you can enlighten me.

Thanks very much for your comment on the two photographs that I sent you. I may write you further regarding these after my return home.

Do you mind if I show photo prints of your two covers to my good friend Maurice Blake of Boston?

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

October 30, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd returning two covers.

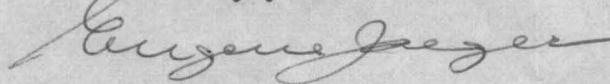
If you wish to send photos of these to Mr. Blake by all means do so and if he should express a desire to see the originals I will be glad to send them to him.

Regarding the "Paid late" cover with the extra 1/- paid I'm afraid I cannot prove my contention that this was a supplementary charge and will have to withdraw it for the present. It may be, as you say, just overpaid. I have been looking through the Robson Lowe postmark books but couldn't find much to support my theory although they did have some "Late fee" markings but little information.

Perhaps there may be better information in the "Ship Letter Stamps of Liverpool" of which I am now trying to obtain a copy. I would like to to know what the "Liverpool F. R. H." backstamp means.

I will advise you if I should find anything more definite.

Sincerely yours



RISEING BOND

RAG-CONTENT

U.S.A.

November 12, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 8th and your efforts in regard to the British Supplementary Mail cover.

In the meantime the problem has been solved. My original surmise that the extra 1/- paid was a late fee was correct and the answer was in the "Liverpool F.R.H." backstamp.

My investment of \$1.00 for "The Ship Letter Stamps of Liverpool" by Alan W. Robertson paid off nicely. I just received a copy in the mail from the Regent Stamp Co., London, England. The backstamp on my cover is described as follows:

Ill.#37-1849-64 Floating Receiving House
"A small hut stationed on the South Landing Stage received letters for the Mail Packets to America up to the time of departure for an extra 1/- fee.
(Outward mail. V. scarce in this country) " .

Dr. Bacher, to whom you wrote for information, will very likely confirm the above.

Evidently such covers are quite scarce and I am glad the solution came so quickly and easily.

Sincerely yours

Ernest Jaeger

Nov. 2, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

I would appreciate the favor if you can obtain for me a bit of information.

I am sure you are familiar with the "Supplementary Mail" Service at the New York P.O. of the last century, whereby double postage was charged for letters mailed at ship-side. My query is this - Was there a similar service at Liverpool or other British ports for late mail and if so was double postage charged?

I do not recall that I have read that there was such a Service.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 16, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Here are prints of two very interesting covers that belong to Eugene Jaeger. I have his permission to send these to you.

Jaeger is quite a keen student of U.S. foreign rate covers and I thought his analysis of these two covers which puzzled me, was very clever. I believe you will enjoy the puzzle that each presents. Keep these prints for your files.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 16, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Yours of the 12th received.

You are quite right, I did receive a letter from Dr. Bacher dated Nov. 9th, confirming the "Late Letter Fee" and for your records, I am enclosing a copy of his letter.

I think your cover by the "Asia" is most interesting. "Paid Late" meant Paid the Late Letter Fee, and this cover shows the fee paid by an extra stamp.

I am sending prints of the two covers to Mr. Blake.

Sincerely yours,



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D. PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON,
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS.

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

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

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Nov. 9, 1954.

Yes, Britain had a service not ~~un~~similar to the S.M. service in the USA.

"Late letter fees" were charged for the whole country from 1790 on till 1840, payable in cash; from 1840-53 optional in cash or stamps; and from 1853 till 1940 (abolished during the "Blitz") in stamps only. The fee was apparently always (say from about 1840 on) 1 d for "late" letters from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 6 d from 7 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. This service applied to all the Port and Dock Post Offices. Liverpool had even a "floating" Dock Post Office which, so far as we know, could be switched to the ships where it was needed. It was abolished at some time late in the 19th century. Some ports had also during the same period moveable Post Boxes and letters from such boxes show the hand-struck stamp M.B. or B.M. (French: Boite Mobile). The boxes being in the docks at the right places where the ships were due to depart from, they provided a kind of S.M. service without extra fee. Incidentally, I believe similar boxes still exist, e.g. at Southampton, when the "Queens" leave.

You will note that a flat fee was charged, irrespective of the required prepayment of postage on the mail pieces concerned. And the service was nation-wide. Yet after 7.30 p.m. the game was over and either the post boxes had to be used or next day's opening to be awaited.

On going into the matter, I am again impressed by the practical genius of the Britishers. The whole procedure is simple, uniform for the whole country, easily understood and applicable by all concerned on both sides of the counter.

Personally I do remember the late letter fees when I took mail to ~~X~~ one of the two "all night open" P. Offices in London during the war early in 1940 (the other one is Head Office at King Edward Str.): they always charged me 6d extra on each registered letter I handed in, because I arrived after the theater. Now the all-night service at both Post Offices is free.

This being a sea-faring nation on a small island, it stands to reason that what the ports are regarding postal matters they do inland and vice versa. After all I do not think there is any point in this island where the sea cannot be reached within 80 miles!

Good hunting and regards

cordially yours

O. Bacher

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1

← First fold here →

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

← Second fold here →

THE 'APSLEY' AIR LETTER

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

← To open cut here

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

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

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.

P.O. Box 31

33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas.

Ky. USA



Nov. 16, 1954.

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

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of the 9th with the data on the late letter fee mail. I enclose a print of the cover that prompted the inquiry. I do not collect incoming foreign rate covers such as this and never have - in fact, have never paid very much attention to them, hence I don't know whether a cover such as this is scarce or not. At first I thought it was an error in rating, that is, that the addressor thought his letter was over 1/2 oz., hence paid two rates but the British P.O. (Liverpool) found it was not over 1/2 oz., hence credited the U.S. the single credit of 5¢ and Boston had marked it as a single paid 24¢. However, this was a "Late Paid" fee and paid by stamp, what we call a "Supplementary" mail - at New York.

If you ever run across any items like this will you please let me see them.

My friend Eugene Jaeger owns this cover and I am taking the liberty of sending him a copy of your letter.

Thanks very much for the return of the binder with my "Special Service" issues. It arrived yesterday in good shape.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

I have yours of the 19th.

Re - a use from S.F. on July 1st, 1851 of a 12¢ Bisect. To me, such a use would not be worth consideration. From all the evidence that we have, no 3¢ stamps were received in California until late in September of 1851.

On July 2, 1851, the S. S. Panama sailed with the U. S. mail for Panama. The sailing was scheduled for July 1, but was delayed. Mail carried bore "July 1" markings, (if from S.F.).

On July 1st, 1852, the sailing was by the S. S. Columbia. This mail arrived at New York on Aug. 2, 1852.

Re - the photo prints that I sent you of the two covers that belong to Mr. Eugene Jaeger.

1) From Liverpool. Aug. 16, 1851. PAID LATE. Congratulations. Your analysis is undoubtedly correct and is in accord with that of Mr. Jaeger. A very interesting cover and one that fooled me completely.

2) From Liverpool. Nov. 1, 1851. First regarding the British rating. The sender paid this as a double rate, i.e., over 1/2 oz. but not over 1 oz. Then the clerk weighed it and found it weighed over 1 oz., hence required an additional 48¢. On the 2/ paid he gave the U. S. a credit of 10¢ (2 x 5¢) and on the unpaid 48¢ he charged the U. S. with 38¢. Of course, this was wrong, as there was no provision for a credit and a debit on any single letter. The letter if over one ounce, should have been rated as entirely unpaid, with 4 rates due (4 x 24 = 96¢) and a debit to the U. S. of 4 x 19¢ (16+3) or 76¢. I doubt if we know who marked this "Paid 24 - Unpaid 2/" or Paid 48 - Unpaid 48." If the clerk gave the U. S. credit for two rates (2x5), he also must have had in mind that two rates were unpaid, hence his debit of 2 x 19¢ (38¢). It looks to me like Boston rated this as 24¢ due at Providence as indicated by the Boston postmark in black with a "24." It was quite evident from the stamps that two rates had been paid in England, so one wonders why Boston thought another rate was due, when there was no such a thing as a triple rate? If Boston found the letter did not weigh over 1 oz. then why use a postmark that would indicate to Providence that 24¢ was due? Mr. Jaeger suggested that the "Paid 24 and Unpaid 24" did not refer to cents but to pence and this appears to be the correct solution.

Again re - the manner of rating at Boston.

1) If that office found the letter weighed over 1 ounce then it appears that it should have marked it as totally unpaid with 4 rates due or 96¢, and the 10¢ credit and 38¢ debit should have been crossed out.

2) If Boston found the letter did not weigh over 1 ounce it should have used

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake, Nov. 24, 1954.

a red postmark with "Paid 48" and crossed out the 38¢ debit.

This brings up a question - Was there any provision in the treaty whereby Britain could rate a letter a certain way only to have the U. S. office change the rating? I know of no such a provision, hence I assume that regardless of what this letter weighed the Boston office was obliged to accept the rating as made by the British office. It looks as though this was what was done. In other words, Boston accepted the British credit of 10¢ and the British debit of 38¢ but instead of collecting 24 pence at Providence, collected 24¢ instead.

I will appreciate your further comment.

With regards.

Cordially yours,

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

November 26, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

It is only a hypothetical game to attempt a correct answer to an erroneous rating such as the markings on the Jaeger cover from Liverpool Nov. 1, 1851 seem to be.

However, I think Mr. Jaeger did well to question his own suggestion that the ms. Paid 24 was applied "by Liverpool?"
Un " 24

Although as we have all suggested it would seem that this should read 48 in both cases and also accordingly the Boston Packet 48, that is too easy and unsatisfactory an explanation of the matter. Mr. Jaeger's "unless the 24 was meant to be pence, the equal of 48¢" is ingenious, but it hardly fills the bill, not only because the Boston Packet is 24, but also because the English did not write 24 pence in that manner.

My surmise, which at least makes mathematical sense, is as follows:

By Sender	Scaling not over 1oz.	Rate 2s(48¢)	Paid 2s(48¢)	Gt.Br. 2s(48¢)	U.S.A.
L'pool(a)	not over 1oz.	2s(48¢)		kept 38¢	credit 10¢
L'pool(b)	ABOVE 1 Oz.	4s(96¢)		kept 38¢ debit 38¢	credit 10¢ debit 38¢
BOSTON	not over 1oz.	48¢		Paid 24 Unpaid 24 2x5¢---	Providence 10 kept by U.S. 14¢ to Gt.Br.

As the 2nd Br. rating had not ignored the 2s. in stamps, Boston, when resuming the not over 1oz. scaling, followed suit, recognizing one 24¢ rate as Paid, and collecting the other 24¢, from which the U.S. could keep its full 10¢ for the double rate and allow Britain on the accounting books the remaining 14¢ which with the accepted 24¢ Paid gave Britain its share of 38¢ (plus a bonus of 24¢ for the unrecognized second 1s. stamp).

Acc't 14
2x19¢- 38¢

Even so, the ratings seem contrary to par.1, page 9 of the Special Articles added as Details to the Treaty; but Boston might not delete or cross out the previous British credit 10 and debit 38, though disregarding them on account of rescaling of the letter and then substituting the final "Paid 24 as a means of resolving the matter.

Un " 24"

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

COPY

of analyses made by Eugene Jaeger
corrected weight caused the exception?

A MOST UNUSUAL AND RARE COVER

Liverpool marked it "ABOVE 1 Oz." and therefore the Postage should have been 4/- or 96¢ as no Triple Rate existed at this time of the U.S.-British Treaty.

Page 9 par.1 of the Treaty Details clearly states: "Payment by the party of anything less than the entire postage goes for nothing. The offices of exchange will treat such letters as wholly unpaid."

Yet, here we have a letter showing a 10¢ CREDIT to the U.S. and also a 38¢ DEBIT again the U.S. both supplied by Liverpool and indicating that the 2/- paid in England was allowed to stand and that another 2/- or 48¢ was to be collected in the U.S. which was clearly against regulations.

Also the ms. notation by Liverpool? of Paid 24
unpaid 24 seems in error and should have been 48 in both instances unless the 24 was meant to be pence, the equal of 48¢.

24 pence
not 24¢

This evidently led to another error in the Packet marking which also should have been 48 instead of 24(¢) but it was the latter amount which was collected in the U.S.

The cover below is the single rate of 1/- per 1/2 oz.

"Paid late" indicates that another 1/- supplementary charge had to be paid to get the letter aboard the "ASIA" because the mails for this steamer were already closed.

Dec. 3, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

I have carefully noted yours of the 26th re - the Jaeger cover. What bothers me is the manuscript,

Paid 24
Unpaid 24

If we go on the supposition this referred to cents, then it don't make sense, because it was quite obvious that two shillings had been paid and if the letter was over 1 ounce, then two more shillings was due, assuming that the clerk thought such a rating was permissible. I never saw two shillings expressed as "24" but if someone did intend this as pence, then we would have an explanation.

Regardless of this feature, I think this cover is most interesting as it shows that the British clerk gave us a credit of 10¢ and then charged us with 38¢, something I have never before seen on a foreign rate cover.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

December 6, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

In reference to yours of the 3rd re: the Jaeger cover, I do not see how the "Paid 24/ Unpaid 24" taken as 24 pence (48¢) explains the BR.PACKET 24 BOSTON.

The basic difficulty is in the interpretation here given on this cover of the Treaty details. Normally the two 1s. stamps should have been disregarded and the letter considered as wholly unpaid when scaled "ABOVE 1 Oz.", with application of British total debit of 76¢ and Boston 96¢ to collect. However, the fact that one British clerk had accepted the letter at $\frac{1}{2}$ -1oz. by applying the credit of 10/CENTS may well have made an exception to the wholly unpaid rule, because as a postal error the whole 96¢ should not be charged against the correspondents, much as a MISSENT letter in the U.S. was forwarded to correct destination without extra charge because of the postal error in transmittal. The second British handstamp of 38/CENTS debit indicates that an exception to the wholly unpaid rule was thereby made, allowing both of the 1s. stamps and claiming the debit for two more rates over 1oz.

This form of exception was further corrected by the "Paid 24/ Unpaid 24". Although the line at left of the script brace might be considered as related to the handstamped "ABOVE 1 Oz.", it rather seems to extend from and belong with the BR.PACKET 24 BOSTON. I do not recall any Liverpool use of manuscript "Unpaid", but this term is otherwise known at Boston. Consequently, it follows that the Boston office applied another form of exception to the wholly unpaid rule when a postal error or change in scaling was involved, namely allowing a single rate as prepaid by "Paid 24", but disallowing the additional rate for $\frac{1}{2}$ -1oz., hence "Un " 24", as shown by the BR.PACKET 24 BOSTON.

It was not necessary for Boston to cross out the British credit 10/CENTS or the debit 38/CENTS as postmasters had been instructed that these accounting figures on foreign letters were to be ignored beyond the port of entry. Wherefore, Providence would collect only the Boston 24¢ as a penalty, to be apportioned either 10¢ for the U.S. and 14¢ for Britain or quite possibly all 24¢ to the U.S.

All of which above is highly hypothetical, but still realistic, inasmuch as the British office had not ruled the letter wholly unpaid by claiming a debit of 76¢.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

Nov. 24, 1954.

Mr. Eugene Jaeger,
34 Sumner Ave.,
Norwood (Elmwood 7),
Rhode Island.

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Regarding our recent correspondence, I am
enclosing a letter from Mr. Maurice Blake and a
copy of my reply.

I will appreciate your comment on the latter.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

November 27, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 16th and Dr. Bacher's comment also yours of the 24th and enclosures.

I return herewith Mr. Blake's letter to you. I hope I am correct in assuming that your reply to him was an extra copy which I may keep. If not, please let me know.

Your reply takes care of the rating error cover very well and I believe that Mr. Blake will agree that the 24 pence instead of 24 cents version is probably the most logical solution for the 24¢ due Boston postmark.

As to your last paragraph on page 2, yes, I surely agree that the Exchanges honored each others ratings. In my collection of covers from China to the U.S. via Marseilles I made a notation some years ago that whenever the British Exchange made an error it was accepted by the U. S. Exchange who simply added the U. S. charges and let it go at that. I have such covers to prove this but have never seen a cover where the rating was changed. As to the Debits or Credits I'm sure they considered them untouchable because they would throw the accounting out of balance if any changes were made.

I might go out on a limb and say that in the case of the "Above 1 oz." cover, Boston, with perhaps a right to do so, might have collected 96¢ from addressee without disturbing the other figures. As it is the U.S. lost 4¢ on the deal not to speak of the extra 24¢ they might have had if correctly marked 48¢ due.

Your Frisco sailing dates brought to mind a cover I have had for a long time but never got around to sending you. I enclose it herewith for your inspection along with my description done years ago.

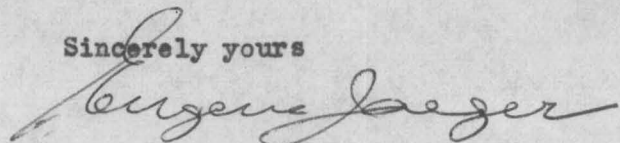
Everytime I read this I wonder if the 29 was really an error or was applied purposely and that perhaps 29¢ was paid just to be on the safe side. Of course, it is easily possible to mistake a 29 for 26 when picking up a handstamp but why wasn't it then crossed out. The sailing date I got from Rowell's articles in STAMPS 1938.

I note in the Liverpool booklet by Robertson that they had a 1/2½ handstamp used on covers to California under Art.5 of the Treaty but have never seen an example. They also had handstamps having reference to Art.2 and Art.10, of the Art.10 I have a cover showing this but don't know its meaning as I have never read the actual Treaty but only the "Details" which also is full of articles.

I presume the Treaty may be found somewhere in the Congressional Records and hope someday I'll get around to reading it.

Again thanks, and best regards

Sincerely yours



MAURICE C. BLAKE
11 MASON STREET
BROOKLINE 46, MASSACHUSETTS

November 19, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

I was glad to know by your letter of the 7th that the price of \$50. proved satisfactory to the former owner of the pair of 3¢ 1851 with New York Ocean Mail postmark.

I note that your records show that the "Oregon" sailed from S.F. on July 1, 1853 and that the 1854 July 1 sailing was by the "Golden Gate". Sam Paige just wanted to be sure, lest by some means a 12¢ 1851 had been spirited to S.F. in time for a first day use on July 1, 1851! I wonder what vessel sailed on that date and on July 1, 1852.

Thank you for the two prints with Jaeger "error in rating" puzzles, which came with yours of the 16th to-day. My tentative guess:

(1) From Liverpool Aug. 16, 1851

ms. "paid late" accounts for the second 1 shilling stamp, comparable to a supplementary mail charge, so that the rate marks are correct for a single letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., viz.:
5/cents -Red- Br. credit to U.S. and BR.PACKET/PAID/24-Red- at N.Y. with no postage to collect at Providence, R.I.

(2) From Liverpool Nov. 1, 1851

Letter franked with two 1 shilling stamps scaled at over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. but not over 1 oz. and accordingly double Br. credit 10/cents-Red. Scaling of letter revised by handstamped "ABOVE 1 Oz" with the "1" and clerk's initials in script, and accordingly the quad 4s. rate over 1 oz. was half unpaid amounting to 48¢ of which the Br. P.O. claimed by black debit mark "38/cents".

However, the Boston incoming foreign mail office either did not comprehend the British markings correctly or did not accept the weight as over 1 oz., erroneously in either case marking the cover in script "Paid 24/Un "24". If the British markings and "ABOVE 1 Oz." were accepted, Boston should have rated the cover "Paid 48/Unpaid 48" and instead of Br.PACKET BOSTON./24 -Blk- used a 48 in black, for 48¢ collect at Providence to cover the Br. 38¢ debit and 10¢ U.S. internal of the unpaid half of the total 4s. or 96¢ rate. On the other hand, if the Boston office scaled the letter not over 1 oz., then Boston should have crossed out the "ABOVE 1 Oz." and the "38/cents" and marked the cover with a red BR.PACKET/PAID/48 fully prepaid to Providence. As Boston did not correct or delete these British marks, it seems probable that the Boston office was at fault, for a letter prepaid by two 1s. stamps could not correctly be rated at Boston "Paid 24/ Unpaid 24".

What did Mr. Jaeger conclude ?

Sincerely,

Maurice

Dec. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

Yours of the 27th received.

First, the cover to France, which I return herewith. I believe this was at first mistaken for a PAID letter to Britain and rated "29" - which was later corrected and stamped "26." The "29" should have been crossed out. It looks like the French clerk accomplished this with his "8" due. The rate by the Collins Line was 21¢ from the East or 26¢ from California and Oregon. See my One Cent book, Vol. II, pages 323 and 324. These are reproductions of pages of rates from the 1852 P.L. & R.

Some years ago I had three or four 26¢ rate covers to France - stampless, and I may still have them but I have been unable to locate them. It is my impression that they are not rare, still not common. I also have records of the rate paid by stamps, for example, an unusual item, a pair of the 10¢ 1855 plus a pair of 3¢ 1851 - a use in 1856.

Later

I did manage to find one cover and enclose it herewith - a use in July 1853 - Note the odd "PAID" and "26" - the latter looks like "2G." I also include several photo prints which please return. Note that S.F. had a special postmark for mail to France with "26 PAID."

Further referring to yours of the 27th. Yes, I sent you an extra copy of my letter to Mr. Blake, so it need not be returned.

I agree with your suggestion on your cover to Providence, "Above 1 oz.," that Boston had a right to collect postage which incidentally would not have interfered with the British accounting.

I do not recall seeing a cover from Britain to California with a handstamp=ed paid of the equivalent of 29¢, that is, 1/2½, however in this connection I have never collected foreign rates to the U.S. - all from. As a consequence I have no knowledge of the markings, rarity, etc. What I might evaluate as "unusual" or scarce might be quite common place.

Re - the last paragraph of your letter. I suppose you referred to the U.S. - British Postal Treaty of Dec. 15, 1848. I have had a copy for years. I believe I obtained the photostats from the Congressional Library.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

A 621



Mr. E. Chaponet *me fils*
La Rochelle
France

K.282.

Lot 214

To "Asia." The 16th

paid late

Red

Sarah G. Yobey

From
Liverpool
Aug. 16 - 51

D. Yobey

Providence

Rhode Island

U. S. A.

Error in
Rating
By E. Jaeger



1851

Red

AT 23- F128-GREEN

8560

10 SEC

TWO COVERS BY E. JAEGER

ERROR IN RATING
By E. Jaeger

Mail Steamer

ABOVE

Parcel 24
Unit 24



Black

1851
From
Liverpool
No. 1-1851

Samuel B. Tobey, M.D.
Providence -
Rhode Island
U.S.

10
CENTS
Red

38
CENTS
Black

Seattle, Wash.

Oct. 15, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. 1st Thomas Ave.,
Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Enclosed herewith two items submitted ^{to me} on approval and about which I have some doubt.

The 104-1847 is supposedly a "Greenish Black". I have never actually seen a #2 which has been verified as this color. They seem to be offered at auction very seldom and probably most of the ones that are offered aren't the correct color.

The number 12 is the one I mentioned in my previous letter. I believe the stamp to be the "Kenna Brown", but it isn't listed in imperforate form. I have thought of the possibility of a perforated copy being trimmed, but I can't recall seeing illustrations of many copies large enough for this purpose.

Would you please let me know your opinion about these two stamps and also the amount of your fee for examining them. In the event they pass your inspection, perhaps you would be kind enough to sign them.

Do you know if any action was taken by the A.P.S. against R.E. Manson or Mister X? I hope so.

Re. 34-1856 O.B. I carefully compared the last slide you sent with the first one and I believe the second one was the better example of the color. I sent one to Dr. Chase and today received a reply from him.

I have acquired some Bureau Engravings of the first 20 Presidents and haven't seen or heard of any like them. They are about $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2" and

die sunk on cream colored cards $5\frac{3}{4}'' \times 7\frac{3}{4}''$. Each bears the Bureau of Engraving & Printing ^{imprint}. And they are excellent examples of the engravers art. Judging from their appearance they are quite old but well preserved. Do you recall seeing anything on this order. I have written to the Bureau and am awaiting their reply. Several of the portraits are the same as used on stamps.

This past week the weather has been much more like summer than our weather during June. One notices the shorter days but they have been warm and sunny.

The weather everywhere seems to be abnormal and I can't recall such a previous rash of hurricanes as has plagued the east coast this year.

The highest of our three main highway passes through the Cascade mountains has had 10" of snow already and is likely to be closed for the winter at any time.

Every good wish.

Sincerely yours,

D. V. McInroy.

Return postage enclosed.

P.S. In looking over the Fox catalogue of the Lehman sale I noted the odd color listed for lot # 439. Could you tell me if there is such a color?

Oct. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. McInroy:

Yours of the 15th received enclosing the 10¢ 1847 and the 5¢ 1856, both of which I return herewith.

Re - the 10¢ 1847. To my eyes this is just a nice copy of a 10¢ 1847. I fail to note anything green or greenish about the black ink. If there is, then no doubt I am a bit color-blind on "greenish black."

Chase, in his 1916 article, did list in the colors of the 10¢ stamp a "deep greenish black" and he stated, quote: "There seems to be two different printings that may fairly be described as deep greenish black and dusty bluish black. These are rare and having never seen either on a dated cover, I cannot tell at what period they were used. ~~xxx~~ For obvious reasons Ridgway's list is of little use here." (unquote). I suppose it was from the above that the S.U.S. listing was taken. I never saw a 10¢ 1847 that I would consider classed as a greenish black. If such a color in this stamp exists I am not familiar with it.

Re - the 5¢ 1856. I certainly would not class this as an "Indian Red" or "Henna" but rather as a "light red brown." I believe that I wrote you previously that I do not think the Henna ink was used until perhaps six or seven months after the 5¢ value had been issued perforated. Luff, back in the late 1890's, listed as colors of the 5¢, Brown, Red Brown, Dark Red Brown, Carmine Brown. I do not know what he called Carmine Brown. I believe the 5¢ stamp can be put into two shades - light red brown and dark red brown.

There is no fee for the above.

Re - A.P.S. action on Manson. The September or October A.P. did not contain any notice of his expulsion. I was advised in August that he would be expelled. I have not had any further word. It seems that they act very slow in such cases, and I suppose the reason is that they fear a libel suit.

Re - the Bureau engravings that you mentioned, I do not recall seeing the items you mentioned but your description was a bit meager. I suggest you advise me of the reply you receive from Washington. It is possible they might be of special interest to Clarence W. Brazier.

We are leaving for a trip East on the 23rd and will be away a little over a week. After the passing of that bad hurricane we have had a bit of very fine fall weather with a low yesterday of 31 and a heavy frost.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Paris, October 16th 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

In the Howard Lehman sale, it is the lot # 95, a letter with 10 ¢ 1847 cancelled by red oval steamer 10 - In the Knapp sale was a similar cover, lot 2301 - What means this marking? Did it was a marking for stampless letters, 10 cents to paid? and if it is right, why only 10 cents and not 10 + 2 ct. for the steam duty? Where and by whom this marking was put on?

With my thanks.

Sincerely yours.

Marcel Peir.

Oct. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Levy:

Replying to yours of the 16th relative to cover 95 in the coming Fox sale of Oct. 28th. You are quite correct, this red oval marking was originally intended for unpaid mail, and was an "origin marking" including the rate to be collected from the addressee, when used on unpaid mail. It was applied to mail that was not deposited in a post office but mailed direct to a contract mail route steamer or steamboat, thus not by a non-contract line, thus no ship or steamboat fee of 2¢. It came into use after July 1, 1845, and the marking is known on stampless covers and applied in red. In the case of Lot 95 the stamper was used merely as a cancelation and the "10" had no significance other than to designate the rate paid as evidenced by the 10¢ 1847 stamp. I have no positive evidence as to the exact office where it was applied, or whether it was applied by a U. S. mail route agent traveling aboard some steamer traveling one of the mail routes on Long Island Sound. It has been suggested that it was applied at New York City but I doubt this because of the fact it is apparently very very scarce.

The Fox catalogue does not give the date line of cover #95 but states the marking is in a "magenta ink," whereas the Knapp cover Lot #2301 was described as in "red oval." This cover was date lined "Boston, Mass., Sept. 1, 1847" and addressed to a town in Pennsylvania, indicating it had been mailed direct with a carrier, the nature of which is unknown, and transmitted to destination without a postmark. This might indicate it was applied enroute by a route agent.

I believe the above is about all the data I can give you. The Knapp cover sold @ \$200.00 but I imagine the Lehman cover will bring close to \$500.00 because of the publicity it has received, being featured in color in the catalogue, etc., etc.

As you are probably aware, there is a similar oval marking (red) reading "Steamer 5." I have a photograph of a cover with a 5¢ 1847 tied by this marking and incidentally it is addressed the same as Lot 95 in the Fox sale, so I assume that the latter was a double rate, over 1/2 oz., and requiring 10¢ postage.

Back in 1942 on Feb. 24, in the sale of the "Rust Collection" by Harmer Rooke & Co., Lot 140 was a cover with two 5¢ 1847 tied by the red oval "STEAMER 10" and addressed to a firm in New York City. In both

#2. Mr. Marcel Levy - Oct. 19, 1954.

covers cited above the oval marking was repeated at left.

I think you brought up some nice points and I will use the above data in my November Service Issue which will not appear until after the Fox sale.

Further search reveals that the Fox cover was also sold in a Fox sale of Sep. 6, 1950, Lot 121, but I regret that I do not have the sale price.

Referring to our former correspondence and the "Ocean Mail" cover photo print of which I enclose herewith. Subject to your approval, I have sold this cover to Mr. Maurice C. Blake of Brookline, Mass. @ \$50.00. I did not think I should charge him a greater price. It was sold with the understanding that if the price was not satisfactory to you that he would return the cover to you. If you are dissatisfied with the price I will either obtain the cover from him and return it to you or I will allow you whatever you think you should receive in excess of \$50.00 and stand the loss myself. Mr. Blake makes a specialty of this marking and he was a bit dissatisfied that I charged him as much as \$50.00. Advise me of your pleasure in the matter and I will act accordingly.

Herewith I am returning the other two covers because I am sure that I could not obtain for you the prices you paid. I wish it understood that this is no reflection on my good friend Dr. Polland because I feel sure that he is better posted on the value of these covers than I am. I simply do not know of any friend whom I think would care to pay your cost prices.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

2327 N. Sayre Avenue
Chicago 35, Illinois
November 10, 1954

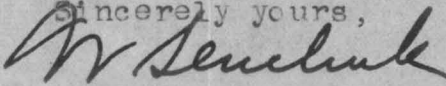
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am a stranger to you, but I hope I won't be a total stranger if I say that the enclosed stamp has been discussed with Mr. Paul C. Rohloff, who suggested that I contact you and also permitted me to use his name as a means of introduction.

I would be very grateful if you would give me your opinion on the enclosed stamp, a U.S. 5¢ 1857, Scott Cat. No. 28. Is it Indian red, henna red, or red brown? Also if it has been tampered with or repaired in any way. Of course, as soon as I receive some notification from you as to your fee and cost of postage and insurance I will remit immediately.

I shall be eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Senchuk

Nov. 15, 1954.

Mr. Walter Senchuk,
2327 N. Sayre Ave.,
Chicago 35, Ill.

Dear Mr. Senchuk:

Herewith I am returning the 5¢ 1857 Type I which you enclosed in yours of the 10th. This copy is not the Henna or what I call the Indian Red, but rather it is the Red Brown, Type I, S.U.S. No. 28.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Henna mounted on a card and signed on the back. I suggest that you lay your copy side-by-side with my stamp and I think you will note that the difference is quite obvious. As noted on the card, I do not consider my stamp as an ultra fine example of the Henna color. Copies are known in a color which is even more red, as for example, I am enclosing a color slide which is an exact(?) color reproduction of a superb example of the Henna. Note how red this stamp is and what a rich color. Kindly return the stamp and slide.

I examined your stamp very carefully and failed to note anything wrong with it, no thin spots, creases, cleaning and genuine perfs. In other words, a used copy in fine condition.

My fee for the above is \$3.50.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. Senchuk
2327 N. Sayre Ave.
Chicago 35, Ill.



REGISTERED
573514

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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

*PLEASE DO NOT
BEND*



2327 N. Sayre Avenue
Chicago 35, Illinois
November 19, 1954

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

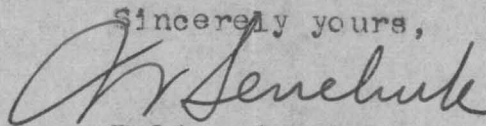
Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Please find a M.O. for \$3.86 to cover postage and your fee
for examining a stamp I had submitted to you.

It was very gracious of you to enclose your stamp and a
slide as examples of the rarer henna shade, and I took
the liberty of delaying their return so that I could get
several opportunities to compare the stamps and try to
form a permanent image of the difference in the shades.
I am returning your stamp and the slide herewith.

It has been a pleasure corresponding with you, and I
hope I can again call upon your vast store of knowledge
and experience in the near future.

Sincerely yours,


Walter Senchuk

Chg

Walter Senchuk

PAID

NOV 23 1954

350

He To Return

My

54 57 Henna

~~Slide~~

PAID

NOV 23 1954

356

Mr Walter Senchuk
SENCHUK

2327 N. Sayre Ave
Chicago (35) Ill

Dear Mr Senchuk

Here with I am
returning the 54 1857 type I
which you enclosed in
yours of the 10th. This
copy is not the Henna or
what I call the Indian Red,
but rather is the
Red Brown, Type I, S. U. S. N.
28.

I am enclosing here
with a copy of the
Henna manuscript on a
card and signed on

the back. I suggest that you
lay your copy side by
side with my stamp and
I think you will note
that the difference is
quite obvious. As noted on
the card I do not

consider my stamp as an
ultra fine example of
the Henna color. Copies
are known in a color
which is even more
red, as for example, I
am enclosing a color
slide which is an
exact (?) color reproduction
of a superb example

of the Henna. Note how
Red this stamp is and
what a rich color.

Kindly ~~you can~~ return the
Stamp and slide x ~~at your~~
~~convenience~~

I examined your Stamp
very carefully and failed to
note any thing wrong with
it, no thin spots, creases,
cleaning and genuine paper,
in other words a used
copy in fine condition

My fee for the above
is \$3 50 Sincerely yours

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. Walter Senchuk,
2327 N. Sayre Ave.,
Chicago 35, Ill.

Dear Mr. Senchuk:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of
the 19th with return of the 5¢ '57 and the
color slide.

Sincerely yours,



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

Nov. 13-Sat. 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for opportunity to buy the
TYPE 111A-1st on Cover. I enclose \$40.00 to pay.

I am inclosing a Cover with a strip of
3-One Cent of same period.

Please look these over and send me a
letter giving all the information you can on
this Cover and Envelope. please use the same
stationary size 6 x 7 in. making your reply.
As I am filing such covers in Vis. Tray Moor TS.
with your remarks. you may bill me for
this work also if you care to. venture some
value on this item. Thanks. do not write
anything on any other subject in above letter
but on subject of the 3-1st Cover.

I placed an order with a Michael Karen
for two volumes of your work. He sent a
fairly acceptable set but on examination
I found pages 229-through 250-deleted
or nicely removed. Karen has asked me
to return same and he would replace but
you would think he (Karen) would have known
these pages were removed. I had already
Paid \$75.00 for his offer. Not having had
previous dealings with this man, still do
not know how it will come out. though you
might be interested in this information.

Yours George H. Altier

Nov. 12, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Here is a drop letter of Lancaster of a printed date of "Nov. 7, 1851." The stamp is a 1¢ 1851 and it is from the first plate, Plate One Early, position 8111E, one of the three inverted transfers. This stamp 8111E, is listed in the S.U.S. and priced @ \$80.00 used. See page 31, under Type IIIA, #8A, "triple transfer one inverted."

Because this was used at Lancaster I thought perhaps you would like to have it. I can offer it to you @ \$40.00 (Type IIIA - bottom line broken on 8111E).

With my kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Mr. GEORGE H. ALTEN
539 W. WHEELING ST.
LANCASTER, OHIO

DO NOT MAKE ENVELOPE

Dear Mr. Allen

Here is a drop letter
of Lancaster of a printed
date of "Nov 7 1851." The
stamp is a 1d 1851 and
it is from the first plate,
Plate One Early, Position 81L1^E
One of the three inverted
transfers. Plus stamp 81L1^E,
is listed in the S. N. S.
and priced @ \$80⁰⁰
used. See page 31, under
type III A, # 8 A, "triple

transfer one inverted"

Because this was used
at Lancaster I thought
perhaps you would like
to have it. I can offer
it to you @ \$40⁰⁰—

(Type IIIA - bottom line
broken ~~on~~ on 81L1^E)x

With my kindest regards
Cordially

Nvo. 16, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Thanks very much for yours of the 13th with check for \$40.00 for the 1¢ 1851 cover as per mine of the 12th.

Regarding the man mentioned in your letter. I never had any dealings with him, but from things I have heard he does not enjoy a good reputation. I think you should demand a return of your money, but it is my guess, it may not be easy. I hope that I am wrong.

I can supply you with copies of my One Cent book as follows:

Vols. I & II - Deluxe Edition - Special binding - only 75 issued - This is numbered and autographed - Price \$75.00 (mint copies)

Vol. II - Deluxe edition - (as above) - Price \$40.00

I have no Volume II in the regular edition at the present time.

Vol. I - Regular edition - mint copy - never used - Price \$25.00

Vol. I - A used copy but in good condition - Price \$20.00.

I purchase copies whenever any are offered at private sale or auction, principally to have copies on hand when friends desire them. The above are from recent purchases.

Again re - the New Yorker. I suppose it is within the range of possibility that he was not aware any pages were removed. When I buy used copies it never occurs to me to check thru to see if any pages are missing. I assume none have been removed. I will be more careful in the future.

The above offers are made subject to sale, as I do not have copies for long at a time.

I am enclosing a separate letter re- the One Cent cover which you enclosed and which I return herewith. There is no fee for my examination of it.

I am enclosing a cover which has been placed in my hands for sale. Perhaps it may be of interest to you. It has a 3¢ 1851 and a pair of the 1¢ 1851, the latter a Type II pair, the stamp to left being the big crack from Plate 2, viz., 23L2 - this pair is 23L2 - 24L2. The big crack 23L2 is listed in the S.U.S. under No. 7 on page 30 - and priced as a single off cover used @ \$60.00. This cover shows the U.S. 5¢ internal rate under the U.S.-British

#2. Mr. George H. Alten - Nov. 16, 1954.

postal treaty to Paris, France from New Orleans in September 1856. This cover is authenticated by me on the back. It is the property of Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein of Ionia, Mich., and his price is \$75.00.

I don't believe that I got around to sending you some additional color slides. I will make up a selection and send them to you in the next few days.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

Nov. 17th 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

References to your letters 11-16-54.

I Enclose a check for \$75.00 to pay for the cover of J. G. Fleckenstein. However I would like for you to please type on your own stationery the 6x7 size with your card in top center the story as you present it in letter on this cover. Thanks. for this extra little writing on above.

I am surely sorry I did not know of the availability of the Vols I & II and would like now, since, I have returned to the New Yorker the mutilated copy and will see what he does about it. I should know in a couple of days. If some of yours are available then will buy them.

I am enclosing the Jan. V. to Millersport, O. Cover and will ask you to designate the actual plate positions, in reporting this please use your 6x7-Stationary and only write on this subject.

Yours

George H. Alters

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 West Wheeling Street,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Regarding cover with a single 3¢ 1851 and a pair of the 1¢ 1851 from New Orleans to France in September of 1856. The One Cent pair on this cover is from Plate 2, (made late in 1855) and the plate positions are 23L2 - 24L2. Position 23L2 is the variety, the "Big Crack." Both stamps are Type II. The cover shows the 5¢ Internal rate under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty of 1848. The shade of the 3¢ stamp is exceptionally good and somewhat resembles the shade known as the 1856 Orange Brown.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Regarding cover with a vertical strip of the U. S. One Cent 1851, from Lancaster, Ohio to Millersport, O., postmarked "Dec 18" with letter enclosed dated, Lancaster Dec. 16, 1854. This is a strip of three, all stamps Type IV. The plate positions and recuts are as follows: top stamp 39RLL - (39th stamp in right pane Plate 1 Late condition) - top and bottom lines single recut. Middle stamp 49RLL, top line only, recut, bottom stamp, 59RLL, top and bottom lines single recut. The transfer reliefs from top to bottom are "A" - "B" and "A.". This strip is from Plate one in its "Late condition," designated as "Plate 1 L."

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Yours of the 17th received with check for \$75.00 for which please accept my thanks. Herewith I am returning your cover with the vertical strip of the One Cent 1851 - Type IV. I have plated the strip and enclose a new memo to go with it. Kindly destroy the former one as I note a slight error - the middle stamp in this strip, viz., 49R11 was recut only at top. I put the plated positions on the back of the cover and signed it.

As requested, I am enclosing a memo to accompany the 1¢ 1851 cover with the pair 23L2 - 24L2.

With my kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 1, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Here is quite an attractive valentine
cover with valentine enclosed and postmarked on
Feb. 14. I thought perhaps this would appeal
to you. The price is \$25.00.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S. The cover is authenticated on the back.



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

Dec. 4th 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

Received the Valentine with the Washington 3^d stamp of either A-10 or A-21 1851-57 - it seems to me it may be. 1851

The stamp is cut with perforations into the lower THREE CENTS. and as the Stamp only Catalogues 300 - 5.00 this may be the Copper brown in color. It would always be interesting to my idea of Collecting items such as this is to get some history of items along with item itself as it passes along through hands from the day it was mailed as in this case FEB. 14 but year is not legible to me. looks like 1849 - but as this stamp if first issue was July 1st. 1851 - did you have a record of what the year might have been on this Stamp Cancelling at SOUTH DANVERS. MASS?

I am keeping this valentine and am enclosing 2500 to cover. and hope you can follow up with more history such as the period these valentines were used (style I mean and type of Valentine)

I have read on Page 346 your bulletin with Photo 176 - should you be able to give me an account or history such as this on any future items you may present to me I would appreciate much more as well as the Autographed Authenticity

Thanks for reply
George H. Altst

Dec. 9, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Thanks very much for yours of the 4th with check for \$25.00 for the 3¢ 1857 Valentine cover. Inasmuch as I did not make a photograph of it or a detailed description, perhaps it would be much better if you returned it to me and I will write up a description of it to accompany it. The stamp is a 3¢ 1857, but not a copper brown or if I recall, an unusual color for the 3¢ stamp. The cover was not priced because of the type or color of the stamp but rather because of the Valentine feature. I do not believe there was any actual evidence of year use but of course it would have to be 1858 or later because the perforated 3¢ 1857 was not issued as early as Feb. 14, 1857. If I remember the color of the stamp, my guess is that the use was in Feb. 1858. I doubt if much could be stated in a write-up other than it is a Valentine cover, hence a bit of Philatelic Americana of a class becoming more popular and sought after.

In a recent Service Issue I included a photograph of a 5¢ 1847 Valentine cover. This item had just changed hands @ \$400.00, so you can appreciate that catalogue quotes for the stamps themselves are not much of a factor.

I can assure you that I am always glad to furnish you with any data that I have, because it is such information that adds so much to a worth while collection. I doubt if I can give you any special data on old Valentines themselves. It seems that the majority a century ago, were homemade from bought parts.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



Organized April 26, 1950

LANCASTER - OHIO

Dec. 13th 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I made some bids side on
seen Sale Lambert W. Guber. Sale Dec. 8 & 9. 54

I enclose lots 1 - Bid 18.25

lots 2 - Bid 16.50

lots 157 - Bid. 31.50

I have privilege to return these as I understand
within 10 days. for any reason.

On lots 1 & 2 - first I ask you if in your
opinion there are genuine or authentic items.

Second the prices I bid please indicate if
this is in line for the quality received.

On lot 157 - the #122 is so much off
center and they describe this stamp in Cat.
as fine. but I find Cornue broken in upper
and lower left. so I would not classify it
as fine as per this bid book or Catalogue
also enclosed. As you notice I bid 31.50
for it. first tell me if genuine also if my
remarks about Classification come close
and please give what you value would be
on this stamp. I agree not to use your
name as reference. I will pay you for
advice and answer. Thanks.
Am sending Registered
and stamps for Ret. Register. George H. Altus

Dec. 16, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

I have yours of the 13th, which did not arrive until this morning.

It would be extremely bad taste if I committed to paper my opinion of the man from whom you purchased these stamps. If he has an honest bone in his body it would be a great surprise to me. It is an outrage to call the "sales" he conducts an "auction." I would not trust this chap as far as I could toss a bull by the tail. I do not receive his catalogues and don't have any contacts with him and others of his same stripe who prey on innocent collectors.

Regarding the three items that you sent me and which I return herewith. Lot No. 1. If I were you I would return this with the statement, the paper is so yellow you do not consider the copy V.F. - very fine. I am no authority on the Providence stamp, so hesitate to express an opinion as to whether this is genuine original unused copy. Because the paper is so yellow I would certainly not consider this as W. F. If this was "V.F.," he would not have sold it to you for \$18.25 because "V.F." genuine copies bring around \$30.00 at New York auctions.

Lot No. 2. This is probably as described and I doubt if you could refuse it. He described this as a "natural paper fold." I suppose this is correct.

Lot 157. This is not the stamp illustrated and therefore not the stamp you bid on. A "fine" copy of this stamp is worth \$75.00 to \$85.00 - A very fine copy is worth \$100.00. A superb copy is worth \$125.00. In my opinion, the copy enclosed is valueless. By which I mean, I wouldn't have it at any price.

Please bear in mind that when you bid at stamp auctions, sight unseen, you are very apt to get the worst end of the deal. This applies to even the best of the auction firms. I never make any bids unless I have personally examined the lots before the sale and when I bid I send my bids to a friend whom I can trust.

Also bear in mind that a lot of sharp-shooters attend the New York auctions and the items that go to the out-of-town mail bidder are items that none of the smart boys want. The only satisfactory way to buy at auction is to send your bids to a representative who attends sales. They charge a commission of only 5% and it is indeed money well spent. Such agents can't carefully examine every lot for tears, pin holes, thin spots, etc., but the chances are that

#2. Mr. George H. Alten - Dec. 16, 1954.

lots can be returned thru them if misdescribed.

Also bear in mind that there are no bargains in fine stamps or covers. Some collectors have the idea that when they buy a "fine" U. S. stamp at half catalogue they are obtaining a "bargain." Such is not the case. I would far prefer to pay 125% to 200% of catalogue for a "superb" 19th U. S. stamp than to buy one at auction at 50% or 75%. The reason is that one can always sell the superb item without any effort whereas "indifferent" or "poor condition" can only be sold to the buyer who is not aware that such "investments" are not desirable.

I can give you no better advice than the following - deal only with legitimate and fair dealing firms - avoid, as you would a rattlesnake, all the crooks who prey on innocent buyers.

There is no fee for the above and I trust that the advice will be helpful.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

GEORGE H. ALTEN
539 W. WHEELING ST.
LANCASTER, OHIO

Dec. 12th 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook.

I am enclosing Valentine for the best write up you can give.

I am enclosing Stamps for Return which may be done using same package and stamps which I have used as I have registered, return receipt requested. Please do the same and if I do not have enough I will send later to Covers.

I value your write ups on items that may come into my possession from you, and as you have noted from me before on Size Stationary as this sheet I am writing this letter.

To take valentine out of Mounting you can easily do so at Right side, much same as an envelope.

From your great experience do you think enough Ventilation or air is provided in this Mounting to keep Paper well preserved as in this valentine.

George H. Alten

Dec. 16, 1954.

Mr. George H. Alten,
539 W. Wheeling St.,
Lancaster, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Alten:

Under separate cover by registered mail, I am today returning your 3¢ 1857 Valentine cover. It is my belief that a nice and valuable cover such as this deserves a nice album page, a nice setting and not a cheap flimsy affair such as you sent. In addition, the valentine should be mounted with the cover to show both. This applies to any cover that still has the original enclosure. I mounted the cover and valentine on one page and a description on another, using pages that I had made especially to meet my ideas of what a fine album page should consist of. These pages are three ply and hence stiff to hold a cover without damage. A very fine album with very nice pages is manufactured in Cleveland and I will be glad to supply the name if you desire.

I am not greatly in favor of too much "covering" for covers or stamps. I believe this practice is over-done to a great extent. Years ago before the glassine material was used, we mounted stamps and covers without any covering and I don't think material was damaged to any great extent. I agree that if a cover is covered the ends should be left open so that air can circulate. It is a great mistake to seal up tight any item, a single stamp, multiple or a cover.

I am enclosing here with a color slide that I made recently of a very fine 30¢ 1869 cover. As you are probably aware, the 30¢ stamp on cover is rare, that is, genuine covers - faked items are rather common. The 24¢ is even more rare. I thought perhaps you would like this slide as the cover was quite pretty.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:
Slide
A20 - 4 @ \$1.50

HARRY J. LEMLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE

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

October 22, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thank you for your letter of October 19 enclosing my West Plains, Missouri (?) cover and Mr. Shenfield's letter pronouncing it a fake. Please accept my thanks for your investigation in this connection.

Being an expert on such matters, you doubtless have a "chamber of horrors" in which you deposit fake covers, etc. for comparison purposes, and I hope that you will permit me to present it to you for that use. It is herewith enclosed.

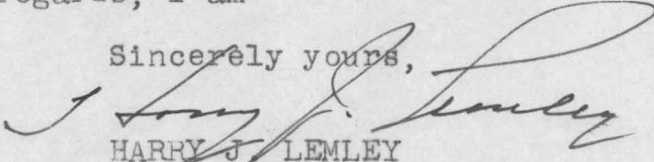
As I have told you heretofore, I collected Indian relics for many years. They are now housed in a small private museum on our premises at Hope. Now and then I would acquire a fake relic, and whenever I found it to be a fake I would immediately destroy it. So, in presenting you with this cover I am really not depriving myself of anything and I do hope that you will accept it.

I have read about half of "The Struggle For Missouri" and am enjoying it very much. I don't believe the book will disclose anything of interest however in connection with the West Plains cover.

If you accept the cover you would doubtless like to have Mr. Shenfield's letter also, so it is herewith returned.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


HARRY J. LEMLEY

HJL:wfc

encl.

LAWRENCE L. SHENFIELD

Advertising & Merchandising
Consultant

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

Dear Stan-

Reference to the untraceable ~~to~~ West Plains, Mo. (?)

This is a fake - probably an 1887-3^d Missouri and the
Confed struck - m. The cancel - which may or may not be
West Plains, Mo. is heavily "re-traced" - see the "MO." and
the "tie" in the stamp. I care not for the history of Mo.!
This one is N.G. I wonder where these things come from - I see
more and more of similar "little" items of seeming historical
importance. The more Confed collectors go for odd things
the more we will see of them. Strange also - many of
them turn up innocently in "odd" lots. Perhaps they were made
years ago. I saw a 2nd horizontal bi-sect. "Chapel Hill, Tex"
the other day. skillfully made - but sold "as is" In my opinion
all these bi-sects called "Chapel Hill" are fakes. There are
about 4 of them - one especially in a well-known collection.

Will write you fully about the C.S.A. meeting I attended
in Richmond last week - You may pass on the above
opinion to Judge Sealey

Best regards -

Harry

Oct. 15/54

Oct. 18, 1954.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edgar:

Re - lots 88 and 89 in the Harris sale of last April 27th. First Lot 88 that you bought. It is my opinion that some fixer added a used 13¢ stamp to this cover. It is darn funny that the stamp is in the lower left corner - most unusual place to put a stamp before mailing but the fixer had to use this space as the upper right had been stamped. On Lot 89, the fixer had to crowd his stamp above the postmark. In the Harris sale of Oct. 4th, Lot 103 shows one of these stampless covers with a pen canceled 13¢ stamp added.

Herewith I am enclosing five photographs which I have numbered on the back. Note B552. This is a stampless cover that belongs to Henry Meyer. It never had any stamp in the upper right corner, as I made an ultra-violet photo of it as per B553. Had any stamp been removed from this cover the trace would have shown up on this exposure. Note the dates of this stampless cover, Dec. 13 and "1 Jan" - the same dates on the Harris cover Lot 102. Now note photo B549. Here is a stampless cover from the Hon. Elisha H. Allen. It went thru as a stampless, and note the dates. San Francisco "1 Jan 1855" which I believe is the same date as the Meyer stampless B552 and Lot 102 in the Harris sale. Photo B554 shows a fake photo - a 13¢ Hawaii added to the Meyer cover (B552). Photo B555 shows a fake photo - a 13¢ Hawaii added the same Meyer cover (B552).

The Meyer cover is from a well-known find. The "Ogden" correspondence. No doubt you have covers from same. These photo prints are with my compliments.

Your comment will be appreciated.

Mildred and I plan to drive down to Norfolk to meet Stan's ship which is due Oct. 27th. We will leave on the 23rd and be gone a week.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

MARCHANT
CALCULATORS, INC.

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To _____ DATE Sunday

Just got back today
from Paso Robles

Got the limit with my
new gun - (Given me
on my 20th year here)
each day + had to
eat them each day
(almost?) Got in with
a lot (doves) so we'll all
get together for a family
dinner of them - They are
great.

I'll look up dates on 57
encircled find right away.
That 124 looks funny to
me - but only photo - I
didn't see it - Circle doesn't

MARCHANT
CALCULATORS, INC.

MEMO FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

To _____ DATE _____

seem to go below but ties
at left is really a tie -

I got my 134 well tied
& am happy about it tho
many could go on same
ship - some stampless where
they didn't have a stamp
& some with a stamp when
available - I think -

I have had a stampless
for years -

yes. Hawaiian covers are
wonderful & I'm glad EK
is interested again

Best for now
Egan

Oct. 21, 1954.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edger:

Your note of Sunday received.

I examined that cover with the S.F. encircled grid on the
12¢ 1851 and failed to detect anything suspicious.

I note that Lot 102 in the recent Harris sale sold @ \$210.00
whereas 103 sold @ \$55.00. I sure would like to see 102 and to
examine it carefully. I suppose as a stampless 103 might be worth
something like \$55.00.

Mildred and I will be away all next week as we are driving
down to Norfolk, leaving the 23rd, to see Stan's ship arrive back
from the round-the-world trip on the 27th.

I return the clipping you sent but I don't know of any con-
nection.

With best wishes -

Yours etc.,

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.
October 11, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

The Boston Valentine cover with three 5¢ 1847 stamps, impressions of 1850-1851, marked in typical Boston red-brown pencil (which I called crayon) "PAID 5" and "20", described in your letter of October 7th is certainly interesting and I shall be glad to have a print of your photo of this cover. I assume its destination was not over 300 miles from Boston and that it weighed over 1 ounce and perhaps can be scaled now to discover that it may have been less than 1½ oz.. If so, that would be further confirmation of the quadruple rate of 1849-1851 for 1 - 2 ounces. \$400. is too much for me, but as items go to-day, it may be a fair value.

My Webster unabridged says that a very old custom of sending love tokens when the birds were first supposed to begin to mate "has no actual connection with the saint, whose name was probably introduced through some mistake." Valentine is cited as an ecclesiastic who suffered martyrdom on February 14, about 270 A.D. under the Roman Emperor Claudius II.

In your letter of October 9th you quote from mine regarding prepaid carrier delivery. Sorry if I was incomplete in my sentence, but it was assumed that such prepayment could be effected only in a city having Government carrier delivery service. However, I was not aware that you limited this also to such offices where the regular 1¢ postage stamp was permitted in prepayment of the 1¢ carrier fee, by which I suppose you mean on local letters and/or on letters collected by carrier to the Post Office.

Your point that there would be nothing in the P.L. & R. because acceptance of a 1¢ stamp on an incoming mail letter for prepayment of the carrier delivery fee would apply only to certain offices is doubtless sound. Nevertheless, the possibility of thus prepaying carrier delivery in any of the special cities would be applicable to all post offices whence such prepayment originated, as Freeport, Ill., Portland, Me., or Holyoke, Mass.

The point about the 4¢ envelope is that it would have been sold by the P.O. with the 1¢ stamp for prepayment only of some form of carrier service, whereas 1¢ adhesives laid no carrier service obligation upon the P.O., being usable for postage or carrier fee. The P.M.G. 1860 statement would have been carried out if the 4¢ envelopes had been distributed to non-carrier service post offices, but they were not; and no mention of other 3¢ plus 1¢ was included.

A I have seen no proof by Elliott Perry that carrier delivery in Boston, etc. could not be prepaid by a 1¢ stamp on a letter from a non-carrier service P.O., yet on the other hand I have seen no proof that such prepayment was officially ordered. As an open-minded reader, I cannot decide without such evidence.

October 11, 1954

The two Portland, Me. covers are interesting: one with 3¢ rate to Boston without street address; the other 3¢ plus 1¢ with street address, Mr. Morris B. Rowe, No. 2 Haven St. On the 1852 Map of Boston, reduced as Figure 14 in BOSTON POSTAL MARKINGS, p. 99, the Rowe family name appears for ROWE (ST.) in Ward 8, District 3 and for Rowe's(Wharf) between India and Foster's.

Haven Street is situated within the rectangle where the small bold numeral 11 for Ward 11 falls on the 1852 map in District 5. It is a short, narrow street off Rutland making a right-angle to left within the block just beyond "Blackstone Square", a desirable residential section a century ago. As you recall the Boston Penny Post stamps paid for local carrier delivery "not beyond Dover Street", according to the P.O. notices in Boston Almanacs for the years 1852-1857 (P.P.M., p. 83- error "1858" should read 1857. This notice is in Almanacs for 1852-3-4-5-6-7, but omitted in the issue for 1858. Issue for 1857 prepared late 1856).

Nevertheless, I have since found in the BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER, Tues. A.M., May 7, 1850, p.2, col.8:

" POST OFFICE NOTICE. A Letter Carrier has been placed upon the District between Dover street and Blackstone Square. All letters, addressed to any street and number in that district, will be delivered by the Carrier, unless otherwise ordered.

Receiving offices for letters to be mailed, and for delivery within that district, are established at MELZAR'S, corner of Canton and Suffolk streets, WAKEFIELD'S, 733 Washington street, and BOYDEN'S, corner of Dover and Suffolk streets."

"Post Office, Boston, May 7, 1850

William Hayden, Postmaster " "is 3t"

However, these 1850 announced "Receiving offices" do not appear in the P.O. Notices in the ALMANACS for 1852-and-1853, but Penny Post stamps "can be bought at all these offices" ..appears in the ALMANAC for the year 1854(p.167): "LIST OF SUB POST OFFICES...Canton c. Shawmut av.(formerly Suffolk St.), Melzar's; Dover c. Suffolk, Gale's; 939 Washington st., Wakefield's..", even though the Penny Post item "not beyond Dover street" still remained below this list of sub post offices. Rather inconsistently the notice said Penny Posts stamps could be bought at these sub post offices(beyond Dover street), but when "placed upon letters will ensure their delivery free to all parts of the city, not beyond Dover street So also ALMANAC for 1855, pp.156-7; for 1856, p.53, change of Gale's to Wetherbee's, and Wakefield's to Lincoln's; and same for 1857, pp.77-8.

Street boxes were set up in Boston beginning in August 1858, and their locations in Districts 1 to 6 listed under date of Oct. 11, 1858 by Nahum Capen, Post Master, in the ALMANAC for 1859, p.79. Of the five boxes in District 5, there was one on either side of Haven St.viz.:cor. Shawmut and W.Canton; cor. Shawmut Ave. and Springfield street.

My theory would be that if the sender in Portland put on the 1¢ stamp to prepay carrier delivery in Boston, there must have been some official notice to the public authorizing such special usage of the 1¢ adhesive stamp; likewise some notice for Mr. Morris B. Rowe to decline to pay the carrier one cent cash(or charge on bill) at Haven St. I have yet to find such a notice, but am still hunting.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

Oct. 14, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 11th received, returning the three covers that I enclosed in my letter of the 9th.

Regarding the 5¢ 1847 Valentine cover, I note that this same cover is illustrated in an article by MacBride published in the "A.P." - issue of February 1948 - page 358. Perhaps you have a copy. The half-tone illustration is very poor but the cover is described. Because of the shade and impression of the stamps, the use could not have been Feb. 1849, so it was surely 1850 or 1851, at which time there was no triple rate. I think that we can safely assume that the weight was over one ounce but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, hence the sender prepaid it at 5¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. It was addressed to South Dedham, Mass. As soon as I can find time to make a print I will send one to you. This seems to me to be the nicest example that we have run across showing your "no triple rate."

Reading over MacBride's article, I note that "a Valentine was a Valentine" if it was sent any time during the month of February. This one was postmarked at Boston on Feb. 27. It appears that the Boston P.O. was well aware that there was no triple domestic rate, but I wonder if many P.O.'s thruout the country enforced that ruling of the P.M.G.?

When I had the cover and Valentine before me it did not occur to me to weigh it, but I should have done so. The cover was sent to me by Jack Fleckenstein for my opinion. It had been offered to him by Bilden, a dealer in Minneapolis @ \$400.00. Jack wanted my opinion if I thought it was worth \$400.00. So you see Maurice I could not have purchased it or sold it. It had been obtained by Bilden from Jefferson Jones and when Jones purchased it about ten years ago he paid Brookman \$400.00 for it. There is the complete story.

According to a recent letter from MacBride, it was the custom a century ago to send valentines any time during the month of February, not necessarily on the 14th of the month as is the custom at present (I believe).

My encyclopaedia seems to doubt that there is any connection between the martyred Saint and the manner in which the date of his death is celebrated at present or in the past.

May I quote from your letter of the 11th:

"I have seen no proof by Elliott Perry that carrier delivery in Boston, etc. could not be prepaid by a 1¢ stamp on a letter from a non-carrier service P.O., yet on the other hand I have seen no proof that such prepayment was officially ordered. As an open-minded reader, I cannot decide without such evidence." (unquote)

I agree with the above 100% but I can have an opinion, and I can believe without positive proof that measurement of carrier delivery is an official

#2. Mr. Maurice C. Blake - Oct. 14, 1954.

postage stamp was possible, that is, in certain cities which had Government Carrier Service. I am just as open-minded as you are on this subject and the only interest that I have is to endeavor to establish the truth, rather than to attempt to prove any belief that I hold is correct beyond any question of a double.

For example, the cover from Portland, Me. to Boston - I labeled this "Prepaid Way into Portland or Prepaid Carrier delivery to a street address in Boston." Surely it must have been one or the other.

Your letter with the Boston data was most interesting and I assure you I appreciate your kindness in making these facts available to me. If we keep on searching I have little doubt that someday we will have the true story.

The following appeared in the September 10th, 1951 Issue of "My Special Service" - quote:

"In a monthly publication of the early eighteen sixties, entitled, 'THE U. S. MAIL & POST OFFICE ASSISTANT' - issue of August 1862 - (Vol. 2, No. 11 - whole 23) and edited by J. Holbrook, appeared the following notice, quote:

'The FOUR-CENT RATE - There is a somewhat prevalent impression that the fixing of a penny stamp to an otherwise prepaid letter, designed to be forwarded by mail, will pay the carrier's fee when it arrives at the place of destination, and many letters thus prepaid are received at New York and other offices employing carriers. The impression is entirely erroneous. When a mail letter is deposited in a U. S. lamp-post box or other receptacle provided by the Government, to be carried from thence to the post office, the extra penny stamp is then requisite to pay the carrier's fee for delivering to the office. In all other cases, any prepayment of a penny beyond the regular rate, is simply money thrown away.' (end)

"The Editor, J. Holbrook was an ex-post office employee, a former 'Special Agent' of the General Post Office, and his publication had the official endorsement of the Washington Department." (unquote)

I also enclose a clipping from the same issue.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

11 Mason Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

October 18, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

Certainly the valentine cover is the best example of the no triple domestic rate of 1849-1851 so far discovered. My impression was that you mentioned in your first letter about this cover that it had been offered to you at \$400, but I now understand from your letter of the 14th that you were merely asked for your opinion as to this valuation. Thank you for the reference to Van Dyk MacBride's article in the Philatelist of February, 1948, p. 358. I had to hunt for this issue, which I had filed with some of my preliminary manuscript for the Boston book, with a pencil check in the margin on page 353, end of third paragraph where the rating is described, but I failed to record the ms. Paid 5 and 20 on Plate 29, pp. 120-121, No. 512. MacBride's statement-"It must have had an unusually heavy enclosure or enclosures"-seems to imply that some of the contents was supposed to be missing, but perhaps just the large valentine and cover weighed slightly over one ounce, thus requiring the quadruple rate.

I do not think you should send me a print gratis, so please let me make a proper payment for it. Also I am still concerned about the cover with pair of 3¢ 1851 and early Ocean Mail. I want either to return the cover to you or send you my check for \$35. to even up that exchange. Please let me know which you prefer.

"THE PENNY-POST" from the Boston Chronicle in the U. S. Mail of July 1862 is new to me, and the suggestion that recipients have small change on hand for payment of the delivery fees to the carriers is interesting.

P.M.G. Holt's 1860 Report statement is familiar, but as the 4¢ envelopes were not distributed to any non-carrier service post offices, the secondary usage for prepayment of carrier delivery to domicile in a government carrier service city was not put into effect. However, if a 4¢ envelope was dropped in the post office at Philadelphia by the sender and addressed to a street number in New York of an addressee there who regularly received his mail by carrier, it would seem possible for the Philadelphia P.O. to notify N.Y. that the 1¢ envelope stamp had not prepaid pick-up fee in Philadelphia and was therefore in prepayment of carrier delivery from the N.Y. P.O. to domicile in N.Y.

Finally, I do not see how you can sustain your opinion of 3¢ plus 1¢ adhesive for prepayment of carrier delivery in a government carrier service city in view of the U.S. Mail, August 1862, "FOUR-CENT RATE" "impression that the fixing of a penny stamp..will pay the carrier's fee when it arrives etc....is entirely erroneous." Further, "the extra penny stamp is then requisite to pay the carrier's fee ...to the office. In all other cases, any prepayment of a penny beyond the regular rate, is simply money thrown away." Surely that means an extra 1¢ stamp was not valid for prepayment of carrier delivery on a mail letter from the P.O.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Blake

Oct. 22, 1954.

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

Dear Maurice:

Yours of the 18th received.

The photo print of the valentine cover was sent to you with my compliments, there is no charge. I have just been advised by Jack Fleckenstein that he purchased the cover @ \$4.00.00 and I have advised him to send to Mekeel's and obtain a copy of your booklet. I weighed the cover and the valentine that was enclosed but my scales are not accurate enough to give me the correct weight. It appeared to be slightly over an ounce.

Re - the 3¢ 1851 Ocean Mail cover, I am still waiting to hear from the owner regarding his wishes. I informed him that I had sold it to you for \$50.00. I will advise you as soon as I hear from him.

Incidentally, I will be away all of next week, probably returning about the 2nd.

4¢ Compound of 1860. I note your remarks. In this connection I have a Compound used from West Point, N.Y. to a street address in New York City.

Re - the statement by Editor Holbrook in the "U. S. Mail & P.O. Assistant." Perry has stated, referring to the statement by P.M.G. Holt in his 1860 report, that the P.M.G. did not know what he was talking about. Perhaps Holbrook did not know what he was talking about. However, to be perfectly fair, I suppose he did.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 3, 1954.

The Mariners' Museum,
Newport News, Va.

Gentlemen:

I am seeking some information on a Long Island steamboat that operated in the late 1840's, by the name of the "Oregon." If you can give me any information regarding this boat I will greatly appreciate the favor and will gladly pay for any expense occasioned in furnishing same. I am not especially desirous of obtaining dimensions, etc., but rather by whom was the vessel owned, when and where was it built and what eventually became of it? Between what ports did it operate and did it's owners have a Government contract to transport mail.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very truly yours,

34-23

THE MARINERS MUSEUM

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

ROGER WILLIAMS
President

E. F. HEARD
Vice President

November 8, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

According to George W. Murdock, the OREGON was built by Smith and Dimon at New York in 1845. She was 1200 tons and 318 feet long. She was built for George Law and Company for service on Long Island Sound and was placed on the regular mail line between New York and Stonington.

After two years she was purchased by Daniel Drew and placed on the Albany-New York route, running for the People's Line. She is well known for her triumph over the C. VANDERBILT in a special race from New York to Sing Sing and return, in which she averaged 20 miles an hour. She sank October 22, 1863, after being rammed by the CITY OF BOSTON.

Very truly yours,

John L. Lochhead

John L. Lochhead
Librarian

JLL/swh

Nov. 19, 1954.

Mr. John Lockhead,
% The Mariners Museum,
Newport News, Va.

Dear Mr. Lockhead:

May I thank you very much for your
kind letter of the 8th with the information about
the "Steamer Oregon." The data supplied is most
helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Raynor:

Herewith the four (4) Confederate covers as
per yours of the 6th.

I examined the 20¢ green bisect cover very
carefully and I am convinced that this item is gen-
uine in every respect. The other three covers are
very excellent evidence of this fact. The grid
cancelation without postmark was an army mail can-
celation.

I have signed the cover on the back as genuine
in every respect - My fee for the examination is
\$4.00.

Very truly yours,



34 - 24

RAYNOR HUBBELL

SPECIALIZING IN THE PURCHASE OF OLD STAMPS



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

BOX 573

GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

November 13, 1954

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook

Box 31

Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

I have your letter of the 10th. Thank you for your opinion about the 20¢ Bisect. I enclose check for your \$4.00 fee. Its fine to have your endorsement on the back of the cover as a general thing but it so happens in this case that the item is not my property yet and I sent it to you for an opinion before trying to buy it. Of course I now shall try to buy it but if the owner does not accept my offer it might be a little embarrassing. By the way Stanley, I presume you noticed that the gum is letting loose of the stamp and might shell off or the stamp get damaged by only part of it being attached to the envelope. What should a collector or a dealer do in a case like that? If I stuck it down flat and securely now with some fresh paste the fact that it newly has been stuck down would be detected. On the other hand to leave it not well stuck down it might shell off or become torn.

The matter of the pair of frame-lines is a closed incident of course. I bought it.

Sincerely,

Raynor Hubbell

RH:bd

Enclosure

5

SEE
S.B.
34

ALL
BY
RAYNOR
HUBBEL



R.H.

Mr James, Seruys, Esq
Martinsville, P.O.
Spartanburg, Dist
So. Car



Capl J. Seruys
Martinsville, So. Car

Beck Creek
Dec 14

Capt R. M. Seruys
Volunteer Legion
Co. H. Evans Brigade
Charleston
So. Car.



Wm L Seruys
Martinsville P.O.
Spartanburg P.S.
So. Car



KENNETH E. HAMMOND

Advertising

118 EAST 40th STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Phone: MUrray Hill 4-0570, 5-1000

Scientific Products Exclusively

MEDICAL • HOSPITAL • DENTAL

November 12, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

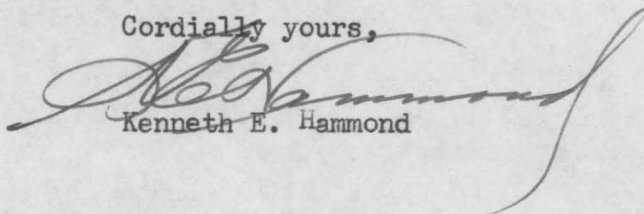
This past Monday it was my pleasure to present my membership application to Mr. John Britt, President of the Collectors Club, here in New York.

I am enclosing a strip of three, 1¢ 1851's, which apparently has quite a few experienced people stymied, and I should like to call upon your expert opinion in determining the identity of the strip sequence. Several of us have explored your Volumes I and II dealing with this stamp, and have attempted to match up the Plate IV with the data identifying the various types.

Our conclusions seem to indicate them to be two of Type 3, and one of Type 1C. My chart shows that Type 1C appears eight times on Plate IV and several positions would offer possibilities. Can you possibly help me to clarify the identification?

I am enclosing a self-addressed envelope stamped with an equivalent amount of postage to that required to send the item to you insured for \$500.00. If there are any further costs, please let me know and I will reimburse you immediately.

Cordially yours,



Kenneth E. Hammond

KEH/pbo
enc.

Nov. 16, 1954.

Mr. Kenneth E. Hammond,
118 East 40th St.,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Herewith the strip of the One Cent 1851 as per yours of the 12th. I regret to state that your strip is not from Plate 4, but rather from Plate 1E, that is, "Plate One Early." This is in the typical Plate One Early pale blue color, and from the "A" relief. The two stamps to left are Type II (no break in top or bottom lines) - The stamp to right, shows a break in the top line, hence a Type IIIA. The S.U.S. mentions this type from Plate 1E. A casual examination of the strip leads me to believe it is from the right pane of the plate but I did not attempt to locate the plate positions because I did not care to put you to the expense of a fee for same. I am returning the strip to you by regular mail, insured, as I do not attach much value to it. There is no fee for the above.

If I can be of further assistance at any time do not hesitate to advise.

I note that you have made application for membership in the Collectors Club. Congratulations, I am sure you will derive much pleasure from same.

I have two friends in New York who are very competent students of the One Cent 1851-57, both are members of the Club and possess fine specialized collections of the One Cent. I give you their addresses as follows:

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

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

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH E. HAMMOND

Advertising

118 EAST 40th STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Phone: MUrray Hill 4-0570, 5-1000

Scientific Products Exclusively

MEDICAL • HOSPITAL • DENTAL

November 19, 1954

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

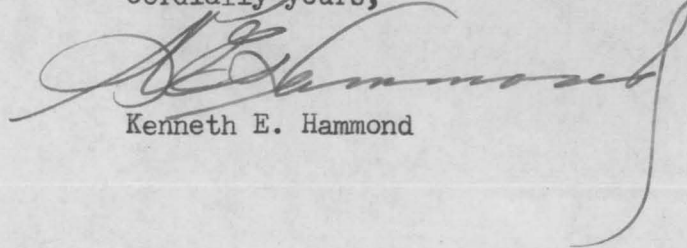
Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am very grateful for the information contained in your letter of November 16th, in which was returned my strip of three One Cent 1851's. Please permit me to reimburse you for postage, which I enclose.

I shall certainly take advantage of your suggestion that I contact Messrs. Fortgang and Neinken should I have any further serious questions on the matter of identifying this particular stamp.

Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. E. Hammond', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Kenneth E. Hammond

KEH/pbo

P.S. Could you let me know the rates on the enclosed cover.
(Florida to Spain via London)

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Wednesday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Could you examine the enclosed cover and sign it if it is genuine in all respects. I notice that the lower left hand corner is backed up but I thought the combination and the fact that the cover went from Florida to Spain made the cover especially desirable and attractive.

I hope you had a very enjoyable trip to Norfolk. I will be calling you next week and perhaps we can get together some evening. Thanks very much,

Willard H. Mack

P.S. Let me know your fee for examining the cover and I'll remit immediately.

Nov. 4, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the cover to Spain as per yours of the 3rd. I am pleased to report that the cover is genuine in all respects in my opinion. The use was from Pensacola, Fla. on Aug 26, 1870 and the rate to Spain at that period (from Jan. 1, 1870) was 28¢ as shown on this cover.

We did not have a postal treaty with Spain at that time, hence mail was sent to England and thence by British mail to Spain. The U. S. transported a half-ounce letter to the British frontier at U. S. expense which was 4¢, the balance of the postage going to England for transit to Spain. This was 24¢ or approximately a British shilling which was their "Packet charge." Your cover shows a red New York postmark with "24" at top. This was the U. S. credit to Britain as above.

I consider this quite a nice combination cover of the 1869 and 1870 stamps (no grill), as covers to Spain of this period are far from common.

I have signed the cover on the back as genuine.

My fee for this is \$3.50.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

PAID NOV - 8 1954

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Friday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook

I am enclosing a cover with
#4 Confederate tied by Richmond cancel.
I would appreciate your examining the
cover to see if it is genuine in all respects.
Could this be an early use of this stamp?

Please let me know what I
owe you and I'll forward my check
immediately. Thanks very much,

Very sincerely

Willard H. Mack

Nov. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the Confederate cover. This is perfectly genuine and I have signed it on the back for you. The earliest known use of this stamp in my records is March 5, 1862, but I believe the S.U.S. has a record of a day earlier.

I don't think the enclosed cover is especially attractive, and the only feature that might be worth while would be a March use. However, the 27th is a bit late. Covers with this stamp are not rare and some very much more attractive items than the enclosed can be obtained. My advice - do not put any money in this item.

There is no fee for the above.

I am enclosing herewith a sample copy of my current "SERVICE ISSUE." Copies are forwarded monthly to a small group of close friends who are interested in the serious side of our postal history. The subscription price is \$100.00 per year. I am not soliciting a subscription but rather, I thought you might be interested in some of the subjects that I discussed in this Issue.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.--Will you please send me the 2¢ 1869 with the Foundation certificate so that I can send it to Mr. Brookman.

S.B.A.

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sunday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thanks very much for your special letter containing the Confederate cover and a sample copy of your service issue. I didn't think the cover was especially attractive but I thought that it might have been a very early use.

Yesterday I sent The 2^d 1869 to you and I failed to send the Foundation certificate. I am enclosing it today.

Again many thanks and especially for the Service Issue.

Sincerely

Willard H. Mack

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Saturday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a check for
\$3⁵⁰ to your order for your examination
of the cover (Florida to Spain) which I
recently sent you.

I am also enclosing the 24 1869
stamp which the philatelic foundation
passed on as the Re-issue. You said
you wanted to submit it to Mr.
Lester Brookman.

Best wishes

Sincerely

Willard H Mack

LAWRENCE L. SHENFIELD

*Advertising & Merchandising
Consultant*

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

November 5th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I return that crazy little 20¢ green slide.
This item I think I saw first ten years ago and I tried
to get it out of circulation. It has been kicking around
ever since, I presume. There is another 5¢ with the same
cancel that I saw at the same time. It isn't dangerous
but it's just annoying.

Best regards -

Cram -

Encl.

Nov. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the One Cent H. Strip from Plate 4 which you purchased in the Lehman sale, 8114, etc. You are quite correct, the center stamp not only has a thin spot but this spot is actually a hole when viewed under the microscope. It was obviously caused by a defect in the canceling postmark.

Re - the 10¢ 1857, without cancel that I examined for you. I did note that this stamp seemed a bit narrow in width and I therefore noted the perfs down the left and right sides, especially the former. I then examined the stamp to try and determine if it came from any of the positions in the first vertical rows of either pane, and apparently it did not. I therefore concluded that the stamp had not been reperforated down the left side. I am refreshing my memory from a photo print before me. As for the gum or what remained of it on this copy. If anyone can state positively whether what remains on the stamp is original or otherwise, he is a much better judge than I am. Finally I think the best that can be said about this particular copy is the following:

- 1) That it is without a cancelation.
- 2) That its width is a bit narrow and the left side perforations appear a bit suspicious but are probably genuine.
- 3) That what remains of the gum could be good and it could be other than the original.

Re - the two stamps you enclosed. 100R2 - single - 1¢ 1851. This is plate position 100R2. No doubt about that. This stamp shows no break in the top or bottom line, hence it is a Type II. I do not recall, but it is my recollection that I stated in my book that very late prints from 100R2 show a break in the bottom line, hence are Type IIIA, whereas earlier prints are apt to show the bottom line intact, hence Type II. Coming from the bottom of the sheet it is possible that dry paper impressions might show a break in the bottom line.

1¢ 1857 - Plate 4 - "D" relief. This is quite a nice Type IIIA, bottom line broken. The plate position is 79L4 and I have signed it as such on the back.

There is no fee for the above remarks. Thanks very much for your check for \$12.00 which I have credited against a charge to you as follows:

3¢ 1861 Pink cover	\$5.00
1¢ 1851 Pl. 4 strip	4.00
10¢ 1857 - no cancel	3.00
5¢ 1847 - D.T.	3.00
	<u>\$15.00</u>

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Nov. 10, 1954.

I note that you do not disagree with my attitude regarding the reprints of the lost Typo plate in blue. While I think it would have been much better not to have made any prints in any shade of blue, I do think that no great howl should have been raised because it was done. It is simply a case of making a mountain out of a mole hill.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 15, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

I thought you would like to see these two slides of 90R - One is the copy you sent me, the other is an early print used in 1848. Note the weak parts of the left frame line. Your copy is a late print from the dirty condition of the 5¢ plate - not a worn condition, but dirty condition. I would hardly be expected that such a condition would produce a HEAVY LEFT FRAME LINE and I have no evidence that this line was ever redrawn on the plate. You don't need a projector or viewer to examine these slides - just hold them to a strong light and use a good glass - (6X is very efficient).

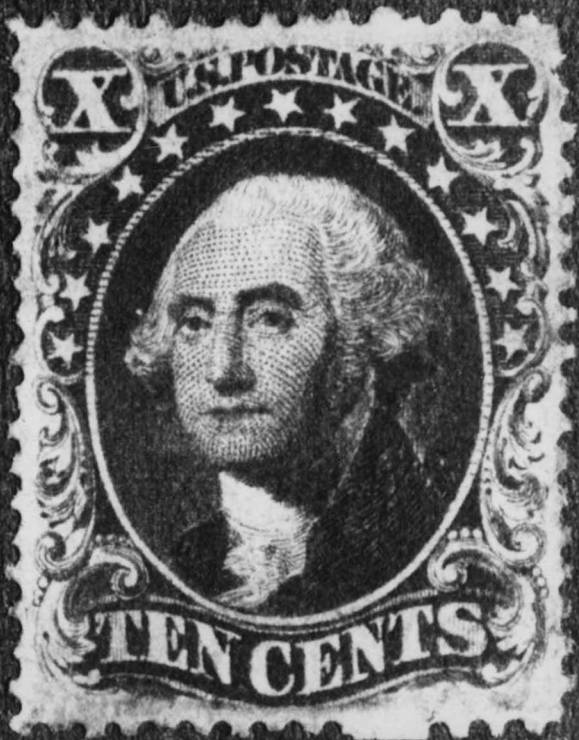
Return at your convenience. I can supply a duplicate of yours @ \$1.50. -

Very truly yours,

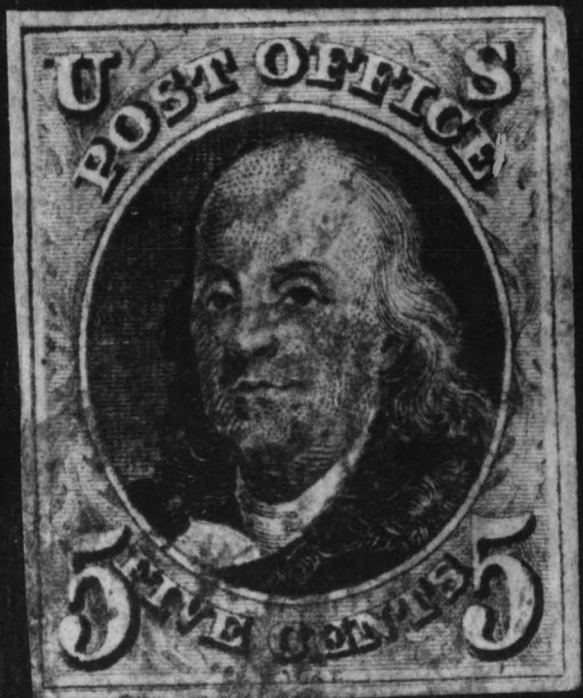
P.S.--On second thought I am including a slide of an original plate proof of 90R.

B 557

QUEER IS THIS UNUSUAL ?



B559



DOUBLE TRANSFER
90R1

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

90R

October 28, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

Thank you for the carbon of the letter which you wrote Mr. Mack. I shall look forward to the results with interest from sending to Mr. Brookman.

Enclosed is 5¢ 1847 that is supposed to be the double transfer* variety and an unused #33. I sent these to a client who claimed that the double transfer had been drawn in with black ink and the #33 was regummed and reperfed at the left. I do not agree with him and would therefore appreciate your opinion on both on the aspects mentioned. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly as usual.

* 90R1

With kind regards,

Jack
Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww
Enclosure

Nov. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Have just returned from Norfolk after being
away a week.

Herewith the 5¢ '57 and the 10¢ '57. I
made enlarged photos of both and will report later as
I haven't time now to make a careful examination of
either one as my desk is piled high with mail. The 5¢
'47 looks like 90R to me (casual examination). If this
is a paint job - it was sure done by a real artist.

Stan Jr. home on five days leave after his
world cruise.

Regards.

Yours etc.,



Jack E. Molexworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 9, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

I thank you for your last two letters received yesterday. Enclosed is my check for \$12.00 to cover your fees on the various examinations. I believe this is correct; if not, please advise.

I was quite interested in your comments on the 1¢ strip which I purchased in the Lehman sale. I did not bother to check the types that were accorded ~~to~~ plated positions, since I assumed that Fox did that for offering, so was surprised to find one of the stamps a Type 1-C. It is of course as you noted not too good an example. However, I was especially surprised that you considered the strip to be sound and am returning it with the request that you re-examine it with the following in mind: On the back there are what appear to me to be two internal cuts, one, if not both of which, was probably caused by the cancellation. I have placed two arrows lightly on the back pointing to the two spots I have in mind. If you dip these in fluid, they will show up rather clearly I believe and under a microscope the break in the paper should also be obvious. I shall await with interest your comments after further checking these two spots.

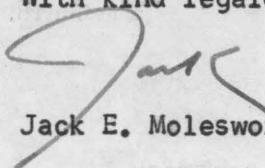
The 10¢ 1857 stamp which I sent you had full original gum when I acquired it, but same had stained the ends of the ~~parts~~ so to improve the appearance, I soaked the gum off around the edges. Therefore, since your ultraviolet photograph shows no evidence of a cancel, I would personally be inclined to believe that the stamp is definitely unused. However, I would appreciate your commenting on whether you feel that the gum that remains is of an original nature and also whether or not you feel the stamp has been reperfed on the left side which were the two questions my client had asked.

I was glad to hear that the 5¢ 1847 is position 90R1, and can of course understand your feeling that it may have been retouched in view of the intensity of the left line. I gave it a bath in

peroxide, but the only solution I had was rather weak so it did not alter the appearance too much. However, it did improve the brown slightly. I am returning enclosed the three prints and the diagram.

Looking forward to your reply,

With kind regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww
Enclosures

P.S. Considerable stink was raised at the C.S.A. convention over Ward reprinting the 5¢ Confederate stamps in blue. They can easily be confused with the original, and I personally believe he should refrain from printing them in any shade of the original color. However, I understand he received a letter from Dietz approving of this and is using it for the basis for his defense. However, Dietz is now getting quite senile and his mind has definitely been affected of late, so I personally do not believe he is in any position to render a sound judgement on the question. What is your opinion?

(Just rec'd your printed letter re above + believe your position - well presented).

P.P.S. Also enclosed is a Pos. 100R2, LISTED in your book as Ty. IIIA.

Would you call this one RT or Ty. II?

Also, one of nicest Perf. Ty. IIIA

Give him in long time, for your comments as to variety of such centering.

Nov. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Gordon:

I am enclosing a photo print of a half of a 6¢ 1869 used as a 3¢ which I authenticated recently for the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, their certificate No. 5208. Perhaps you will wonder why I pronounced this as genuine. The answer is that a number of covers from the same correspondence, all from the same person of the same period accompanied this item. The evidence in my opinion being conclusive that this item is genuine.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

AG24
 PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
 NOV 8 1954
 E FIL F128-5 SEC



AG24

10



Miss. Gertrude Wittbeck

Waterwheel Center

Alb. Co.
N.Y.



Miss. Gertrude Wittbeck
Waterwheel Center

Albany
N.Y.



Miss. Gertrude, M., Wittbeck
Waterwheel Center
Albany Co.
N.Y.



Miss. Gertrude, M., Wittbeck
Waterwheel Center
Albany Co.
N.Y.

NOV 8 1954

BY PHILATEL FOUNDATION
TO PROVE P.F. 5208
F128 - E FIL. 5 SER
AG26 A56

Nov. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

I have yours of the 8th with enclosures and I will make the photographs and return the items to you on Friday as tomorrow is a holiday and the P.O. out here will be closed.

I like the 12¢ 1857 cover as it has quite a nice little story to tell and the markings are quite interesting. The person who mailed it figured it weighed over an ounce but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, hence only required three rates, so he put 6 x 12¢ on it (3 x 24), but there was no such a thing as a triple rate to G.B. at this time, and New York rated it as "Short Paid," hence entirely unpaid, so the 72¢ paid was wasted and the addressee had to pay 4 shillings or 96¢. That was sure tough. Further the U. S. debited G.B. 84¢ on this letter because it was carried over by an American Packet (4 x 21¢). Thus the U.S. P.O.D. collected a total of \$1.56 on this letter.

I will make a new photo (black and white) of your 5¢ 1857 O.B. cover. Because the stamps and postmarks are all so similar in color, it is hard to record them but I will try and get the best result possible.

The other cover is nice and so is the single center line copy.

In the Lehman sale I learned today that my friend J. D. Baker of Indianapolis purchased the 5¢ '57 cover with the H.S. of six. The sale price was \$650.00.

You certainly do not owe me a cent as I am still in your debt.

More later.

Our best wishes.

Cordially yours,

Nov. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith I am returning the various items contained in yours of the 8th.

In photographing these I removed the coverings so as to avoid any glare. However, I put them back in good order. Here are some comments:

5¢ 1856 - Single center line. Yes, this is surely lol1 and what a lovely item it is. I made two different slides and an enlarged black and white.

V.S. 5¢ 1857 - Brown - Type II - "Pr - Arabia." This was a Cunard mail ship - and the last wooden side-wheeler built for that Line. I note the N.Y. date is Feb. 13, which was a Wednesday, the regular Cunard sailing day. I judge the ship stopped at Havre and dropped off the French mail, that is, if this letter actually went by the Arabia. What I mean is this - For a letter transported from New York or Boston by a Cunard mail ship, it is most unusual to find a "Havre" postmark.

Re - your book. Rather than try to market the book yourself, why not lay the cards on the table with Harry Lindquist, give him the figures you have and ask him what he will charge you to advertise and market it. If his figure is too high then try to figure some other way to get your publication expense back. The figure you have at present is \$3,500.00. This would mean you would have to sell 700 @ \$5.00 to come out even. This would not take into consideration mailing expense and discounts to dealers. I may be wrong, but I think it would take some time to sell 700 copies. I wonder if Harry thinks 700 could be sold? I really don't know. Harry surely would be able to give you some reliable advice.

Please keep me advised and if there is anything that I can do, let me know.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

B 558



Mr Brainerd Cushing
St John N. B.

To the care of Mr Thomas Linn
By G. W. Linn



THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR: O. BACHER, D. PHIL.

MEMBER BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN, PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY, LONDON,
AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, COLLECTORS CLUB, NEW YORK.

THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S.A. POSTAGE STAMPS.

REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

BANKERS:
BARCLAYS,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE:
GERRARD
4900

Stanley B. Ashbrook, Esq.,
Fort Thomas.

Dec. 4, 1954.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you very much for your letter of Nov. 16. I was glad to note that my information was of some help.

Today I write asking you whether you would be good enough to give me your opinion in the following matter.

In front of me, on the left, is your article on the 1847 and 1851 BISECTS in Stamps of June 21, 1947 (from my large file of cuttings of what you contributed over the last 15 years to such papers - may be incomplete, but is a wonderful source of information). On my right I have the following cover: letter sheet, written on inside, dated Aug. 10, 1853, and complete, addressed to Miss Emily Allen, Cincinnati, Ohio, bearing 1851, 12c upper left diagonal bisect, tied San Francisco, Cal. circular town p.m. to sheet on the top left side, dated 16 Aug. (the 16 being half on stamp, half on entire and the correct date as to your article), plus- and now I come to my "puzzle" - a similar black town p.m. Saint Louis, Mo (or similar, because these two letters are rather faint), SEPT. 16. A manuscript marking "10" in ink just before "Miss" indicates that, as you say, the bisect was postally not recognised. There is not other marking, such as Via Nicaragua etc., or otherwise on the entire. WHY THE SAINT LOUIS, I ask. How come? Read your comments in article carefully and examined many photos of similar 12c bisects without getting a clue. For an overland route St. Louis might have been on the way from S. Francisco to Cincinnati.

As a matter of fact, I don't like the "tie" of the 12c very much. Under the Quartz Lamp it shows signs of being cleverly touched up in places, especially the letters of the town on the stamp. Nevertheless, the whole set up as such may be genuine. Weight, incidentally, is much under 1/2 oz. The writer, a woman, complains in it that many letters are miscarried by the mail and hopes that this one will not be. Otherwise the contents are of a personal nature, all written in old ink, including the date Aug. 10, 1851 and definitely not tampered with, yet the "San Francisco" over the bisect may be improved upon.

My question is of course not whether you think a cover you have not seen is genuine in all respects or not, but only whether the "St. Louis" in the context would make sense and, perhaps, tally with similar cases known to you and, if so, what the meaning of it would be.

My sincere thanks in anticipation. Shall have some most interesting and good news in about 10 days and will write you.

With my very best wishes

cordially yours

O. Bacher

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.
THE SPECIALISTS IN U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK STREET, PICCADILLY CIRCUS,
LONDON, W.1.

← First fold here →

Sender's name and address :-

THE WESTMINSTER STAMP CO., LTD.,
REGENCY HOUSE, 1-4, WARWICK ST.,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, LONDON, W.1, G.B.

← Second fold here →

THE 'APSLÉY' AIR LETTER

Form approved by Postmaster General No.—71995/IK

To open cut here

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

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

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

Fort Thomas

KY.

USA



Dec. 10, 1954.

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

Dear Dr. Bacher:

Yours of the 4th received.

Re - your cover, F.L. from S.F. on Aug. 16th, 1853, with a 12¢ bisect. I note that the half a stamp is tied to the cover by a San Francisco postmark. This means that the letter went by the Ocean Mail route Via Panama - This was the official U. S. Mail Contract route and all mail deposited in the S.F. office went by that route, if addressed to the Eastern part of the U.S. at that period. No mail deposited in the S.F. P.O. went "Via Nicaragua." That route did not have a mail contract. I note the cover is addressed to Cincinnati but has a St. Louis postmark of "SEP 16." This letter went Via Panama to New York, and my guess is that it was sent thru error, from New York to St. Louis, where it was forwarded back to Cincinnati. It should have borne the notation "Missent and Forwarded." I suppose the Cincinnati P.O. refused to recognize the half stamp, though this is a pure guess.

I have records of other covers with the 12¢ bisect that were mailed from S.F. on the same date and show that that office did recognize the use. According to my recollection, the official Order had not been issued as early as August or September, instructing postmasters not to recognize parts of stamps, and there seems to have been quite a misunderstanding at some offices when such mail arrived. Some offices permitted the payment, others marked them as unpaid. It appears that Cincinnati adopted the latter course. I dislike passing an opinion on a cover sight unseen but no doubt the above may be correct.

I note that you purchased Lot 65 in the recent H. R. Harmer sale of Dec. 6. Just as a matter of curiosity may I inquire what it was that you found unusual about this cover? May I also inquire if it was purchased for stock or for someone in this country? No obligation to answer this query.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

(34-32)

Mail from S.F. on Aug. 16, 1853 was sent by the mail steamship "WINFIELD SCOTT"

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE

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

8470 BLUE ASH ROAD

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

November 17, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

The enclosed item just came into the shop represented
as a 70b.

Somehow it just doesn't "feel" right --

So I am probably wrong. Anyway, I thought it best to
forward for your diagnosis, whether it is a 70b in the
first place and if it has been doctored.

Certainly will appreciate your opinion and comments on
this.

Kind regards,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

Nov. 18, 1954.

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

Dear Lee:

Herewith the 24¢ 1861 as per yours of the 17th. You are quite right, the "thing" does not "feel" right and besides it don't "look" right. Note the razor sharpness of the engraving. I never saw a "regular 24¢ stamp" that was anything like as sharp, hence this is unquestionably a "fixed up" proof. Of course, the gum is not like the "original" - the perforations are certainly bad, etc. I don't know what was done to this proof but I suspect this was not the original color but may have been chemically changed to make it look like the Steel Blue - the 70B. I have heard that it is an easy matter to change a red lilac 70 to the so-called "Steel Blue" shade.

Plate proofs of this stamp show a guide dot at right, that is, the great majority of positions on the plate. None is shown on this copy which makes me wonder if this was originally a die proof?

If you could let me have this for a week or ten days I would like to send it down to Clarence Brazier who is the leading authority on proofs and essays. I would like to know what was actually done. Brazier might know.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 27, 1954.

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

Dear Lee:

Herewith the "24¢ 1861" which I sent to
my good friend Clarence Brazer, also his letter
regarding same. Please return this, but you can
make a copy if you wish.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE

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

8470 BLUE ASH ROAD

ROSSMOYNE, OHIO

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

November 19, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for the information in your letter of
November 18th.

You might as well send the stamp along to
Clarence Brazier to see if you can get the
whole story on what was done to produce this
effect.

Will look forward with interest to the ultimate
finding.

Cordially,

Lee Chadwick
Lee Chadwick

WS:LF

Nov. 20, 1954.

Mr. Clarence W. Brazer,
Box 70,
Flushing, N.Y.

Dear Clarence:

Here is a faked 24¢ 1861 that was stated to be a mint copy of the 24¢ Steel Blue 70B. I thought you would like to see it. I thought at first that it was a mounted die proof but upon a more careful examination, I suppose it is a plate proof but not being very familiar with proofs I am not sure whether this is a thinned card or a mounted India. It looks more like the former to me. Of course, the gum is faked and also the perforations.

Re - the color. I am wondering if this might have been a proof in the red lilac shade and was chemically changed to make it look like a Steel Blue.

I enclose stamped addressed envelope for its return and if you disagree with any of my findings, I will appreciate advice of same.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Special Memo

from

MINT SHEET BROKERAGE
8470 Blue Ash Road
Rossmoyne, Ohio

**ORIGINATORS of
STAMP MARKET**



**The BID and ASK
Established 1936**

PHONE -
CINCINNATI EXCHANGE
SYCAMORE 5763

December 4, 1954

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for the word on the "70b" and am glad to return Clarence Brazer's letter, a copy of which was made per your suggestion.

I had never run into one where the absorbent qualities were quite like this one. (In carbon tet, that is). Usually a thinned card proof will blot it up and give itself a way in a moment, but when this one just picked up that usual characteristic in part and down the center it had me stumped.

Kind regards,

Lee Chadwick

LC:ta

Clarence W. Brazer
Philatelist
U. S. Essays & Proofs
EXCLUSIVELY

MEMBER

Collectors Club—Past Governor
American Philatelic Society
Society of Philatelic Americans
Essay Proof Society—Founder

Tel. Flushing 9-2526

Box 70, Flushing, N. Y.

Nov. 22, 1954

Dear Stanley.

Am returning herewith the 1861 24c gray-blue which is ^{a proof} printed on India paper and backed-up with India paper perf. 12 and gummed. The gum has been kept free of the perf. ribs at ^{and bottom} top. The double paper is seen on some perf. ribs. The perfectly even texture by transmitted light is indication of India paper supported by quick transmittal of moisture applied to the face from tip of the tongue. It is printed from the premiere design type II in my Collectors Club paper on this stamp. I do not have any proofs of this exact color. I do have a large die proof printed in Ridgway's 47m/2, which may have been the guide for the steel-blue stamps that are grayer by quantity printing on thicker paper gummed.

I believe this fake is from a trial color large die proof cut down, as the exterior line to the left of the upper left corner 24 has the same faint texture in the center as my 47m/2. If the position dot can be located by enlargement it would of course be a plate proof ^{color} changeling. printed before reentry of the plate. The color is stronger (darker) than any plate proof from this state. Cordially yours.
Clarence
is a plate proof color changeling.

119 WASHINGTON STREET
TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

November 26, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

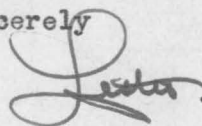
Thank you for your letter about the "LAKES STEAMBOAT" marking. My guess is that it is a fake and probably more of the same will show up. As I mentioned in my letter to Henry, I saw one other cover with the same marking at the dealer's office and I may get some information as to the source he obtained them from. At any rate I will not include the cover in my collection, but will file it away with other worthless material.

At Dr. Chase's suggestion, I am enclosing another stampless cover for your inspection. The part of the letter having the writing has been removed but a note of the receiver remains, "Gales & Seaton, October 12, 1848". The cover bears a red straight line "BALTIMORE R.R." a red "5" in a circle and a red "STEAM BOAT" which I think measures the same as the New York Steam boat marking. These two markings seem to be inconsistent.

The only explanation I can dope out is that the letter was put on the train at Baltimore for New York. Before the train reached Bordentown, N.J., it was found that the road via Trenton and New Brunswick was closed by an accident and the train was diverted over the old Camden & Amboy tracks to South Amboy, where it was put on a steamer and taken to New York, the Camden & Amboy at that time not having a contract to carry the mail over that route. This still does not fit very well with my understanding that the BALTIMORE R.R. and also the PHILADA R.R. markings were placed on the covers in New York where I also think the STEAM BOAT marking was struck. This theory of mine, is, I think, pretty far fetched. More likely it was a case of someone making a mistake.

Hope that you will find this of interest and not feel that I am bothering you with trifles. With best regards.

Sincerely



Lester L. Downing.

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. Lester L. Dawning,
119 Washington Ave.,
Topsfield, Mass.

Dear Lester:

Our mutual friend, Henry Meyer, sent the enclosed cover to me and requested that I take a look at it and return it to you. He also enclosed copy of his letter to you, dated the 21st.

This stampless cover has a pale black S.L. marking reading, "Lakes Steamboat." This is entirely new to me - I never saw such a marking before or even this wording on any mail carried on the Great Lakes. I noted the letter inside is dated "Buffalo, APL 1 1851," and is addressed to St. Clair, Mich. The blue Buffalo postmark is not distinct and looks like an "8" but doubtless it is a "3." I wonder if the writer wrote this letter on the 1st and did not mail it until a week later? My guess is the day logo is a "3." In 1851 April 1st fell on Tuesday.

I note that Henry is suspicious that the S.L. marking may be a fake and he could be right because, as he stated, some faked steamboat covers have turned up in recent months.

Here are a few thoughts that occur to me. I believe that it is immaterial whether the marking is good or bad for the following reason. Even if it dates back to April 1851 I do not believe it is in any sense an official postal marking. In other words, even if genuine, then it was a private marking stamped on this letter by the sender which might have(?) indicated he preferred the letter go via the water route rather than by land. This is purely a guess on my part.

I believe this letter was deposited in the Buffalo P.O. and was thus treated in a regular manner. I do not believe the S.L. indicated in any way its origin to the Buffalo P.O. and surely not how that P.O. was going to forward it.

To sum up - as Henry stated, it could be a fake, or if by any chance it is genuine then in my opinion, it was privately applied. Either explanation would not add any philatelic interest to it.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Thanksgiving, 11/25/54

Dear Stan:

On rereading my latest to you I find that there is one sentence that does not express what I had in mind at all. As it stands it is in error. In the fourth paragraph I referred to offices at the beginning of a postal route with no feeder routes coming in. Since there were no carriers coming in there could be no WAY letters on the trip out. BUT on the return trip the office became the end of the route and a carrier might bring in WAY letters if the next office was more than a mile away. WAY mail would only be brought in from one direction and therefore, the number reduced.

I am still puzzled by the scarcity of WAY markings from the larger towns. Blake records 3 Boston markings, 1801, '03 and '04. There were none in the de Windt accumulation. I have a record of two Philadelphia's in the early days and have never heard of a New York. I have 1 Portland Me. but neither does nor Anthony have heard of another. Neither have I found WAY markings from towns within two miles of these cities. This is only one of the many problems connected with WAY use some of which never will be answered.

Enclosed are ^{four} ~~two~~ covers in the 50% War period which I want you to see,

1) Written at London 8 July 1814.

Went thru the London office Oct 21, 1814.

Reached Norfolk Mar. 2, 1815.

The treaty of Ghent was signed on 12/24/1814 and ratified 2/15/1815. During the war the Atlantic was dominated by American privateers and probably this letter did not go forward until peace was restored. The 50% increase went into effect 2/1/1815.

The rate "33" must be an error

	20¢	
+	10¢	50%
+	2¢	not 3¢
	32	

Only the postage was increased - not the ship or way fees.

2) Written at Hamburg in Dec ? 1814

Thru the London office 2/27/1815

$2 \times 25\frac{1}{2} + 2¢$

Reached Phil. July 13 1815 and Providence July 18.

again, probably held up until the seas were safe.

These are the only two letters of this period that I have seen with the crowned ship letter marking of London.

3) Two domestic ^{ship} letters { N.Y. to Providence } showing that the 6¢
Savannah to .. }
rate was increased by 50% - 6¢ for a ship letter delivered at point of address. On page 36, Blake gives the rate of 6¢ for such use. He had not seen examples of such as these. Now, is the 9¢ rate correct? I have always thought of the

(3)

6¢ rate as being made up of 4¢ to the office + 2¢ to the ship.
On this basis the 50% increase would be 4¢ + 2¢ to the
office + 2¢ to the ship — an 8¢ rate. This idea is based
on the wording of the Act of 12/23/1814, "there shall be added
to the rates of postage established by law 50 per centum on
the amount of such rates respectively". I have interpreted
"rates of postage" as just that, with no increase in way fee or
ship fee. You have seen many more rates in this period
than I ever will. What was the correct rate for a ship
letter addressed to point of delivery?

This letter could go on for page after page but I
know that there is a limit to your endurance.

We had a very quiet Thanksgiving. Son John came home
from his teaching at the Lawrenceville School in N. J.
and Katherine's invalid cousin was with us.

As ever, all good wishes to you and yours.

Arthur.

Dec. 10, 1954.

Dr. Arthur R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

Yours of the 25th duly received and my apology for this delayed acknowledgment. I note your comment on "WAY" mail at offices at the beginning of a route. I never took this feature into consideration before but I can see your point. It is odd that we have a scarcity of "WAY" letters from certain large offices but you are much better posted on such details than I am. I have never made much effort to record early uses of WAY mail as my original interest was in covers showing WAY fees paid by stamps or "DUE."

Incidentally I saw a cover recently that I borrowed and made a photograph of it for you. It is a 3¢ 1853 envelope postmarked Sacramento, Calif. - the use in 1858. It has a manuscript "WAY." It has an odd address - for example - to a person at Downieville care of a person at Marysville. Of course, someone could have written "WAY" on this letter, but assuming the memo is genuine, do you not think that this meant that 1¢ was due? It has been my belief that in the early days - that "WAY" on a letter meant 1¢ was due even if "1¢" was not mentioned.

I am herewith returning the covers that you enclosed and sincerely thank you for a look at these. Here are some remarks.

London Letter "OC 21 1814." Written in July - postmarked October, then into Norfolk the following March. How interesting. I note the rate is 33¢. No doubt the clerk figured that he had to rate this letter as follows:

	20¢
Ship fee	<u>2¢</u>
	22¢
50%	<u>11¢</u>
	33¢

Re - the cover from Hamburg. This was rated as you stated as follows:

single	17¢
Plus 50%	<u>8¢</u>
	25¢
double	<u>51¢</u>
Ship	<u>2</u>
	53¢

I believe that I have seen similar items rated as follows:

single	17¢
Plus 50%	<u>8¢</u>
Ship fee	<u>2</u>
	27¢
double	55¢

#2. Dr. Arthur R. Davis - Dec. 10, 1954.

In other words, I suppose some clerks figured that if 27¹/₂¢ was due on a single, then 55¢ was due on a double. I don't suppose a clerk could be blamed if he rated according to what he considered was correct.

Re - 6¢ rates increased by 50%. I do not recall seeing a rate such as you suggested, viz., 8¢. All Ship letters to the port of entry that I have seen were rated at 9¢. I believe that the 6¢ rate was a fixed rate of postage rather than a 4¢ + 2¢, hence as a rate, it was subject to 50% increase. Our letters to points beyond I believe that in some cases letters were rated as per your 33¢ rate and in other cases at 32¢.

The above is from memory with the exception of the 9¢ rates, as I find I have several Ship covers showing 9¢. I will look up my record on Ship covers to offices beyond port of entry.

We had our first snow last night - not very much, but enough to cover the ground, and today it is cold and 20 is predicted tonight.

We wish you and yours A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHFUL XMAS and everything good in the year to come.

Cordially yours,

Memo to Arthur Davis

I have

Ship Letter into Charleston, S.C. to New York
rated "Ship 39¹"

Ship Letter into New York to Plattsburg rated
"Ship 32"

Ship Letter into Boston to New Haven rated
"Ship 27¹"

Ship Letter into New York to New Haven rated
"Ship 32"

<p>26L $\overbrace{\quad}$ D.T.</p> <p>B</p> <p>$\underline{\underline{\quad}}$</p>	<p>27L $\overbrace{\quad}$ D.T.</p> <p>B</p>
<p>36L $\overbrace{\quad}$</p> <p>A</p> <p>D.T. $\underbrace{\quad}$</p>	<p>37L $\overbrace{\quad}$</p> <p>A</p> <p>$\underbrace{\quad}$</p>

HAROLD G. DUCKWORTH
368 LONG HILL STREET
SPRINGFIELD 8, MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 21/54

Dear Mr Asbrook:

Will you kindly inspect
the enclosed block of one cent
stamps and plate for me.

Sincerely yours.
H G Duckworth.

Nov. 24, 1954.

Mr. Harold G. Duckworth,
368 Longhill St.,
Springfield 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Duckworth:

Herewith the block of four of the 1¢ 1851 - Type IV,
postmarked Charleston, S.C. as per yours of the 21st.

I examined this rather carefully and put it in tetrochloride and while there are a few minor creases and a very small tear at right, it is my opinion that the condition of this block is exceptionally fine. The plate positions are 26LLL - 27LLL - 36LLL and 37LLL. The two top stamps are "B" reliefs, the two bottom stamps are the "A." The 26L is single recut at top and double recut at bottom. The other three stamps are all single recut top and bottom. Three of the stamps show "double transfers," viz: 26, 27 and 36. This is the 1854 shade.

My fee for this examination is \$2.75 which includes return postage.

With kindest regards -

Cordially yours,


December 6th, 1954

Dear Stan;

Enclosing two 10¢ covers.

One I think was bootlegged in I think, or was
uncancelled in San Francisco and cancelled on arrival.

Is the other cover the 10¢ rate you are looking
for? It is an early date by the way.



Dec. 8, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Yours of Monday came this afternoon with return of the copy from the Headley book. Perhaps you forgot that I mentioned that after I made this microfilm copy of MacBride's copy of the book, I succeeded in purchasing a copy - cost \$25.00. I had been searching for a copy for some time.

Re - the two covers you enclosed and which I return herewith. No, the 10¢ to France is not the scarce 2 x 5¢ rate, but rather your cover is a fake, that is, the 10¢ stamp was not used originally. The tie on the cover is a paint job. There was no such a 10¢ rate to France. This went by "Amer Pkt" direct to France - by the "Havre Line" direct to Havre. The rate was 20¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and it had to be prepaid. No unpaid accepted. This paid the rate to the French frontier, and French domestic was collected from the addressee. Your cover shows a pencil "20" at right and a French due of "6" decimes or about 11 cents U.S. I enclose a memo from my files, which please return showing some carriage rate and markings. You will find a description of the 20¢ rate in my Vol. 2, One Cent book, on page 337, Fig. 56V, showing a cover on which the French due was "12" decimes - (2 x 6). This was not over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. U.S. but was more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes French, hence required 12 decimes instead of 6. Also see a very wonderful cover in the Brown sale, Lot #539 - Here the 20¢ rate paid by the 5¢ '56, a strip and single. Note the same markings, "Amer. Pkt" - "Le Havre" etc. Covers with the 20¢ rate are scarce, but darn few collectors have any knowledge or appreciation of them.

It is possible your cover had a pair of 10¢ '55 and someone cut the right stamp off but this I doubt - The painted tie looks very bad to me and the grid seems too small, i.e., if the "tie" is genuine. I wish you would return the cover to me as I would like to show it to a friend and I would also like to write it up in a Service Issue. Have you any objection?

Re - the other cover. This was carried to New York by an Express messenger and then on to the Express office in New Bedford, Mass. under separate cover. The 10¢ stamp was no doubt put on by the writer. At any rate, the law was complied with. The pencil memo reads - "Paid 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ Express." My guess is that the writer mailed this at the last minute at the Wells Fargo Express Office and paid a "bit" (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢), to have it conveyed to the ship. Otherwise he could have mailed it at the P.O. (if in time for the sailing).

A bootleg letter is one where postage was saved. In other words, had this letter been mailed with a 1¢ stamp at New Bedford, the U.S. P.O.D. would have been cheated(?) out of 9¢. As it was they were paid 10¢ for a 1¢ Service.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 7th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

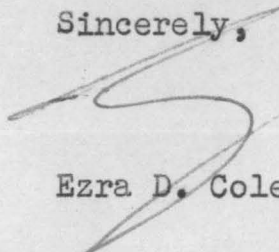
Here is a bulletin on the London sale.

I am enclosing a 1¢ blue pair that bothers
the dickens out of me. Help me with this as a
personal favor.

I suppose you got the news release from the
Philatelic Foundation. Will you look at the Expert
Committee

Caspary does not function any more
Steinway is drunk one half of the time
Stitch only knows Guatamala or something
Ewing is a fine chap but knows very little about
stamps except a hazy knowledge of Twentieth Century; and
the others I will not list.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year



14.51 - faked type I

Dec. 9, 1954.

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

Dear Ez:

Re - the 14 pair - vertical which arrived today. This is a faked pair of the Type II from bottom row of Plate 2. I want to make a photo so will forward it back to you tomorrow (Friday)

The bottom ornaments are "painted in" and though I have seen a number of similar items I doubt if I have ever seen a more clever job than this. I want to plate the pair so that I can show how both positions were before the ornaments were painted.

Thanks for the advice on the London sale. I note that Dr. Bacher bought Lot #65 @ 380 pounds which is about \$1,050.00. I have an idea he was aware of the significance of this cover but I have not had any correspondence with him about this sale. I had a letter from him within the week but he never mentioned there was any such a sale scheduled. I note that you purchased 63 and 66 and I would like to see these when you get them, also #71. Cover 156 should be nice.

No Ez, I have not had any word about changes in the P.F. Expert Committee. I note your comment. It is too bad they insist on refusing to put some competent people on the Committee but I rather imagine that those who are putting up the cash to run the P.F. don't want any advance.

Too bad about Steinway. I wondered why Caspary permitted his name to be used with such a lot of incompetents.

Thanks Ez, for the Hind catalogue. I sure am glad to complete my set.

Also by express yesterday, arrived a box of wonderful apples. This is indeed an extremely nice Xmas gift and Mildred joins me in many many thanks.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Champion Pants

Manufacturing Co., Inc.



SALES OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

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

CABLE ADDRESS, CHAPANTS, N. Y.

January 12th, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

I received your letter in Miami as regards the Rust matter but I was on the rush, trying to catch fish, and there weren't many around, that I didn't answer any mail after that time, and I returned to New York on Monday. We had a very pleasant time.

In reference to the 64L1 and the position that Rust has taken in this matter, I would very much like to study all the copies which Mr. Rust has. Do you think he would forward them to me, as I certainly would like to see them? I never checked the plating marks on 64L1 because of the two recuts which very definitely establish the position. Do you want to write to Rust about this, or shall I write to him.

In reference to the fake 1¢ 1851 type 1, I am enclosing a photograph together with the note which you sent to me on June 11th, 1949. I note that this is the same pair about which you have written in your Special Service. After you see this photograph, please send it back to me. This item definitely is not from the bottom rows of plate 2. Please note that the bottom stamp has a guide dot and the stamp above has no guide dot. Also please note that there seems to be traces of the stamp to the right of the bottom stamp. I am quite confident that this pair is 56-66R2 and that the bottom margin was added, and the whole thing is faked.

Coming back to 64L1, did you check the ink under the Quartz lamp? Would the Quartz lamp show up any difference in shade of the inks?

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

MLN:HL ENC.

Jan. 17, 1955.

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

Dear Mort:

Thanks very much for sending me the 1949 print of the faked 1¢ pair. I had forgotten all about this item and at the time I failed to put a print in my card files regarding it. I went thru my photo files and found that the pair was submitted to me by E. T. Wallis in June 1949. Wallace died of a heart attack several years ago. He was a very slick operator, a very bad egg. I cannot find copy of the letter that I probably wrote him at the time, so I really don't know if I tried to plate the thing in 1949 or not. Ezra Cole sent the pair to me early last month. I did not recall ever having seen it before and hence never bothered to look up any recofds. I tried to plate it, assuming it was from the bottom row of Plate 2, but I was unable to do so. It never occurred to me that a bottom margin had been added. I even tried to find it on Plate 3, 9th & 10th H. rows. I noted the dot at lower right but thought it was something the faker had added. I noted no guide dot of top stamp and assumed this must be from the right pane and that the faker had messed it up to such an extent that no plating marks were dependable.

Later

I note you plated this as 56-66R2 and I have just compared same and agree that surely this faked pair must be from those two positions. Fine work, Mort. I will probably give this another write-up in my Service and I will give you full credit for the plating.

I feel sure that Rust would be glad to loan you copies of 64L1 but I doubt if he has any of the faked copies on hand. The chances are he returned them to whoever they belonged to. However, this is only my guess. The copies he sent to me were in several Fox sales and John withdrew them. I will see if I have some photo prints that I can spare and if so I will enclose some in this letter. Rust promised about 10 days ago to send me a number of exhibits but so far he has failed to do so. I will write him and mention that you would like full particulars on this faking and would appreciate exhibits. So far all the fakes that I have seen are the double 64L1. Rust claims he can plate all(?) the faked Type III copies. He also claims the faker used "plastic ink" and that it is not the correct shade of the green. I did not check the ink under the quartz lamp, because I doubted if an examination under the lamp would show anything. Whether this is true I do not know.

Genuine copies of 64L1 with enough margin at the bottom should show two dots as per diagram herewith. I have a photo of a fine copy of 64L1 - perforated which shows the dots very plain. This might mean that all imperf copies with enough margin should show these dots.

Rust must have very keen eyesight and he must be extremely good on plating.

#2. Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken - Jan. 17, 1955.

He has made good so far. When he first called my attention to faked 64L stamps I was confident he was all wet and was wrong. Evidently he has accumulated a big lot of 10¢ material and has made a very intensive study of the plate. More power to him.

I note you had a nice Florida trip but that the fishing was none too good. I suppose that is one thing that makes fishing such a wonderful sport. One is always praying for a day when conditions are all perfect. They come few and far between.

I suggest you write Rust and inform him you are very much interested in his work on the Type IV and will appreciate any information that he can give you.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 17, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Re - the faked Type I pair. Mort Neinken informs me that I sent him a photo print of this pair in June 1949 and enclosed it. Also that the pair is not from the bottom row of Plate 2 and that the bottom margin is added. I had forgotten that I ever saw this pair before or had photographed it but I had prints in my files and I suppose I have the letter that I wrote Wallace regarding it at the time. Please send it on to me again so that I can take another look at it. When you sent it to me I failed to note that the margin had been added as stated by Mort. I do recall that at the time you sent it to me I was unable to plate it.

Re - the Forster covers - I made black and white photos of a number of them but have been so busy have not had time to make prints. I will send a set to you later. I have not used any of them in my "Service" but may do so later and if and when I do, I will send copies to you.

I think there are a number of interesting items in the coming Fox sale. I sent for about a dozen lots but was rather disappointed in some of them. I doubt if there will be any bargains.

Later I will also send you a photo print of the 6¢ bisect.

Re - 5¢ cover in Harmer Rooke Sale of Dec. 10, 1951. Again thanks for your comment. I would prefer not to have any correspondence with Lambert Gerber, as I think he is one of the worst gyps in the whole game. He does not send me his catalogues any more - which is fine.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Champion Pants

Manufacturing Co., Inc.



SALES OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

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

CABLE ADDRESS, CHAPANTS, N. Y.

February 8th, 1955

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

Dear Stan,

Just received your letter. (*re the phony type I*).

Would appreciate your sending me the pair which you removed from the piece.

I sure would like to work on it.

Sincerely,

Mort

MORTIMER L. NEINKEN

MLN:HL

Feb. 11, 1955.

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

Dear Mort:

As per yours of the 8th I am sending you herewith the vert. pair of the 1¢ 1851 Type I fake. I feel sure that you will agree that no bottom margin was added to this pair and that the big dot is not a guide dot. I haven't tried to plate this pair since I had it here several months ago and then I did not spend much time on it. I came to the conclusion it was from positions in the 9th and 10th H. rows of the right pane of Plate 2, but that a lot of monkey-business had eliminated the identifying marks.

When you came back with the suggestion that it was from up in the body of the plate (right pane), I looked up the photo and it appeared you were correct. If you wish, send it over to Morris and let him have a look. I hope between you, the exact positions can be located.

I even went over all the plated positions in the 9th and 10th rows of Plate 3 but got nowhere. I guess if I leveled right down I could plate the thing but I haven't the patience I once had.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Copy to Morris.

March 16, 1955.

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

Dear Ezra:

Herewith the "paint job" of the 1¢ 1851 - vertical pair. It was returned to me recently by Neinken and Fortgang. Both tried to plate it and were not able to do so. At present I haven't time to fool with it but later I will see what I can do with the photograph. The whole truth is that the "artist" who did the painting, did so much monkey-business that he made the pair impossible to plate. Even if it came from Plate 3 it wouldn't mean a darn thing in its present shape. I may call for another loan of it in the future.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Ky.

JUN 11 1949

1 A

1 A

1 S

1 S

1 S

1 S



Q14-Red F128-50 Sec

MA
15
12



FAKE TYPE I BY E.T. WALLIS JUNE 1945



B588

AT 121-F128-RED-110 SEC

FAKE

BEST NEG

JOHN A. FOX

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

=====

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

December 3, 1954

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

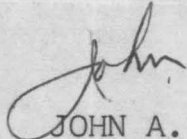
Dear Stan:

Enclosed please find a Lincoln cover on which I would like a colored slide. I think it is a very interesting cover and would also appreciate your opinion and a description of the markings.

Please accept the enclosed as payment.

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

Sincerely,


JOHN A. FOX

JAF:ew
enclosure
registered

Dec. 6, 1954.

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

Dear John:

Herewith the Lincoln mourning cover as per yours of the 3rd. This was from Newark, N.J. on May 23, 1865, a little over a month after the assassination of Lincoln, hence quite an early Lincoln mourning cover. It is addressed to the Swiss town of Aarau, the capitol of the Canton of Aargau, located on the Aar River, 41 miles N.E. of Berne. It was sent unpaid by "FRENCH MAIL" at a rate of 21¢ per quarter ounce. By French Mail, means thru a French port and thru France to Switzerland. The New York postmark in black shows "18" - and date of May 27. On this date in 1865 there were two sailings of the mail from Europe from New York. I judge this went in a sealed bag for France and was dropped off at Queenstown and sent at the expense of the U.S. P.O.D., thus our debit (black) to the French P.O.D. of 18¢ as per the N.Y. postmark.

I believe that the clerk in the Newark Post Office thought that this letter was addressed to France, hence rated it @ 15¢ due (encircled 15) but the New York Office noted the error and crossed out the Newark rating. I do not know what the "due 19" in manuscript means as there was no such a rate as 19¢. This may not have been applied officially. The French transit marking is faint but no doubt it reads, "ETAT - UNIS - AM PKT - CALAIS." The two "8" were French applied and meant 8 decimes but I cannot explain their meaning on this cover. The brown pencil marks were no doubt Swiss applied and indicated the sum collected from the addressee.

Covers from the U.S. sent prepaid to Switzerland "by French Mail" with 21¢ rates are quite well known. I think the significance of this cover is the fact that it is an early Lincoln mourning cover - thus quite unusual.

John while I sincerely appreciate your kindness in sending me a check for \$15.00 for an examination of this cover, I am returning it because there is no reason why you should pay me any higher fee than I charge anyone else. Had one of the New York dealers sent me this cover I probably would only have charged \$3.50, or on one more valuable \$5.00. It would be worse than taking candy from children to accept a fee of \$15.00 on this cover. The fact is I will gladly look over any cover that puzzles you at any time and if you never pay me a fee it would be okay because you have always overpaid. I may not always have the answer but I'll give you the best I have.

I made a color slide of the enclosed and will send it to you later. I authenticated the cover on the back but if you do not care for same a good eraser will remove.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,



Perry W. Fuller

STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

BALTIMORE LIFE BLDG.

BALTIMORE-1, MD.

November 19, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

I would greatly appreciate if you would type these two lc 1851's and let me have them back by return mail as they are in my next auction.

Incidentally, they are from the estate of our old friend, Dr. J. Carleton Wolf, who passed away a few months ago. He had sold a great deal of his material before his death, but did have a few nice items, including one of the 30c covers from the Payen correspondence.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

PWF
MR

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. Perry W. Fuller,
Baltimore Life Bldg.,
Charles & Saratoga Sts.,
Baltimore 1, Md.

Dear Perry:

Herewith the two 1¢ stamps as per yours of the 19th. Both are quite unusual as per my notations of each. The Type IV with break in the bottom line - most unusual (89RLL) and a Type IC stamp with a break in the bottom line - the latter could be classified as either a Type III or a Type IC - one can take their choice.

I remember having some correspondence from time to time with Dr. Wolf years ago. I was sorry to hear of his death.

Thanks very much for the enclosure.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.
November 29, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Just returned from Denver last night after being with Joan over Thanksgiving. Joan is in love - plans to get married December 22nd but continue in school until she gets her Master's Degree. So it goes. Rene will sure have no rest or vacation during the Xmas Holidays.

Will attend the DPS Meeting next Wednesday night and give you a report after that on Charlie Shierson and Hutch. Hutch seems in good health tho - saw him at last meeting.

Re the valentine with the six 1¢ Plate One early stamps. I wrote Bilden to ask if this had an enclosure when he sent it to me and he replied per attached letter saying he was not sure but thought no enclosure was with it. It was Lot #327 in the West sale in 1943 and in description, no mention is made of an enclosure. After reading your last issue of the "Special Service" I note that you stress the importance of a valentine being enclosed and this is what got me started looking for the enclosure when I noticed the cover without such. Perhaps I could find an old valentine and enclose it, but hard to get the right size. It is for this reason and this reason only, Stan, that I am passing up the gorgeous valentine you sent me with the 1¢ Type IV imperf tied so beautifully with the black "NEW HAVEN Con" marking. If it only had an enclosure, I would sure love to have it. Can you perhaps locate the valentine that was enclosed in this cover? Or if you think the enclosure of less importance than I place on it, send it back and I will take it anyway.

Now for something else. Art Abelson (whom I have a very high regard for since he in no way resembles the N.Y. kykes like our friend Fox and some others) sent me the enclosed four covers. Art has had my want-list of covers for some time, you know. The only one of the four covers that I am interested in, Stan, and still need, is the one with the 30¢ 1869, which I have examined carefully and which sure looks OK to me. The red credit to France checks out OK with the rates then in effect, in other words it went via American Packet as shown in the French marking in blue, and the red as I understand it means that we credited the French with 2 x 6¢ or 12¢ which covered the French 3¢ internal per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce plus the 3¢ Channel Crossing per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, and this being more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce in weight (my scales indicate it weighs more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce with letter enclosed) required a double rate or a 30¢ postage. The cover shows no signs of tampering. Again, one of the other covers bearing 45¢ (15¢ plus 30¢) shows 18¢ credit to France which too would be correct as each traveled on American Packet. It seems highly improbable that a faker would know these things. I'm sending all four covers because they came from the same correspondence which too is convincing, and the letters inside are interesting. If you concur with me that the cover with the 30¢ 1869 is genuine, would you please sign it as such with your guarantee and signature on the back in your usual manner, as in my opinion this cover at \$200.00 is priced most attractively and in immaculate condition. Let me know your fee and will mail check by return mail.

Am also enclosing Art Abelson's letter to me, which please return. If you are interested in any of the other covers for your own use, you can send Art a check for same or I will handle it when paying him for the cover I like. If this 30¢ 1869 cover turns out to be OK, the only other value I will need is the 24¢ (of course the 90¢ on cover is unobtainable). Am writing this hastily to get it in the mails before the postoffice closes for the night. Incidentally I do need a cover showing the 20¢ rate pre-treaty U.S. to France - I have the 21¢ rate via England on cover and of course the 5¢ rate - but need a 20¢ rate direct on cover - do you have any? Regards.

Sincerely,
J. G. Fleckenstein
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc:REG:

25
5

+

Dec. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - yours of the 29th. First, the 30¢ 1869 cover. I have examined this very carefully and am quite sure it is genuine in every respect. The New York date is not plain but I am sure it is Dec. 2. My records show that on that date a mail ship of the "Bremen Line" sailed from New York. This was "Amer. Pkt." hence rate and markings on this cover are quite correct, the same as per your analysis - 12¢ credit - quite correct. I do not doubt the statements made in Abelson's letter. I have signed this cover on the back as genuine. He sure handed you a bargain and should have charged you at least \$350.00 for this cover. With my endorsement on the back it is well worth that figure. Never overlook the fact that genuine 30¢ and 24¢ 1869 covers are worth very much more than S.U.S. figures and especially 24¢ '69 covers. Hutch paid me \$1,000.00 for the Krug cover. A bargain at that price - Ex-Richey. Abelson made a true statement when he stated that this cover would bring more in a New York auction. Fox would get \$500.00 for it.

Why do you intend to return the other three covers to Abelson when these are from the same correspondence and should go with the 30¢ - He is giving these to you free by only charging you the ridiculous price of \$200.00 for the 30¢ cover.

Return the Forwarded cover if you wish @ \$75.00, because he is probably quite high considering condition of the 30¢ stamp but for heaven's sake, keep the other two. I think the 15¢ Lincoln is a most attractive cover. I think so highly of the 30¢ '69 cover, I made a color slide of it. Do you want a duplicate?

I note the letter enclosed is dated Dec. 1, 1869 and glancing at the calendar as I write this I note today is Dec. 1, 1954 - How very odd!!!

Jack, I am returning the 1¢ valentine cover - I doubt if anyone would question the fact it is a valentine cover, though it lacks the valentine. It is a pretty item and worth \$25.00, so send me a check. If it wasn't worth that figure I would not have sent it to you. You should have kept both, as the 3¢ is very pretty in every way.

I note letter from Bilden. I have no recollection whether the cover had an enclosure. If it was a West cover did Ward state that there was a valentine enclosed?

I have signed the 30¢ 1869 cover on the back and am charging you a fee of \$5.00.

Re - Shierson. I wish you would inquire and see if he is okay. He failed

#2. Mr. J. G. Fleckenstein, Dec. 1, 1954.

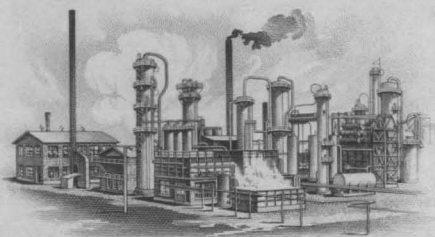
to answer my last letter and I wonder if he is ill? Let me know, please.

So Joan is to be married. Extend our congratulations and best wishes to her.

This reminds me that I have not had time to get around to that letter of yours re - the covers to France, but I have your letter on my desk and I will do so.

With regards to Rene and you -

As ever yours,



PHONE 125

CRYSTAL *Refining Company* OF CARSON CITY
INCORPORATED

CRYSTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

OFFICE OF
VICE PRESIDENT

CARSON CITY, MICHIGAN

Ionia, Michigan.

December 5, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your registered of December 1st returning the Art Abelson lot of four covers together with the New Haven 1¢ Valentine. I am enclosing check for \$30.00 being \$25.00 for the Valentine and \$5.00 for fee for signing the 30¢ 1869 cover. Yes - I felt sure these covers were genuine but wanted your signature to verify it, of course. I know I could be fooled by some of the clever fakers but have never known Art Abelson to indulge in the sharp practices so popular with some of the New York operators - Art plays the game on the square, same as Dan Kelleher.

Yes - Stan - I would like a colored slide of the 30¢ 1869 cover and hope you can send me one.

Re enclosure in the Jefferson Jones valentine illustrated in Brookman's book with the six 1¢ stamps from Plate One Early. Stan - could you write Jefferson Jones (if you know his present address) and ask him - telling him you are writing at my request - if this cover ever contained an enclosure of valentine or not? In the Wesy sale, Ward made no mention of any enclosure.

Charlie Shierson did not show up at the DPS Meeting last Wednesday but had told several people earlier that week that he would be there, according to John Kisselle, whom I talked with. Kisselle had been duck hunting that same day with Jim Shierson and Jim said his father was in good health. I have't seen Charlie tho in several months.

Also had a talk with Hutch. Told him you had not heard from him in a couple of years and wondered why. He was uncommunicative - maybe he is not actively collecting since Harold Stark's death - they were close friends, you know. Anyway, I got the impression he was not as active in covers since Harold's passing.

Rene joins me in best wishes to Mildred and yourself.

Sincerely,

JGF
J. G. Fleckenstein.

JGF/
Enc \$30.00

HARMER, ROOKE

& CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER
PRESIDENT

—
AUCTIONS
APPRAISALS

PHILATELIC
AUCTIONEERS

560 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

CABLE ADDRESS
PHILATORS, NEW YORK

—
TELEPHONE
JUDSON 2-0164

November 16, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

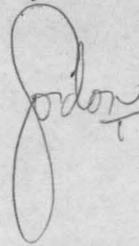
I am herewith enclosing a cover which I would like you to examine and then give your expert opinion. It is supposed a New York Ocean Mail cancellation, apparently applied in error. All I need from you is a certification that it is authentic, and there is no need, from our point of view, of having it expertized.

Of course, we will be very glad to pay your examining fees. We intend to include it in our January sale and would like you to return it at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

BY:



GH/lr

Nov. 19, 1954.

Mr. Gordon Harmer,
% Harmer Rooke & Co.,
560 Fifth Ave.,
New York 36, N.Y.

Dear Gordon:

Herewith the One Cent 1851, Type IV, single (double transfer) on cover from New York on "Mar 29" -- a circular rate to Killingworth, Conn., the stamp tied by the "New York Ocean Mail" postmark. In my opinion, this cover is genuine in all respects and incidentally, quite a nice little item.

I feel reasonably sure that the use was Mar 29 1854. The shade and impression of the One Cent indicates such a year use.

As you are doubtless aware, this type of postmark on covers elsewhere than California, is most unusual. I believe it first came into use in February 1854 and for a short period was used on regular mail but that either in March or April of 1854 it was adopted solely for use on the twice monthly "Ocean Mail" (Via Panama) to the West Coast. The sailing dates of such mail was the 5th and 20th of the month, unless such dates fell on Sunday when the sailing was delayed a day.

I mention the above because this postmark with other than such dates is most unusual, as for example, the 29th of March on the enclosed cover. To me this indicates that as of this date it was probably used both for regular mail and also for the Ocean Mail. I have a record of a use to California on April 5, 1854.

There is no fee for the above.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

HARMER, ROOKE

& CO., INC.

GORDON HARMER
PRESIDENT

PHILATELIC
AUCTIONEERS

CABLE ADDRESS
PHILATORS, NEW YORK

AUCTIONS
APPRAISALS

560 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

TELEPHONE
JUDSON 2-0164

November 22, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Thanks very much for your letter of November 19, and the return of the United States cover. I appreciate your valued opinion but I certainly feel that you should charge us for it. However, perhaps we can reciprocate in the near future.

Very truly yours,

HARMER, ROOKE & CO., INC.

BY: 

GH/lr

P. S. We enclose 42¢ in postage which was the amount you paid for returning the cover.

Dec. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Gordon:

In my December 1st "Service Issue" I discussed several things pertaining to 19th U. S. It was quite a long discussion and I doubt if you would care to waste the time in browsing thru it. Briefly, here are some of the items I discussed as related to catalogue listings -

5¢ New York

Notation under cancellations on page 24 (S.U.S.) which reads, "About 1862, etc." I do not believe there is a word of truth in this note - no proof or record that the plate of nine was made in 1862 for Hussey, etc. It is a yarn that someone made up years ago and has been repeatedly quoted. It is my personal opinion this notation should be deleted.

10¢ 1855-57

Under the 10¢ '57 Type IV - #34 a block of four is listed. Under the imperforate #16 - Type IV - a block of four is not listed. As blocks of four of Type IV come from the same plate, I think a block of four should be included under #16.

Carrier Cancellations

Under the 90¢ 1860 - "Cancellations" there is "Red Carrier" - I do not know to what this refers. I never heard of a "Carrier" cancel on a 90¢ 1860. The same is listed under the 24¢ 1860 #37. If such things exist they surely must be fakes or else freaks of some kind.

Under the 10¢ 1861 (#68) there is also "Red Carrier." I have no record of such items.

If perchance you would like to read my remarks on the above items in my SERVICE ISSUE I will be glad to send you a copy.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES
ALBUMS AND BOOKS



*Five Eighty Fifth Avenue
New York 19, N. Y.*

PLAZA 7-4883-4-5

GORDON R. HARMER, *President & Treasurer*

December 3, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
A.P.S. 2497
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stanley:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 1st.

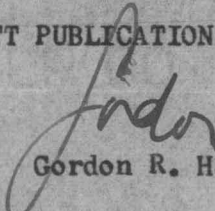
I am at all times interested in having any information from you that will help us to improve the Catalogue. I would be very much obliged if you would send me the complete article which deals with the points listed in your letter. If there is any charge, please let me know and I will remit.

I will hold off doing anything until I receive this article.

My best wishes and thanks.

Cordially yours,

SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.


Gordon R. Harmer

GRH:m

Nov. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 16th received with check for \$3.00. Thanks very much.

I was interested in your remarks re - Lot #224 in the Fox-Lehman sale. I hope that you will be able to borrow this for me as I would like to photograph it and write it up in a Service Issue to explain why this sold at such a fancy price.

I return the 1¢ 1851. This is 96R4 - a Type IC - I have signed it as such on the back. No fee. See my 1¢ book - Vol. 1 - Chart on page 234 - also Fig. 20K on page 236 - This is the IC variety - "Curl in C" of CENT." Quite a nice type and variety.

Re - your comment on the 1¢ '51 Plate 4 strip. I slipped up on this and failed to note the hole. I suppose I was more interested in checking the types and assumed the condition was okay or that I was not expected to check the latter. I suppose it is almost impossible for a large auction firm to minutely check every item they offer. I doubt if any that are reputable intentionally misdescribe an item. At least I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

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



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

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

November 23, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

My thanks for your letter of November 19th and your checking and signing of the Type 1C. It looked as if it might be this type from the photograph in your book, but the "curl" in the "C" of "cents" appeared to be considerably different. I assume that these curls are drawn in on the photograph and are not as they exactly appear on the stamp.

I agree 100% that the reputable auction houses do not intentionally misdescribe any item, but it seems to be that they are grossly careless in not bothering to dip in fluid items that would obviously sell for well in excess of \$100 each. Such a simple test would show up practically all of the defects that they miss in describing. At least, I have no trouble finding them myself by that method and generally they show up like a neon sign. However, we all make mistakes and I never hold it against them as long as they take a return gracefully.

1d

I am enclosing a card with six 1851-7 items and would appreciate your checking them and answering the questions asked on the card. Advise your fee and I shall remit promptly.

With best regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww
Enclosures

Nov. 26, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Replying to yours of the 23rd. The small curl in the "C" of "CENTS" comes on several positions in the bottom row of the right pane of Plate 4. It is quite plain and I do not recall having emphasized it in photos by retouching. Naturally in my hand-drawn cuts in my book the "curl" may be a bit different than the actual stamp.

Regarding the six items that you enclosed:

No. 1 - This is a top row stamp from Plate 2 - a Type II.

No. 2 - I have marked this as a Type IIIA from Plate 4. There is a small "break" under the "C" of Cents and it looks like someone might have tried a bit of erasing at this point. At any rate, the break is too small to entitle this to be classed as a Type III.

No. 3 - V.S. of 3 - all Type IV - plate positions 79R1L - 89R1L - 99R1L - all positions recut at top, 89 and 99 not recut at bottom.

No. 4 - A Type IIIA - plate position 41R4 - This was in the Chase collection in 1920. I have a photo made at that time - It shows a piece out of the left side. The left bottom corner ornament is incomplete.

No. 5 - This was a Type IIIA from Plate 4 before the perfs at top destroyed the type. It appears to have been cleaned.

No. 6 - Type III from Plate 4 - Top line broken - wide break in bottom line. For a stamp to be a type III, good to fine example, from this plate, it should show a wide break in the bottom line, as per this stamp.

My fee for the above is as follows:

1	none
2	none
3	\$1.50
4	\$1.00
5	none
6	\$2.50
Total ...	\$5.00

Sincerely yours,

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



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

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

November 26, 1954

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

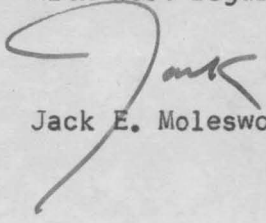
Dear Stan,

I am enclosing Lot #224 from the Lehman sale which you requested and hope that it will be a good subject for a write-up. I believe you will agree that it is a beautiful cover, though probably not worth anywhere near the price that it realized.

The owner was very happy to send it along, but requested that his identity be kept confidential since I gather he is not eager to have his name associated with buying items at such a high price.

I shall look forward with interest to your write-up on it and presume you will return it to me shortly after you have had a chance to examine and photograph.

With best regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

P.S. Enclosed is a 10x1 uns.
(Requiem). Is it the genuine
article? Want to soak the
gunn off, but hesitate to do
so till I'm sure it's O.K. +
not one of the clever replicas or
Hussy Fakes - Haven't paid for
it yet.

Nov. 20, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 10¢ 1855 cover which was Lot 224 in the Fox Sale of Oct. 28th last. This is indeed a beautiful and rare cover and I gave it quite a nice write-up in my December Service Issue. I will send you an extra copy which you can give to your client if you care to do so. If he can answer any of the questions that I included regarding the cover or give me any additional information I will welcome same and will be more than pleased to include same in my January Service Issue.

Will you please extend to him my sincere thanks for the loan of the cover.

With regards -

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 30, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the 10¢ Providence as per yours of the 26th. The stamp looks genuine to me but the gum is surely not original. I regret that I cannot give you a definite opinion.

I compared this with the 10¢ on the Providence sheet and the design seems to match perfectly. I am not much good on P.M. Provisionals except that I can spot a Sperati 5¢ Providence when one comes along.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

November 30, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your last reply on my last sending. Enclosed is my check for \$5.00 to cover your very reasonable fees.

I have some further questions on two of the items and would greatly appreciate your indulgence in answering them. I am returning #2 and would appreciate your advising if you feel it would be worth while to plate this item to see if it may have possibly have come from a position which did have the bottom line broken and was therefore classed as a Type III? In other words, if it did plate to be a position classed as Type III, even though the break in the bottom line were small, would it not be a poor example of Type III? If so, it might be the best type of copy that some people could afford. Also enclosed is #5 which you classified as a Type IIIA and indicated appeared to have been cleaned. First, under the glass it shows a definite break in the line at the top above the "s" in "U.S." well before the perforations cut into the design at the top. Therefore, I am wondering if this may not have been a Type III before the perfs at the top destroyed the type? Also, was your opinion as to its cleaning the result of checking under the ultraviolet lamp or merely from your visual inspection of same? If the latter, I would appreciate your checking it under the lamp as I did so myself and saw no evidence of cleaning. In returning, please advise your additional fees for this further examination and I shall be glad to remit it.

These stamps bring to light a problem which I have had in common with other dealers for some time. Namely, what standards to use in classifying a stamp as a Type III or a Type IIIA? I have personally used the standard that if there was a wide break at both top and bottom, I automatically classed it as a Type III. If the break at either top or bottom was quite small but still visible and the stamp plated to a position that you classified as a Type III, I would so classify and sell it. If, however, it plated to a position that you classified as a Type IIIA, even though there was visible a small break, I classified and sold it as a Type IIIA. However, many dealers and auction houses automatically classify anything as a Type III that has any visible break at all, in many cases a break only in their own imagination to be sure. Except for the imagination angle, by the description of these types in Scott's catalogue they are technically correct in so classifying. Would you say that the same position in the sheet in the early stages could produce a genuine Type IIIA and in the latter stages produce a genuine Type III? Any further comments you care to make regarding this problem or standards for classification would be greatly appreciated as it has been a very real problem for me as a dealer for some time.

With best regards,

JEM/pww

P.S. - I am also returning Copy #6 and would appreciate your signing the back as Type III.

Dec. 3, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 30th received with enclosures. Thanks very much for the check for \$5.00.

First regarding the classification of a One Cent 1851 Type III and IIIA. I am conscious of the fact that collectors as well as dealers frequently have difficulty in classifying certain specimens. I do not know that anyone outside of myself has ever laid down an specific rule to follow. I have tried to be as fair and as impartial as possible because there are fine examples of Type III on Plate 4 and there are also poor examples. What I have always had in mind is an endeavor to draw a line between the two, that is, to impress upon the collector not to pay a full price for a "poor example" - by which I mean a stamp with a small break at the bottom. In this respect, note the Plate 4 reliefs that I illustrated on page 232 of Vol. 1 of my One Cent book. Reliefs B, C, D, E and F all had the top line broken, that is, parts of it cut away. "B" had a nice break, "C" a rather small break, "D" a fine break and "E" a fine break, but on some positions, traces of the line. You will also note that B, C, D, and E had bottomlines, hence these four reliefs were Type IIIA. Due to plate erasure, or burnishing in dressing up the plate, breaks in the bottom lines of a number of these relief positions occurred. Some bottom lines were faintly erased but not broken in early impressions but later due to plate wear, parts of the bottom line disappeared and thus broken. This will answer one of your queries, viz., a plate position that was originally a Type IIIA, in late prints became a Type III. For this reason my chart on page 234 is only approximately correct. I believe I stated this very plainly in the text. Remember I made this up from plate copies and of course they were from all states of the plate, early fine impressions to late perf copies. Naturally I listed a IIIA for a certain position that was an early print but had I had a record of a late print I would have found the stamp was a III. Inasmuch as reliefs B, C, D and E had breaks in the top line - ON THE RELIEFS - I classed all stamps from these rows as IIIA if they show no break in the bottom line.

Consider a stamp with a small break in the bottom line, say a break of a millimeter, anyone is privileged to class such a stamp as he pleases. As for me, I do not classify such a stamp as a III but rather a IIIA. If one chooses to call it a III I suppose he has that right, but he should include "Poor example of Type III because of small break in bottom line." Or if the stamp is from a "C" relief position, he could state, poor example of Type III due to small breaks in top and bottom lines. I trust you get the point but if not let me know.

Re - item No 2 on your card. This is a "B" relief from the 2nd row. Note my illustrations of the reliefs on page 232 - There is a faint break under the "C" of cent of approximately 2 MM. I don't think it is fair to call this a III but if anyone cared to differ with me, it should be classed as a poor example of Type III due to the small break in the bottom line. Pronouncing such a stamp as a Type III subject a dealer to criticism but if a dealer calls this a IIIA and the collector thinks it is a III then the buyer thinks he is getting a break rather than being cheated. You can use your own judgment as to what is the most sensible course to pursue.

#2. Mr. Jack E. Molesworth - Dec. 3, 1954.

This copy is scuffed on the face, has creases and is a poor looking specimen. All things considered do you think it is worth a fee to have it plated and a photo made by ultra-violet? It looks to me like it has been cleaned but I might be able to find out more on that point if I made a photo by ultra-violet. I don't want to put you to this expense unless you instruct me to do so.

Re - your copy No. 5, the perfs destroyed the top of this design, hence no top line shows or parts of a top line. A buyer deserves some sort of a break. Why try to convince him that on this stamp there is a top line that shows a break? The bottom line is very faint but I do not think it is proper to class a faint line as a broken line. Incidentally, this is a "C" relief and this relief did not show a break in the top line over the "S" as you stated in your letter. Because this stamp originally had a break in the top line, now destroyed by the perfs, and because the copy has a faint bottom line, I classified the stamp - this was a Type IIIA.

Re - the cleaning of this stamp. In the back of Franklin's head is a trace of a yellow line that looks to me like a pen cancel removed. I positively will not give anyokay to any stamp that shows no cancelation unless I am absolutely sure the stamp was never canceled. In the future please don't request my opinion on stamps without cancelations.

Re - your Copy No. 6. Note the break in the bottom line of this stamp. Here is a break that can be seen - nothing left to the imagination. The perfs cut the top of this but not to the extent that the design is wholly destroyed as in your copy No. 5.

I trust that the above lengthy discussion will clarify a number of points for you. There is no fee.

With regards.

Sincerely yours,

CARLTON HILL
BENJAMIN H. SHERMAN
CHARLES F. MERONI
J. ARTHUR GROSS
DONALD J. SIMPSON
M. R. CHAMBERS
RICHARD J. SCHWARZ
ANTHONY R. CHIARA
JAMES VAN SANTEN
CHARLES M. LINDROOTH
RICHARD M. S. MANAHAN
LEWIS T. STEADMAN

FREDERICK E. PAESLER
EBEN O. McNAIR, JR.
HERMAN J. GORDON
JOHN H. SHERMAN
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VAN METRE LUND
LLOYD L. ZICKERT

JACK E. McDOUGAL
REGISTERED PATENT AGENT

HILL, SHERMAN, MERONI, GROSS & SIMPSON
THE FIRM OF CHARLES W. HILLS

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

1414 MONADNOCK BUILDING

53 WEST JACKSON BLVD.

CHICAGO 4

November 16, 1954

CHARLES W. HILLS, SR. 1897-1950
CHARLES W. HILLS, JR. 1913-1943
FOREE BAIN 1895-1928
ALEXANDER C. MABEE 1911-1949

PATENT AND TRADE MARK
LAW EXCLUSIVELY

CABLE ADDRESS-HILLSFORD, CHICAGO
TELEPHONE HARRISON 7-7160

WASHINGTON OFFICE
MUNSEY BUILDING
1329 E STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

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

Dear Stanley:

It has been a long time since I have heard from you and I thought I would drop you a line. As you probably have heard, I have become very much interested in collecting Confederate material and right now I am particularly keen about the rare Confederate provisional adhesives on cover. If you run across any such material for sale of the scarcer vintage, I would appreciate it if you would bear me in mind.

A I am enclosing a couple of prints, for your file, of a cover that I own and which has greatly intrigued me. On the righthand side it has a shield handstamp reading "Forwarded Commercial Express C Bagdad Mexico". This forwarding agent, according to Page 179 of Dietz's book, was the one that handled blockade covers during the Civil War.

Also, in manuscript you will note at the upper righthand corner of the cover, the inscription "By Commercial Express". In addition, there is a manuscript "Pd. 5" on the upper lefthand corner.

There is nothing to indicate the origin or date of the cover outside of a dubious pencil marking on the back reading "1865".

B The New Orleans town mark on the cover is apparently Type 12a according to Huber's book and the use of that type is said to have begun in 1865.

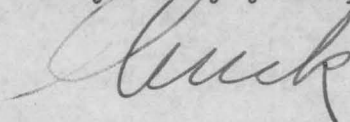
The "Ship 8" is a ship marking that does not seem to have been listed in any of the Philatelic treatises that I have examined. Possibly, this was a double rate letter costing 6¢. If so, the 6¢, when added to the 2¢ ship rate, would have given an 8¢ rate.

Now, I suspect that this cover originated in Texas since it was not until about June 2, 1865 that Galveston was occupied by the Union forces. My reason for this belief is that the manuscript "Pd. 5" could possibly be indicative of a Confederate postage charge and about the only place that such a charge would have been made in May 1865 would have been Texas. However, there is nothing to verify this although I understand it was common practice on letters that would run through the lines from South to North to omit marks of origin.

In case you care to make any comments on this cover, I am enclosing a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

With every good wish and kindest regards to Mildred and yourself, I am

Very truly yours,



CFM/dg
Enc

P.S. I believe the foregoing cover is a very unusual one and of an order that has never been written up before.

Nov. 28, 1954.

Mr. Charles F. Meroni,
1414 Monadnock Bldg.,
Chicago 4, Ill.

Dear Chuck:

It was nice to hear from you and also to learn that you are interested in Confederates. I believe they are an excellent investment - they certainly are 19th U.S. and their historical association should make them more and more sought after as the years slip by. I hope you do not intend to confine yourself to the Provisionals but that you intend to specialize in the whole field.

Regarding the cover you mentioned, I suggest that you send it down to me so that I can examine it. The photostats are not very satisfactory.

Re - the manuscript "Pd 5," bear in mind that there was no Confederate rate of 5¢ after June 30, 1862. This "Pd 5" was the express company charge for transmitting the letter and represented "FIVE BITS" or 62½¢. It appears that this designation was commonly used by express companies operating in the South. My guess is that the letter originated in Texas and the express charge was for transmitting the letter to Mexico and putting it aboard a private ship bound for New Orleans.

Re - the New Orleans marking of "Ship 8." I enclose a photo print of a cover with N.O. postmark of "Aug 22 '64" which has this same "Ship 8." For private ship letters, the act of March 3, 1863, provided a double rate, if unpaid. For example, Sec. 31 - "If for delivery in the U.S., double rates of postage." (See Luff - page 393). As this was addressed to New Orleans, the local delivery rate was 2¢, so this must have been over ½ ounce - thus 2 x 2¢ - double equal 8¢ or "Ship 8." There is no doubt but what this marking is scarce, and the reason is that it was applicable to such a rate as your cover or before July 1, 1863 - to a letter of 2 x 3¢ plus 2¢ ship fee. Incidentally, the double rate charge included the 2¢ ship fee.

Please return the enclosed print as I lifted it from my files.

You mentioned page 179 in the Dietz book but there is nothing on this page that refers to the express company.

I am sending one of your prints to my good friend Van Dyk MacBride for his comment.

Mildred joins me in best to you and yours.

Cordially yours,

CARLTON HILL
BENJAMIN H. SHERMAN
CHARLES F. MERONI
J. ARTHUR GROSS
DONALD J. SIMPSON
M. R. CHAMBERS
RICHARD J. SCHWARZ
ANTHONY R. CHIARA
JAMES VAN SANTEN
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1414 MONADNOCK BUILDING

53 WEST JACKSON BLVD.

CHICAGO 4

November 19, 1954

CHARLES W. HILLS, SR. 1897-1950
CHARLES W. HILLS, JR. 1913-1943
FOREE BAIN 1895-1928
ALEXANDER C. MABEE 1911-1949

PATENT AND TRADE MARK
LAW EXCLUSIVELY

CABLE ADDRESS-HILLSFORD, CHICAGO
TELEPHONE HARRISON 7-7160

WASHINGTON OFFICE
MUNSEY BUILDING
1329 E STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
Post Office Box 31
33 North Ft. Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, Kentucky

Dear Stanley:

It certainly was very nice of you to answer my letter so promptly. I like your way of lending emphasis to the high points of your letters with red type. I believe you are the only Philatelist that I know that pursues this practice which is a good one. Maybe I will adopt it sometime. As requested, I am returning herewith the photostat that you enclosed with your letter. Also, I am enclosing my original forwarder's cover for your inspection.

I do not have Dietz's book at the office, but as I remember he illustrated the Bagdad, Mexico shield in his section on blockade covers and said that not much was known about it although it was said to be a blockade forwarder's handstamp.

With regard to my collecting of Confederate material, I do collect all Confederate material and, in fact, have quite a large collection already as I had an opportunity to buy out of some very choice collections including the Schenfield collection. My requirements are primarily for the unusual and rare items. I already have two beautiful Southern letter unpaid covers including the Antrim cover which was exhibited in the 1947 Court of Honor at New York. I also have numerous through-the-lines covers. I have blocks of the 10¢ rose and the "ten" cent stamps as well as a multiple of others. I am not interested in the general type of Confederate items, but only in the unusual which you seldom see in auctions or which constitute the top items in a Confederate auction sale.

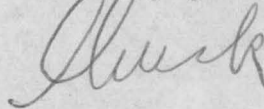
Some day I hope to exhibit my Confederates and if I am to compete with people like Weatherly and Hart, I am going to have to have provisional adhesives tied on cover. In fact, the only reason that Weatherly won in Canada over Schenfield was because of his provisionals.

My only regret is that I did not get in on the sale of the Harold Brooks material including the nice covers that you later sold for him.

My oldest son got married earlier this year and is working in the firm here, my next son finishes college in June and goes in the Air Corps for three years and my daughter will probably be married by June. Then I hope I will have more time to spend on stamps. Time marches on!

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,



CFM/dg
Enc.

Nov. 22, 1954.

Mr. Charles F. Meroni,
1414 Monadnock Bldg.,
Chicago 4, Ill.

Dear Chuck:

Herewith your cover with the New Orleans postmark of "May 22" and the N.O. "SHIP 8."

I sent one of your photostats to Van Dyk MacBride, and he had the following remarks in a letter dated November 19th:

"I gather it is your opinion that this cover does not represent Confederate usage in any way, and that is also my opinion. This cover probably originated in Mexico or some other foreign point, and was carried by ship from Bagdad to New Orleans, where it received the SHIP 8 handstamp and the New Orleans May 22 postmark.

Incidentally the latter is I believe, of a type used in 1864-65 by the U.S. post office in re-captured New Orleans. Also, I think that the ms. "Pd 5/" represents an Express charge rather than a postal rate. As you pointed out there was no 5¢ rate in the Confederacy at such a time.

of course in May of 1865, all postal affairs in the South were in a state of much confusion, and important mail was often routed by private express companies. This appears to be an interesting example of such usage, but I doubt that it originated in Texas or touched any other part of the Confederacy." (unquote)

I did not intend to give MacBride the impression that I doubted that this originated in Texas. I am inclined to believe that it did and that the New Orleans date was actually May 22.¹⁸⁶⁵ I don't know whether this 21 MM(?) type of postmark was used as early as May 22, 1864. I note that Leonard Huber lists the earliest known as 1865. An old Gazetter that I have has the following, quote:

"Bagdad, a town of Mexico, in Tamaulipas, the Port of Matamoras, on the Rio Grande, near its mouth, is ill-built and subject to overflow. It was a prominent seaport in 1861-1864 and the seat of a large blockade - running trade with Texas." (unquote)

I am inclined to believe that the "Pd 5/" indicates that this was a charge by the Express Company for carrying the letter from some point in Texas to Bagdad and putting it aboard a private ship for New Orleans. Had the letter had its origin in Mexico I doubt if anyone would have paid such a high fee for such a service.

While the Confederate Government was a thing of the past in May 1865, Texas had not been fully occupied by Federal troops and surely there were no mail routes from all sections of the state into New Orleans, hence it was more expedient to send a letter thru Mexico to New Orleans. I question whether this could be classed as a Confederate cover, or as a blockade run cover. Under the circumstances do you

#2. Mr. Charles F. Meroni - Nov. 22, 1954.

not think it more proper to class it as merely a letter from Texas(?) forwarded via Bagdad by private ship to New Orleans at a time prior to the re-establishment of mail-routes from Texas to New Orleans?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1954.

Mr. Charles F. Meroni,
1414 Monadnock Bldg.,
Chicago 4, Ill.

Dear Chuck:

Here is a letter from Mr. Leonard V. Huber
about your cover. About the only important point in
his letter was the "Pd 5/."

Kindly return at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Nov. 18, 1954.

Mr. Leonard V. Huber,
4841 Canal St.,
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Mr. Huber:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have today written to my good friend Van Dyk MacBride which is self-explanatory. I thought perhaps this might also be of some interest to you so I am enclosing a photostat of the Meroni cover.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1954.

Mr. Leonard V. Huber,
4841 Canal St.,
New Orleans 19, La.

Dear Mr. Huber:

Thanks very much for yours of the 22nd. You are quite right about the "Pd 5/" on the Express cover and I so informed the owner when I returned the cover to him. It was my opinion that the year use was 1865 - that the letter originated in Texas and was carried across the Rio Grande by the Express Company and placed aboard a private ship bound for New Orleans. That the 5/ (five bits) was the express charge. My guess that the year was 1865 because I doubted if that N.O. postmark was in use as early as May 1864 and hardly 1866 because, if the origin was Texas, that probably by May 1866 it could have been placed in the Texas P.O. and transmitted by the U.S. Mail to N.O. Further, I did not consider it a Confederate cover nor a blockade cover but rather a letter via Mexico and private ship to New Orleans at a time prior to the establishment of a regular U. S. mail route from a possible Texas origin and New Orleans. I also theorized that had the origin been in Mexico it could have been handled by the Mexican mails at a less charge (to seaport) than "five bits."

While Texas had not been wholly occupied by Federal troops in May 1865 there was no longer a Confederate States of America.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Nov. 18, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Here is a photostat of a cover that belongs to my good friend Charles Meroni of Chicago. "Chuck" informs me that he is at present very keen about "Confederate Provisionals." I have advised him that I consider Confederates an excellent investment and hope that he will not confine his activity to any one specialty.

Regarding his cover. He sent me two photostats and requested some information, which I gave him today. I quote from his letter as follows:

"I am enclosing a couple of prints, for your file, of a cover that I own and which has greatly intrigued me. On the righthand side it has a shield handstamp reading 'Forwarded Commercial Express C Bagdad Mexico.' This forwarding agent, according to Page 179 of Dietz's book, was the one that handled blockade covers during the Civil War." (unquote)

I note there is nothing on page 179 of the Dietz book that refers to the Express Company.

Again I quote:

"Also, in manuscript you will note at the upper righthand corner of the cover, the inscription 'By Commercial Express.' In addition, there is a manuscript 'Pd. 5' on the upper lefthand corner.

There is nothing to indicate the origin or date of the cover outside of a dubious pencil marking on the back reading '1865.'

The New Orleans town mark on the cover is apparently Type 12a according to Huber's book and the use of that type is said to have begun in 1865.

The 'Ship 8' is a ship marking that does not seem to have been listed in any of the Philatelic treatises that I have examined. Possibly, this was a double rate letter costing 6¢. If so, the 6¢, when added to the 2¢ ship rate, would have given an 8¢ rate." (unquote)

Re - the "Ship 8." I sent Chuck a photo of a cover with this marking with a N.O. postmark of "Aug 22 64." Incidentally his guess of 2 x 3¢ plus 2¢ is in error. This "Ship 8" is a very scarce New Orleans marking.

Again I quote as follows:

"Now, I suspect that this cover originated in Texas since it was not until about June 2, 1865 that Galveston was occupied by the Union forces. My reason for this belief is that the manuscript 'Pd. 5' could possibly be indicative of a Confederate postage charge and about the only place that such a charge would have been made in May 1865 would have been Texas. However, there is nothing to verify this although I understand it was common practice on letters that would run through the lines from South to North to omit marks of origin." (unquote)

#2. Mr. Van Dyk MacBride - Nov. 18, 1954.

I might mention that I advised Meroni that there was no 5¢ rate in the Confederacy after June 30, 1862.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Sam Dyk MacBride

744 BROAD STREET

NEWARK 2, NEW JERSEY

November 19th, 1954.

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

Dear Stan:

This is in reply to the second of your three letters to me dated November 18th, in which you enclosed a photostat of an Express cover owned by Chuck Meroni.

His reference to "page 179 of Dietz's book" refers to the Dietz Confederate Catalog 1945 edition, where you will find the Bagdad, Mexico Express handstamp illustrated. Your comments on the SHIP 8 marking, and on other aspects of the cover, are most interesting.

I gather it is your opinion that this cover does not represent Confederate usage in any way, and that is also my opinion. This cover probably originated in Mexico or some other foreign point, and was carried by ship from Bagdad to New Orleans, where it received the SHIP 8 handstamp and the New Orleans May 22 postmark.

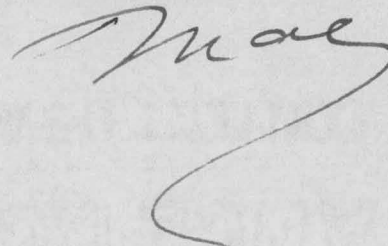
A Incidentally the latter is I believe, of a type used in 1864-65 by the U.S. post office in re-captured New Orleans. Also, I think that the ms. "Pd 5/" represents an Express charge rather than a postal rate. As you pointed out there was no 5¢ rate in the Confederacy at such a time.

Of course in May of 1865, all postal affairs in the South were in a state of much confusion, and important mail was often routed by private express companies. This appears to be an interesting example of such usage, but I doubt that it originated in Texas or touched any other part of the Confederacy.

Cordially,

MacB/HK

c.c.: L.L.Shenfield



Nov. 22, 1954.

Mr. Van Dyk MacBride,
74 1/2 Broad St.,
Newark 2, N.J.

Dear Mac:

Thanks for yours of the 19th re - the Meroni
cover thru Bagdad, Mexico, to New Orleans. I am
enclosing copy of a letter I have today written
Chuck, and will appreciate any further comments
that you care to make.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Lawrence L. Shenfield copy
40 Highland Circle
Bronxville (8) N.Y.

November 23rd, 1954

Dear Mac:

I'm glad you girls have made up and I return your correspondence. I have a letter from Ashbrook explaining somewhat his viewpoint on still being mad at Hubbell. Thatcher called me about these reprints and he does not believe they should have been done in blue. But life is getting short so I am willing to forget it and watch out for them in case somebody misuses them.

I return herewith the letter from Ashbrook together with the photostat of the commercial express company cover. This cover had no connection with the Confederacy and is probably 1865. The Pd 5/ is an express marking which indicates paid 5 bits or \$1.25. This is in comparison with the usual rate during the war of 2 bits for the Adams Express. The ship marking, as Stan says, is scarce but normal. I am sending a copy of this letter to Ashbrook.

I return also your comment on the photostat of the soldier's letter, together with my comments in long-hand. Please follow this opinion.

With best regards - Lawrence L. Shenfield
40 Highland Circle
Bronxville (8) N.Y.
Larry

Encl.

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

COPY

Nov. 18, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Here is a photostat of a cover that belongs to my good friend Charles Moroni of Chicago. "Chuck" informs me that he is at present very keen about "Confederate Provisionals." I have advised him that I consider Confederates an excellent investment and hope that he will not confine his activity to any one specialty.

Regarding his cover. He sent me two photostats and requested some information, which I gave him today. I quote from his letter as follows:

"I am enclosing a couple of prints, for your file, of a cover that I own and which has greatly intrigued me. On the righthand side it has a shield handstamp reading 'Forwarded Commercial Express C Bagdad Mexico.' This forwarding agent, according to Page 179 of Dietz's book, was the one that handled blockade covers during the Civil War." (unquote)

I note there is nothing on page 179 of the Dietz book that refers to the Express Company.

Again I quote:

"Also, in manuscript you will note at the upper righthand corner of the cover, the inscription 'By Commercial Express.' In addition, there is a manuscript 'Pd. 5' on the upper lefthand corner.

There is nothing to indicate the origin or date of the cover outside of a dubious pencil marking on the back reading '1865.'

The New Orleans town mark on the cover is apparently Type 12a according to Huber's book and the use of that type is said to have begun in 1865.

The 'Ship 8' is a ship marking that does not seem to have been listed in any of the Philatelic treatises that I have examined. Possibly, this was a double rate letter costing 6¢. If so, the 6¢, when added to the 2¢ ship rate, would have given an 8¢ rate." (unquote)

Re - the "Ship 8." I sent Chuck a photo of a cover with this marking with a N.O. postmark of "Aug 22 64." Incidentally his guess of 2 x 3¢ plus 2¢ is in error. This "Ship 8" is a very scarce New Orleans marking.

Again I quote as follows:

"Now, I suspect that this cover originated in Texas since it was not until about June 2, 1865 that Galveston was occupied by the Union forces. My reason for this belief is that the manuscript 'Pd. 5' could possibly be indicative of a Confederate postage charge and about the only place that such a charge would have been made in May 1865 would have been Texas. However, there is nothing to verify this although I understand it was common practice on letters that would run through the lines from South to North to omit marks of origin." (unquote)

#2. Mr. Van Dyk MacBride - Nov. 18, 1954.

I might mention that I advised Meroni that there was no 5¢ rate in the Confederacy after June 30, 1862.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

DR. JAMES J. MATEJKA, JR.
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
HOTEL LA SALLE - CHICAGO
SUITE 216

December
first
1954.

Mr. Stanley Ashbrook,
Ft. Thomas Ky.

My Dear Sir:

Since writing to you last I came across a cover which I think I need the professor to look over. Paul Rohloff tells me that due to the stamp thereon it come with your ~~reim~~. Therefore, I have submitted it to you.

I believe that you should know the entire history of the cover that I know and this is it. It comes from the C. Meroni collection and sold at the Fox sale sometime ago to J. Cavagnol for \$60.00 who is now selling ti to me for \$75.00. I don't mind the hike in price as I consider it fair. The only part that bothers me is that the cover is not exactly tied to. As you can see. Can you give me and a opinion or a certification?

As this is my first dealing with you, I do not know your charges. I am enclsoing a \$5.00. If more is need please let me know. There is of course \$1.00 for postage and registration.

Yours very truly,



Dec. 6, 1954.

Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr.,
Suite 216,
Hotel La Salle,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Doctor:

Herewith I am returning your Sitka, Alaska cover as per yours of the 1st. I note that this was Lot 421 in the Meroni Sale, and the sale price was \$67.50. I note the use is "JAN 11" and a pencil memo on the back is "1870." This may indicate the actual year of use and it may not, but if the use was Jan. 11, 1870, then this cover shows an earlier use than the record in the Chase-Cabeen book on U. S. Territorials. In that book, on page 298, this type of postmark is illustrated as No. 11, the earliest use known, June 13, 1870, and the latest Jan. 11, 1871. I wonder if the latter refers to your cover?

I am enclosing a photo print which please return, showing a cover to Eureka, California with a use that appears to be "JUL 10?" You will note that a target killer was used to cancel the 3¢ 1869 and also the envelope stamp. I am of the opinion that the cancel on the stamp on your cover was this same target but a rather indistinct strike of same.

I happen to have on my desk at the present time, a cover from Sitka, addressed to Millersport, Ohio, with this same postmark dated JUN 15 and a pen memo indicating the letter had been dated June 13, 1870. The cover has a 3¢ 1869 with this same target killer but not a real plain strike.

I am of the opinion that your cover is genuine in every respect and have signed it as such on the back.

If you wish, I can supply you with a print like the enclosed, and also a print of the "Jun 15" cover @ \$1.00 each, also a color transparency of the latter cover @ \$1.50.

For authenticating this cover I am charging you a fee of \$5.00, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged. This includes return postage so I am returning herewith the extra dollar that you enclosed.

If they come any finer than Paul Rohloff I have as yet to meet such a person and I have been around for quite some time. You are fortunate in having him as a good friend.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

DR. JAMES J. MATEJKA, JR.

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

HOTEL LA SALLE

REGISTRY NO. 4365

CHICAGO

HOURS: 1 TO 3 AND 7 TO 9 EXCEPT WEDNESDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

FRANKLIN 2-0700 STATE 2-2920

RES. 614 N. ELMWOOD, OAK PARK, ILL.

HOURS BY APPOINTMENT - CHICAGO PHONE: AUSTIN 7-2220

FOR Mr S. Ashbrook DATE 12-27-50

ADDRESS _____

R Say I erred in the matter
of color transparencies. Enclosed please
find \$1.50.

Many thanks for the California
Silka cover.

I already write Belden about

etc.

James J. Matejka

M. D.

LASALLE PHARMACY, INC.

2 NORTH LASALLE STREET

CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS

PHONE FRANKLIN 2-2225

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Dec. 16, 1954.

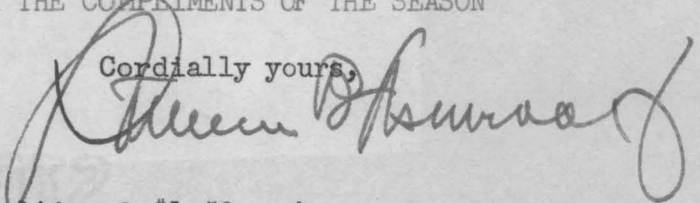
Dr. James J. Matejka,
% Hotel La Salle,
Suite 216,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Doctor:

I am enclosing herewith two very fine color slides of the two Sitka covers as per our recent correspondence. If you wish to retain these you can send me a check, otherwise please return.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

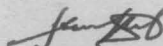
Cordially yours,



Enclosed:

A20-13)
A20-18) 2 slides @ \$1.50 each

*Glad to get these and am returning the Belden photostat
Will send you and if my red album in the future
be expected. I like your exactness.
May the Good Lord make things pleasant
for you for many years to come.*



Dec. 16, 1954.

Dr. James J. Matejka,
% Hotel La Salle,
Suite 216,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Doctor:

I am enclosing herewith two very fine color slides of the two Sitka covers as per our recent correspondence. If you wish to retain these you can send me a check, otherwise please return.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:

A20-13)
A20-18) 2 slides @ \$1.50 each

Dec. 23, 1954.

Dr. James J. Matejka,
% Hotel LaSalle,
Suite 216,
Chicago 2, Ill.

Dear Doctor:

Thanks very much for yours of recent date, however, I note that you misread my letter as I charge \$1.50 each for color transparencies. I am returning my letter herewith.

With the Season's Compliments --

Sincerely yours,

From the desk of

11/16/54

MR. VAN DYK MAC BRIDE

To Dear Stan

Enclosed is self explanatory,
but would like your
comments. Particularly on
the blue "3" and the PAID
3
handstamped in black at
upper right. The cover, -
or rather letter, was sent
me by a dealer who
wants \$50.00 for it.

You may keep enclosed,
~~do~~ photostat if you want
to, - otherwise return the
letter

Mac,

Nov. 18, 1954.

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

Dear Mac:

Re - yours of the 16th and the P of W cover. Re - the circular marking, I doubt if this is "PAID 3" but rather "DUE 3" - It is endorsed "Soldier's Letter," which entitled it to be sent unpaid. Had it been paid, a stamp would have been attached as payment of postage on domestic mail by stamps became obligatory as of Jan. 1, 1856. In other words, no more H.S. P.'s after that date. Of course(?) this letter was sent under separate cover (in my opinion), otherwise there would be(?) evidence to the contrary.

I note that the soldier instructs mail to be sent by "Adams Express" but evidently he had not heard of the Lincoln proclamation forbidding the transmission of mail thru the lines by express companies. That order was issued about the middle of August 1861 as I recall. I am writing from memory.

It is my guess that this letter was sent under separate cover by F of T via Old Point Comfort. My guess is that arrangements were made soon after the Battle of Bull Run. The South took a lot of prisoners at that battle and it would seem only natural that arrangements were soon made to transmit mail by F of T.

I enclose memo herewith of a later date.

Re - the earliest known P of W cover that you mentioned. I wrote this cover up in my "Service Issue" of January 1954 and I sent you a copy. In this connection, there was another cover from the same prisoner that was dated a few days later (as I recall). However, I believe that both went thru Louisville (by Adams) on the same day. Thus this new cover is the third earliest. Correct?

It seems to me \$50.00 is not a high price. If you purchase it, I suggest you send it to me and I will make a good photo of it.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Seattle, Wash.
Dec. 9, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. 1st Thomas Ave.,
St Thomas, Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Yours of Dec. 3 with enclosed slides received.

I am glad to hear that you haven't given up the idea of making a set of slides of the 54-1847 year colors. I would very much like a set of them.

Re the 1847 D.T. and the peroxide. I followed the directions and left the stamp in the peroxide for 8 minutes. As far as I can tell it didn't make much difference. I used the ordinary medicinal strength and not the strong solution used for bleaching hair. If you would be willing to try your luck I'll send you the stamp. Please advise.

Re the Plate 2. your remarks about this plate are most interesting. If the original plate was cleaned and some positions re-centered that would account for the two very scarce double transfers and also for the absence of a ninth corner. It seems rather improbable that if a second plate ever existed that you have never located at least one corner position from it. I would still like very much to have a superb example from this late state of the first plate or the second plate as the case may be.

I had another letter from Dr. Amouette and he said he was writing to you.

Re - the 34-1851 biest. Unfortunately I only have the revised edition of the Chase book. However it illustrates and describes the 34-1851 biest that you have if I assume correctly that yours is the lot Daniels sent you after the original purchaser backed out. I believe the lot contained along with the biest on piece a stampless cover bearing the identical Lowell, Mass. postmark. Am I correct?

Dr. Chase's book mentions that the number of authentic biests doesn't exceed eight or ten that he knows of. In view of this scarcity it is hard to understand Daniels' client refusing the item at \$90.00. He could hardly believe Chase would include an illustration and description in his book of a fake.

I would be interested in acquiring this item but I have quite a number of others in fire and Christmas is getting close. I don't see how I could take on the biest before some time in February. This might not be soon enough for you but you can let me know.

Re - the six color slides. I would like to hold them a little longer until I can see details a little more clearly.

A week ago last Friday at work I broke an eight foot fluorescent tube close to my eyes. I had heard that they were dangerous but didn't think much about it and kept on working. I got infection from it in my

right eye. It seemed to be getting better for a few days and then got worse and I went to a doctor. He sent me to get some penicillin ointment. In some manner the druggist got the tubes mixed when substituting his own label for that of the manufacturer. At any rate the ointment sold me contained Atropine instead of penicillin and the pupil in my eye was greatly dilated and still is to some extent. Hence the poor vision.

Several days ago some stamps arrived from Molerworth. A 5¢-Providence and four type II-1¢ 1857 - S. U. S. #20. I'm forwarding them to you and would very much appreciate any comments you would care to make about them. The stamps on sheets 1 & 2 seem to have been printed from dirty or poorly wiped plates. The stamp on sheet 4 seems to have the design more complete and also something on the back. The 5¢-Providence is I believe position No. 12. Molerworth should recognize a Sperati so this is probably O. K. It feels like an engraved stamp. It will be a big help to be able to see clearly again. A person doesn't really appreciate their eyes until they don't function properly.

I'm glad to hear some of our weather reached the Ohio valley and hope it made some improvement. Here it has turned colder and blustery and the snow is well down on the hills. I hope we don't have snow for it is usually wet and messy and causes a great deal of inconvenience to everyone.

All best wishes.

Return postage enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

D. H. McInroy.

Dec. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. McInroy:

Your air mail registered of the 9th reached me too late on Saturday, the 11th, to get it back in the mail before noon, the closing time out here, so I had to hold the contents over until Monday for registration.

I was extremely sorry to learn of the mishap to your eye and sincerely trust that there was no permanent injury and that it is much improved by this time. Any impairment of eyesight is really something serious. I certainly would be in a bad way if anything happened to my eyes.

Regarding the items you enclosed, and which I return herewith:

5¢ Providence - You are correct. This is position #12, and I feel quite sure it is a Sperati. Why not inform Molesworth that you believe it is a counterfeit? I suggest you do not inform him that you sent it to me or that you think it is a Sperati.

His card No. 1 - This is a Type II from Plate 12 - early impression, new plate, hence the ink film due to the newness of the plate - surface not highly polished. I think his price is much too high. Personally I would not invest in unused early U. S., especially o.g. copies - old gum makes the soft paper brittle and these old copies sometimes crack in two.

Item 2 - Same applies. This is one of the Plate 12 Type II which have a very weak top line.

Item 3 - Also II from Plate 12 - later print - weak top line.

Item 4 - This is a Type II from Plate 2. I doubt if it is unused but rather a cleaned copy. I really don't know what is the significance of the mark on the back. I note your experience with the 5¢ 1847 and the peroxide bath. I am glad you used the regular solution rather than the hair dye. I doubt if I could obtain any better result than you did. I thought the stamp looked like it was oxidized but perhaps it is just age that gives it that appearance.

I note you would like to acquire a 5¢ '47 from "Plate 2." Watch for a cover dated in 1851 - the stamp a fresh looking impression. I mention 1851 but I suppose covers exist with "Pl 2" stamps with dates as early as May 1850. The engraved lines will be a bit fuzzy not razor-sharp like early prints used in 1847 and early 1848.

Yes, I had a letter from Dr. A. and I advised him that at present I did not have anything to offer in the 3¢ 1851 Orange Brown. I referred him to W. W. Hicks and Tracy Simpson.

Re - the 3¢ '51 Bisect. Daniels informed me he had had previous trouble with the buyer and requested him to remit before sending the lots to him. Because

Dec. 15, 1954

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

This is to acknowledge receipt
of yours of Dec. 12, 1954 which
arrived today.

Letter will follow.

As ever,

D. H. McInroy.

16003-15th Ave. S. W.
Seattle 66, Wash.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS

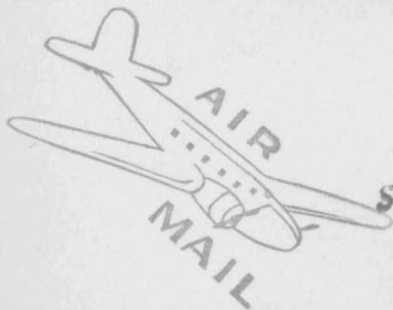
UNITED STATES

2
CENTS



POSTAL CARD

SUPPORT YOUR
B ASSOCIATION



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

#2. Mr. D. N. McInroy - Dec. 12, 1954.

the buyer refused, Daniels canceled the sale. As I recall, Daniels had previously sent him a stamp which he claimed he never received. I purchased the item from Daniels at private sale. I removed it from the piece and photographed same by Ultra-violet. There is no question but what the bisect was used as we see it. There was absolutely no trace under the stamp of any monkey-business.

I will think it over and if I decide to let you have it with payment later I will advise you. If you would like to see it I will be glad to send it to you.

Okay on the slides that I sent to you. There is no hurry.

In view of the holiday volume of mail will you please acknowledge receipt of this letter on the enclosed post card.

With Holiday Greetings

Cordially yours,

Columbus, Ohio
November 20, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ahlbrook
33 North Ft. Thomas Ave
Ft. Thomas Kentucky

Dear Mr Ahlbrook:

Am enclosing a 1851 one cent
Franklin imperf, which Mr. Jack Molerworth advises
you have typed as 1c. Would appreciate your
marking it & signing as you have others for me.
If the position number of Plate IV can be told -
would like to know it too. Will send you a check by
return mail. This completes a page of the types
of the 1¢ except for the 89R1^h - which I probably
won't be able to secure.

With best personal regards

Yours truly
O J Miller

1051 Elmwood Ave
Columbus 12, Ohio

Columbus, Ohio
November 24, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

Thanks for your prompt
answer of November 22 and your letter of November 23d.
Am enclosing my check for \$10⁰⁰ to cover your fee plus
the pair of 89 R1⁴. These will serve my needs in
showing the types of the 1 cent Franklin. I find the
stamp very interesting and wished I had the means to
secure the best examples of each - but am glad to
have what I am able to secure.

Holiday season.

With best wishes for the

Yours truly
C. Miller

1051 Elmwood Ave
Columbus 12, Ohio

750

Nov. 23, 1954.

Mr. C. E. Miller,
1051 Elmwood Ave.,
Columbus 12, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Miller:

In your letter you mentioned you needed an 89RLL. This morning's mail brought a letter from Perry fuller of Baltimore enclosing several 1¢ '51-'57 with a request that I type them for him. They are stamps to be offered in his next sale. How very odd that one of the stamps was a very nice 1¢ 1857, 89RLL. Naturally a perf stamp of this position shows up very seldom. If interested, you might write him that you would like to have a catalogue of his next sale.

Herewith I am enclosing two copies of 89RLL - an early print, and a late print. I am sorry the copies are not finer, but I am pricing the pair to you @ \$7.50.

Sincerely yours,

250

Nov. 22, 1954.

Mr. C. E. Miller,
1051 Elmwood Ave.,
Columbus 12, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Miller:

Herewith the 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the 20th. This stamp is a Type IC, but it is not a fine example of the type. It is from position 87L4. My chart, page 234 of my One Cent book (Vol. 1) shows 87L4 as a Type IIIA, but at the time the book was published I did not have a record of an entire stamp from that position.

I have signed the stamp on the back.

My fee is \$2.50

Sincerely yours,

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Saturday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Enclosed is a cover with a horizontal strip of 3 of #112 (1869 issue). I thought this was an especially nice cover because the stamps are fairly well centered.

If the cover is genuine in all respects (and I have some doubts because it looks as if somebody has tried to fix the circular cancel to the left of the stamps), I would appreciate your signing it as such on the reverse. Please let me know what I owe you and I'll remit immediately. In fact I feel as if I am imposing because you didn't charge a fee for your examination of the cover from the Knapp Collection.

Kind regards

Dec. 1, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 3¢ 1869 cover to Victoria. I am pleased to report that the cover is perfectly good, a double 6¢ rate to Vancouver from San Francisco. The 6¢ rate to Victoria went into effect July 1, 1870. The notation on the back is correct. This was in the Gibson sale in 1944, Lot 416 and sold "to order" @ \$30.00. Incidentally, the pencil "1925-S.B." memo is the handwriting of my old friend Edw. S. Knapp, so no doubt it was in the Knapp sale.

Later

I looked up the catalogue and found it was Lot 1683 in the Knapp sale on Nov. 5, 1941. Sale price \$20.00 (not \$30.00), described as "extremely scarce use."

I have signed it as genuine on the back and there is no fee.

Evidently this use was June 1871 as my rate table of June 1870 quotes 10¢, whereas that of July 1, 1870, quotes 6¢.

With my kindest regards -

Sincerely yours,

P.S. I can supply you with rate tables as follows @ \$1.50 each:

July 1868

February 1869

June 1871

These are photo enlargements from official records.

S.B.A.

3930 Red Bud Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Monday

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

I am enclosing a cover I secured at a recent auction in New York. If it is genuine in all respects I would appreciate your signing it on the back and I would also like to know the rate structure (i.e., United States to Vancouver) existing at the time.

Please let me know your fee for this and I will remit immediately.

Very sincerely

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

Dec. 6, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Mack:

Herewith the 1¢ 18619 cover as per yours of the 4th. This is indeed a nice strip of three of the 1¢ 1869 and I see no reason to question it in any way. It appears to have been from Franklin, Ind. to Lafayette, Ind., from a husband to wife on Oct. 5, 1869. The postmark is very faint but on account of the enclosure and back college illustration, it surely was mailed from Franklin. I do not think that the strip or cover shows any "fixing" of any kind. The post office ink pad was "dry" and hence markings were faint. The strip was canceled by a strike of the postmark and also by a "target" canceler, sometimes referred to as "concentric circles." There is no fee for the above and I do not wish you to feel that you are imposing upon me. I am always glad to lend you any assistance that I can and will charge a fee when necessary.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

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HISTORY
EARLY OHIO RIVER
STEAMBOATS
STAMP COLLECTING
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FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY
& NAPOLEONIC COVERS
CAPE TRIANGLES
EARLY BRAZIL
HAWAII

Nov. 24, 1941

Dear Lester:

This will be bad news to you. I am very much inclined to regard the cover you sent me as a fake. There has been quite an epidemic of fake steamboat covers the last two years, at least one of them a Great Lakes cover; it reads "U.S. MAIL SHIP/DETROIT." This one strikes me as being in the same class. Your surmise as to the method of handling is very logical and correct; but the cover should bear the beautiful Buffalo scroll "STEAMBOAT." I had never seen a cover like yours before. I have taken a picture of it for my records, and now I am going to do the unusual thing of returning it to you indirectly. I want Stan to see this. Stan and I have been listing the fake steamboat covers which come to our notice, and one or the other of us probably ought to write an article on them so that collectors can be forewarned. I'll send it to him by this same mail, and you ought to hear from him before long.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Dear Stan:

I have pwed you three letters for over a month. I'll make a determined effort to get to them tonight yet. But in order that by no mischance can the contents of this letter get buried among other things, as a cover which was loaned to me by M. R. Currier of Newburyport, Mass., did (and was resurrected tonight only because I was looking for something sent to me by Horace Poole) I am making a separate letter of this.

Lester L. Downing sent me a cover to examine and give him an opinion on its handling and the significance of the mark. I am enclosing the cover, also his letter, and my letter to him is at the top of this sheet. Will you please make your diagnosis and write to him? I will be interested to hear what your reply to him is.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Esleek

Fidelity Onion Skin

MADE IN U.S.A.

**HOBBY
INTERESTS**

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

Henry A. Meyer

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

RESIDENCE 516 READ STREET

TELEPHONE 5-6380

EVANSVILLE • 11 • INDIANA

**PHILATELIC
LINES**

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

Nov. 29, 1954

Dear Stan:

This is a most unusual situation. I am at last getting at your letters dating back to Oct. 8--exactly eight weeks ago. All the time I was working on the Centennial book of our school, I managed fairly well to keep even in my correspondence with you; but this fall I could not even do that. I have been out of town four of the twelve week-ends since our school opened in September, which always sets me back a week. Besides, my incoming mail has been unusually heavy. I am now hundreds of letters behind just since the S.P.A. convention in August, and I see very little hope of ever doing anything about most of it. But tonight I have set aside an hour or more, if necessary, to clear up five letters from you. Then if the time holds out, I will clear up letters to a few other friends to whom an answer is also long overdue. Let's start with Oct. 8.

Your letter of Oct. 8. (1) The Hawaiian stampless cover and the stamp off cover came back O.K. The results of the experiment came in a slightly later letter.

(2) You also returned my photographic prints, as I requested. The reason I wanted them back, I did not want you to have from me a batch of spoiled and discarded prints, as some of those were. I am now sending you two lots of better prints, one a lot of the fakes we have been discussing by mail, and the other some interesting covers which have come my way lately which I am sure are O.K. Keep for your file all which you do not already have by reason of having photographed them yourself. Any which you don't want, already have, or find of no interest can be returned if you wish, though it is not necessary, as I have the negatives. Keep the whole lot of it is simpler to do it that way. I have done as much describing as I could on the backs, but in some cases I would have to do more searching of old correspondence than I can do tonight or than I could do in a good many months to come.

(3) Regarding your letter to Mike Miller--I am noting what you say about the possibility of the "Due 1" cover being a way cover. I also have in mind another possibility which is at present vague in my thoughts, but which will become less vague (I hope) when I can give it some more thought. Perhaps, if nothing prevents, during the Christmas holidays I can assemble all my Baltimore STEAMBOAT DUE covers and photographs of covers, tabulate their characteristics, and suggest a conclusion. I am a great believer in the importance of abundant data, in tabulated form if possible, before drawing an inference. Something is taking shape, provisionally, in my head, but I do not wish even to give a hint of it until I can examine it more critically for flaws. Before I write it to you, I may discard it completely as no good after I study all the data.

Regarding the importance of abundant data--I'll comment further on this as applied to my MAIL ROUTE study if this letter doesn't become too long.

Your letter of Oct. 15. You sent me three slides to study. I am now returning them, with thanks for having been allowed to see them. They are very valuable as showing the actual color of the markings, genuine or fake. Neal Grabert has worked up a fine lecture on his collection of territorial covers and another on his collection of way covers, with color slides. That is a branch of photography I have never gone into, though I have acted as apprentice or unskilled helper to several other collectors who were shooting such slides. It is nice that you have slides of the two fake covers, and the Sag Harbor cover is really beautiful. At the S.P.A. convention Horace Poole came bringing several slides, and he had bought him a neat little squint-box for viewing the slides without projecting them.

Your letter of Oct. 18. This contained some prints, but no letter, unless I have misfiled it, which I don't think has happened, as I always keep everything from you in its original envelope until it is answered. The prints were two STEAMBOAT DUE 1's, both to Baltimore; a steamboat (not so marked) DUE 2 cts. postmarked Baltimore, to Washington; and the Hawaiian 13c Boston Engraved faked onto my stampless cover. Am I to keep these prints? If I may keep them, they will add to my data on Baltimore DUE covers.

Your postal card of Nov. 22, in which you ask about Lot 98 of the Harris sale of April 27. Your friend is right, the lot (I mean the cover) was not included in the listing in the book. It was not an error of omission, however; the Admiral must have gotten it after the manuscript was finished, as the list of such covers in the book was printed exactly as he sent it to me. This goes for two lists: the straight-line HONOLULU postmarks, and the 5c on 13c manuscript surcharges. Both are exactly as he sent them.

Your letter of Nov. 14. This contained your letter to Lester L. Downing, with covering letter to me. A letter received today from Lester states that he now regards it as probably a fake. You are surely right, even if genuine it is entirely private and of no philatelic significance. But the fact that we are having almost an epidemic of fakes of steamboat covers (which is inevitable when a category of covers becomes much sought-after) makes me suspect it as bad. That dull gray ink does not look like the ink of a century and more ago.

I think I have room for a few comments about my MAIL ROUTE study. The amount of material I have examined and recorded since the article appeared is amazing, and it is illustrative of the widespread co-operation I get every time I undertake a study. I also got a very beautiful cover by purchase from Doc Chase; it came to him on consignment, and he let me see the lot of four covers, of which I kept this one--at an atrocious price, which he was not authorized to revise downward. This was a brilliant, clean, fresh, neatly gotten up cover of the Savannah MAIL ROUTE mark. It is an important addition to our knowledge of the use of the mark at Savannah. Before I burst forth with my "Second Report on the Mark MAIL ROUTE," I'll send you a copy of my extended list of covers and my conclusions. It will all take shape when I can organize my list by cities at which the mark was used. Somebody wrote me that Maurice Blake has a theory. Yes, I have a long letter from him, dated last August, which I have not even digested. All I can answer him is what I have written you here--that I will send him a copy of my lists and my conclusions before I send the article to the publisher. I feel quite sure that Maurice does not have an assemblage of data on the subject such as I have, and reasoning from insufficient data is one of our chief sources of error. I do not want to commit myself in any way until I have had a chance to work over it as the subject deserves. Next time I'll try to reply to your letters much more promptly, as I always did until recently.

Yours sincerely,

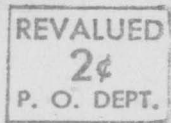
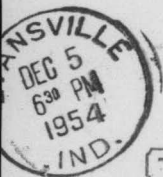
Henry

HENRY A. MEYER
516 Read St.
Evansville 10, Ind.

Dear Stan:

I am glad you could use so many of the photographs I sent you. Always keep as many as interest you, as I can always make more prints. I have made another lot of shots, and will send more prints as soon as I can get an evening to make them. It may be a couple of weeks.

Henry



THIS SIDE OF CARD FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

33 N. Fort Thomas Ave.

Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dec. 3, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

Yours of the 29th received and carefully noted. Thanks very much for return of the slides, and it was indeed most kind and thoughtful of you to send me so many prints. I am retaining a few and returning the others.

Regarding the two fakes which came to our attention from Gordon Bleuler. I had quite a bit of correspondence with him and as a result he presented both fake covers to the Philatelic Foundation after I had marked both on face as fraudulent, so now the P.F. has these for future reference. I have an idea I know who made them but at present no actual proof. I suspect they were made some years back and not recently.

Re - the prints that I sent you in mine of Oct. 18th, you certainly can retain them.

Re - Hawaii cover - #98 in Harris Sale of Apr. 27 last. This cover was Lot 95 in the Tows Sale. You may have a memo of this, but I mention it in case you haven't. I suppose you have a copy of the current C.C.P. In the Mueller article is an illustration of a 5¢ on 13¢ cover which is not listed in the Hawaii book. I do not know who owns it - I have a photo of it in my files that was sent to me three or four years ago by Harry Keffer.

I have carefully noted your remarks on your "Mail Route" study, and I will be greatly interested in further developments. I was pleased to learn you are in touch with Maurice Blake. He is a very careful and keen student, and is quite well-informed.

I have attached notations to some of the prints I am returning herewith.

One of the prints that I am retaining is the "Mail Route" of Providence. This is indeed nice - You mentioned it ~~ix~~ in a former letter - Too bad Bob Chambers and Tudor Cross are not alive. I wonder if they knew about this marking? It is so rare (in my opinion) I think it deserves a special article in "STAMPS" for the purpose of trying to locate duplicates. By the way, didn't you mention it in one of your articles? I note this letter originated at Charleston, S.C. in Dec. 1826 (?). How do you figure the 111? Did you show a print of this to Maurice Blake?

Re - the cover from Concord Ms to Honolulu. This is 1864 and perfectly regular, as you are aware that the postage could not be prepaid beyond San Francisco.

Re - the prints that I have retained. These will go into my Card Index Records. As you doubtless know "all my records" are now the property of the Philatelic Foundation but remain in my custody during my lifetime. Thus these prints which you so kindly sent to me will be preserved for future reference.

Re - the fake cover of New Orleans Steam Boat of Dec 12 - Louisville Nov 28 - I am keeping this print and I am sending it to Gordon Bleuler and inquiring why he


#2. Mr. Henry A. Meyer - Dec. 3, 1954.

never mentioned this one. Perhaps he can locate it and have it cancelled.

I was surprised - more than surprised to learn that the fake "Detroit Mail Ship" covers, also came from Bleuler. I am keeping one of these prints to send to him. I wonder if this chap will bear watching?

With regards -

Cordially yours,

 24¢ 69 Cover

Nov. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

Herewith I am enclosing two prints - one is the 5¢ '47 D.T. that was sent to me by Molesworth. I thought you would like to have a record of this. That left frame line is awfully heavy and it looks like it might have been retouched, but of this I am not sure. This is a late print from a dirty state of the plate. Early prints of 90R show weak places in the left frame line. I believe this copy is also oxidized and it is possible that this deterioration of the brown ink may have caused the heavy appearance of the left line. Compare this print with your plate proof of 90R.

Regarding the 10¢ '47 - this is a stamp that belongs to our mutual friend S. C. Cole of Cincinnati. I plated this stamp as 32R. Compare with your 32R and I believe you will find my plating is correct. I thought you would like this for your record. This is quite a lovely stamp with a bright red town postmark that seemed to be Cincinnati with a "10" at the bottom.

Herewith I am enclosing my 24¢ 1869 cover. I believe it would be wise for you to acquire this before it passes to someone else. The price is \$500.00.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

P.S.—On second thought, I am also enclosing a color slide of the 5¢ '47 - 90R - and one of the Cole 10¢ 1847 32R. I charge \$1.50 for making color slides, so keep these if you wish @ \$1.50 each or return to me. These are quite beautiful in my opinion.

A17 - 21

A17 31

S.B.A.

Nov. 26, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

Regarding our phone conversation of this afternoon, enclosed is a print that I made of the 24¢ '69 cover when it was in the S. W. Richey collection. Note the pencil notation in lower right "S.W.R. - 9/10-43."

On the negative I painted the 24¢ stamp red so that in the print it would not print so deep - this accounts for the light and dark spots on the print. The 10¢ stamp shows dark brown gum stains around the perforations and so does the 24¢ but apparently more noticeable on the 10¢. It never occurred to me for an instant that there was anything wrong with either of the four corners of the 24¢. If I ever noticed anything my only explanation that occurs to me must have been discoloration caused by the gum. I simply cannot believe that either the top or bottom right corners have been repaired in any way, because I am sure I would have noticed same. As stated, the only explanation that I can give after studying the photograph is that the discoloration of the top and bottom perfs was caused by the brown gum. I believe that if you will examine the stamp under your microscope that you will find it sound in ever particular and that your findings will agree with my deductions as above.

Mr. Luff stated in his book on page 111, referring to the 1869 Issue, quote: "The gum varies from yellowish-white to brown."

It is my impression that at first a rather white gum was used but in the late months of the issue a very brown gum was used. I have noted covers from which I removed 3¢ stamps that a brown gum spot discolored a white envelope.

My kindest regards.

Cordially yours,

Nov. 24, 1954.

Mr. Philip C. Rust,
Route 5,
Thomasville, Ga.

Dear Mr. Rust:

In the recent Lehman sale by Fox, cover #224 was purchased by Molesworth for \$400.00. I suppose a number of people inquired - "Why." The answer is, I suppose, that Molesworth purchased it for some buyer who knew why he was paying such a price.

I think one of the charms of collecting covers is being able to show items that the other fellow does not possess. For that reason I am enclosing a 10¢ 1855 cover, priced @ \$75.00. This is the 2 x 5¢ internal rate. Instead of the usual 3¢ plus a pair of 1¢ 1851 for a letter of not over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, this required 10¢ (2 x 5) because it was over $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. This was Service photo #89 and no doubt I described it fully at that time. It is many more times rarer than a 5¢ 1856 on cover to France.

I am sure you have a catalogue of the H. R. Harmer sale to take place in London on December 6th. Note Lot #65 - The illustration don't show much of the cover and I have never seen the cover or a photograph but what is shown in the illustration indicates to me that this use was prior to January 1849 and the origin, wherever it was in this country, was over 300 miles from either Boston or New York. That is sure some cover and I would love to own it.

My kindest regards -

Cordially yours,

Enclosed:

10¢ 1855 cover to France

N.O. Jan. 19, 1857 -

to Nantes, France - New York Feb. 4, 1857

Price \$75.00

This was "Service" Photo #89

DR. CARROLL CHASE
R. F. D. 1, MILFORD,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Stan :-

Dec. 16 54

In reply to yours of Dec 14th
I really don't know whether anyone
could fake a double red 10¢ to fool
you or not. Arent there any other
faking marks on this stamp, even
very minor ones?

I should think a powerful microscope,
+ the ultraviolet rays might help. I
hardly know what else to suggest. The
fakers do some very clever work - that's
sure. So that the heads on the 5th
+ 10th 1847 Government imitations made
just a few years ago for some exhibition.
They sure look like the real ~~ones~~ - expressions
+ all. What more can I say?

Stan joins in Best Regards +
all good wishes for the Holiday Season
to you all.

as ever

CC.

Dec. 21, 1954.

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

Dear Doc:

Thanks for yours of the 16th re - the 10¢ Recut. Rust has a reconstructed plate and a big lot of Type IV stamps for reference, also all sorts of gadgets - microscopes, lamps, etc., etc. And apparently plenty of time to study his material. He has three or four copies of the double recut that he bought at auction that he claims are paint jobs - He wanted me to confirm his opinion so he could return them. To be perfectly frank, the stamps looked okay to me. The only plating marks on 6411 are two fine needle point dots in the margin below the stamp. At best, both are faint and if a 641 is close at bottom the dots are not included. So you see there is little to go by. The damn thing has me up in the air because it would give me an awful headache if I thought it possible for Zareski to convert a Type III stamp into a "genuine" 6411. What a laugh that would be. It never occurred to me that such a thing could be made that would deceive me. Now I am not so sure and it has me worried. I have a very fine binocular microscope but its use did not convince me the stamps were anything but genuine, still there were some very minor points that made me wonder. I made a number of enlarged photos but they did not help. If I thought you could get some idea from them I would send you some prints but I doubt if you could judge much from them.

Rust is a pretty smart chap and is good on plating. If he wasn't i wouldn't pay a darn bit of attention to his claim that some copies he has are paint jobs.

We are planning quite a big Christmas. Stan Jr. is home and my daughter is flying home from Los Angeles. We haven't seen her for eleven years.

Our best and A MERRY CHRISTMAS to Jean and you.

As ever yours,

Re FAKE 104 Type IV



STERLING

ON THE OCEAN • 6716 STREET, MIAMI BEACH

HOTEL • POOL • CABANAS

Dec. 26. 1954

Dear Stan! -

We left New York on the 19th, spent two days here and then flew to Nassau from where we returned on Christmas Eve. So this is the first chance I have to write a few lines. We expect to stay here until Jan. 8th 9th.

I am enclosing herewith a check for \$3.00 for the prints and am also returning your print of 90L2 showing the guide line. I will not need a print for myself.

Just before I left town, I checked through the large group of prints which you sent to me of the Plate 7 material. In it was a pair which I called 46-56L7. On rechecking, I am not sure there are the correct point-roses, although I can't possibly figure out what else it might be. I will work on this again when I get back to New York.

In your last letter you ask this question. "Do you think a faker could make a 104 '55 Type IV. That would fool you?" The answer is an unqualified "YES". It calls to mind an incident that occurred about a year ago. The APS expert committee sent a copy of 64L1 to me for an opinion as to whether or not it was a genuine Type IV. At that time I had 3 copies of 64L1, which I had every reason to believe were good and I compared these copies with the one which the APS sent me. The three copies which I owned agreed exactly on the results. The APS copy agreed in every respect except that the bottom result line where it began, under the NO of TEN showed a slight difference in the way it began. However, I had no facilities to ^{compare} check the color of the ink under a quartz lamp, as I do



STERLING

ON THE OCEAN • 57th STREET, MIAMI BEACH

NOVEL • POOL • CABANAS

not own a security stamp, but I believe that you told me that the fake one someone made a security stamp, so this wouldn't be a conclusive test anyhow. I finally wrote the APS that I thought the stamp was a genuine 641's, but called their attention to the fact that it wasn't elegantly from the copies I owned. I did not feel that it was paid to condemn the stamp because one always found slight variations. So, Jimmy has been thoroughly fooled on this stamp, but if it was a fake, it was a real good job.

Re the pair from Plate 2 of the 1 cent, no whit. The bottom stamp was Type I found it's. About 2 years ago, you sent a pair to me of a pair with the bottom stamp connected to Type I. Is this the same pair? I didn't get a chance to look up this point before I left home.

The NEWBENS and The Ashbrooke New
bee medals for a VERY HEALTHY & HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Regards,
Maud.

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Jan.1st.1955

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

Dear Mr.Ashbrook:

Thanks so much for your Dec.29th note and the letter from Neinken.The Christmas holidays put a quietus on my stamp activity.That is why you've not received anything further from me in regard to operation "III to IV." Instead of sending you items piecemeal, I've decided to wait till I get the 2 painted lots from Fox,and one or two other things.The evidence will be put in shape by me and you'll get it all at once.One of the ones you saw shows the green "re-cut" line on top of the postmark.The post mark is a bit foggy at this particular point,so it took 80 power to really prove my point.This is the only situation I know of requiring high power. All else seems to be taken care of nicely by the 6 to 18 power range. This same stamp shows some of his ^{ink} spilled on top of another portion of the postmark. You wont need to write any more letters to Dr.Chase or Neinken after you get my next bunch. I shall plate each stamp, and send you several copies of the undoctored position on each phony for comparison.

The stamp I've been referring to above is the final item of my Dec.3rd.letter--"Lot 262,Harmer." This is the only time the artist(!)slipped and used a stamp having a postmark which entered the territory of his re-cutting activities!

Another thing,you are right in saying that it is not complete proof when a suspect fails to have 64LI's plating marks.

~~However~~

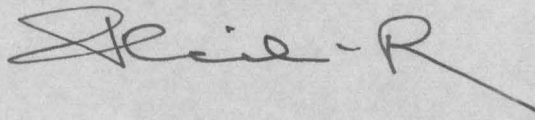
2. Ashbrook 1/1/55

However, it is a much stronger case when the suspect has all the different plating marks of a well known position. This feature plus the "re-cut" ON TOP OF the postmark will be the 2 main points of my evidence.

One more thing, I can honestly see a difference in color of the recut lines in the phonies. This was confirmed during the holidays by the 5 other Rusts. I don't expect to stress this point but I would place a bet that if all but the phony recut line were covered up (Under the microscope), that I could spot it by color alone; if I was allowed a bit of color on the rest of the stamp, alongside. This broad statement only applies to the 4 which I say are painted. Naturally, our friend could improve on his color from time to time. I am sure that my 4 phonies are the work of one man. Fox says he's dead. How he knows this is a mystery which I have not pursued!

With best wishes for a very happy New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve R". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jan. 9, 1955.

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

Attention: Expert Committee

My dear Mrs. Dale:

May I offer a word of caution regarding the U. S. 10¢ 1855-57 - Type IV. I believe some very clever crook is, or has been, turning out some extremely clever imitations of the recut lines, that is, converting Type II or Type III stamps to Type IV. May I suggest that the Committee exercise extreme caution in passing on any items submitted, especially does this apply to copies of the double recut, 6411.

Sincerely yours,

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Dec. 3rd. 1954

Mr. S. B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 No. Ft. Thos. Ave.
Ft. Thos. Ky.

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am enclosing a check to your order in the amt. of \$578 in full pay't. for:

- (1) The Richey 1869 cover to Lima with 10¢ & 24¢ tied. \$500
- (2) The 10¢ 1855 Ty III cover, N.O. to Nantes, (Garnier!) 75
- (3) Two color transparencies

3

578.00

Also three items are enclosed for complete analysis:

Item **A** A 10¢ 1855 on cover to Yankee Jim. This is cancelled and tied with a PAID. Please pass on the cancellation and the stamp. The stamp was, I believe pos. 30¢, and has the necessary re-cut lines painted in with plastic ink--of the wrong color! I am not qualified to pass on the cancellation. (Sold to me as a 6¢ 1855 cover!)

Item **B** A genuine 10¢ 1855, pos. 91R purported to be unused. Will you pass judgement on this phase the matter, with the usual photos?

Item--" This is Lot 262-----

Will you confirm this gem as a paint job, for me?

All of these pearls beyond price cost me a lot of money during my infancy as a philatelist, so make a very official looking document on each item (Darn the cost!) and I'll try to get some of it back.

Say, your build-up on the 1847's on cover in the coming Harmer Ltd. sale will probably cost a few extra hundred. How about doing this AFTER the lots of this type have been acquired by some of your old palsy walsies. I had bid on this combination cover with the strip of 3 of the 10¢, and now I've had to increase my bid--and you know why! I bet all these angles never crossed your mind when you wrote it up.

I hope you can come by here some time if you have a trip South. This is on the way to all the Hook-nosed joints in Florida!

Regards,
Philip R

50x Sale Dec 15-16-

Loh 691 is 89R Perf?

Loh 751 " 23L

RUST STATED

Above

Dec. 8, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

Yours of the 3rd received with check for \$578.00 for which please accept my thanks.

I am holding the three items that you sent me pending further instructions. Regarding these:

Item "A" Cover from Topsham, Maine to Yankee Jims, Calif. I am pleased to report that this cover and stamp are genuine in all respects. The stamp is 64Ll, the double recut and the PAID cancel is perfectly okay. No monkey-business of any kind. This cover is from the GIVEN correspondence, a "find" with which I have been familiar, for some thirty or thirty-five years. I recall that my old friend Alvin Good of Cleveland, had a large lot of "Given" covers in the early nineteen twenties. Covers from "Topsham" to Yankee Jims and vice versa. I enclose photo of a 1¢ cover. Many of the Topsham covers had stamps tied by the black PAID as per your cover. The stamp is the double recut 64Ll, no mistake about that. It is quite a fine example of a late print. There is quite a difference of the 10¢ recuts in early and late prints. For example, I judge the use from Topsham, was May 14 1857 (no year date of 1856 known from this town). By this time the plate had been in use for two years. I would not class this impression as worn but rather not an early impression.

Two features are noticeable and give a slightly different appearance from early or earlier prints, viz: (1) Because the recut line was cut deeper into the steel plate than the transferred lines from the reliefs, the recut lines took up more ink and appear as a darker green. (2) On a late print such as this, the recut line appears higher above the letters of the top label but this is due to the faintness of the tops of some of the letters in the top label. I have carefully examined both top and bottom lines under my microscope and I feel absolutely sure these lines are engraved, not painted. I don't think it would be possible for a faker to paint a line with pen or brush and obtain a result as truly accurate as the recut lines on this stamp. If you wish, I will make enlarged photos of the stamp covering a 4 x 5 plate by ultra-violet and also thru a red filter - Also an enlarged color slide, the stamp to occupy the entire slide. I hesitated to put you to this expense unless you wish same. I will sign the cover on the back as genuine, if you wish. The fee for same would be \$5.00.

Item "B" In my opinion this is a cleaned copy. However, bear this in mind - the green ink that was used for the 10¢ was of a fine quality and in many instances cleaned copies show little trace of cleaning under the ultra-violet. In other words, a 10¢ '55 can be cleaned with certain chemicals that leave no trace. This applies to handstamped as well as pen marks. I can make a photo (enlarged - 4 X 5) by ultra-violet but the negative might not show even a trace of a cancel removed. On the other hand, it might.

#2. Mr. Philip G. Rust - Dec. 8, 1954.

When purchasing any U. S. unused stamps issued prior to 1857, it is well to bear in mind that 99 out of 100 are cleaned. I will await instructions on this 91R. I will also make a color slide, if you wish.

Item "C" - 10¢ 1857 - This is positively a double recut 6411 - a late impression from a worn state of the plate. This copy shows very plainly the characteristics mentioned above.

Early impressions show blurrs of color as per example above the right X - across the center bottom, etc. I enclose photo of 6411 from the Burroughs sale of 1944. This stamp sold in the sale @ \$200.00.

Re - my write-up of the 35¢ '47 cover in the London sale. I am sorry if the enthusiasm that I displayed for this item might have had some effect on the auction price. To be quite frank that was surely not the intention. Very few collectors would have a true appreciation of this cover - fewer still could explain the 35¢ pay and the British one shilling due. In other words, this cover has a story to tell and that's why I gave it so much space. When I wrote it up I did not think my December Issue would be mailed until after the sale. I do hope you were the lucky bidder and if so be sure and send it to me so that I can make a fine photograph.

Thanks very much for the invitation to stop by and pay you a visit but I believe Florida is a good place to steer clear of in the winter months. Some people accuse me of being Anti-Semitic but that accusation is quite an exaggeration.

Sometime next spring I sort of plan to drive down to old Claiborne in Alabama and then to visit some friends in Mobile. The Emerson Krugs of Birmingham have promised to accompany us. I want to write a story about some data I have on Claiborne. Maybe we could drop in and see the Rusts at that time.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Hens sent by Rush 12/13 -

III 63L - 64L - 65L Lot 364 in
ready sale.

Fox Sale 10/28 - 54 - Lot 318

Grand Cully Bat private
Sale

PHILIP G. RUST
WINNSTEAD PLANTATION
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Dec. 10th. 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

After our phone conversation of this afternoon I called Fox's office. He was not there and so I asked Miss Williams to get his permission to send you lots 691 and 751 of his Dec. 15-16 sale. These are both listed as 64LI's, but I assure you they are anything but! The former is Pos. 23LI, having all of 23LI's plating marks ALSO with the margin at top that it has, it should be showing the bottom re-cut line of 54LI. I measured this with a very accurate glass scale under the stereo microscope. The latter (Lot 751) has no detectable plating mark easily seen, but I think it is 89RI, before & after painting in the phony recut lines. Naturally, I have 54 and 64LI in vertical blocks so I know how they are spaced.

I have plated, and have in my possession the following:

157	copies	of	the	Type	I
876	"	"	"	"	II
539	"	"	"	"	III
112	"	"	"	"	IV

including 20 genuine 64LI's and 2 paint jobs.

I give this statistical information only to illustrate the fact that I sort of like this stamp, and after plating 1684 of them I have a passing familiarity with their plating marks.

I am sending (enclosed) the following for you to use for a week or so:

1. A horiz. strip of 63, 64, 65LI, lot 364 in the Moody Sale, perf.
2. A Type IV, 64LI, Lot 318 Fox Sale, 10/28/54 perf.
3. A " IV, 64LI, bot from Ward, perf.

Please note the very plain plating mark under the E of cEnts, and a fainter one under the C of Cents. This mark (or marks) is under every copy of 64LI I have, which has enough margin at the bottom. The marks are absent from the two copies I sent you Dec. 3rd. and the two that you will receive from Fox.

This whole business is very interesting to me, and I know you'll have fun with it too.

I value the above three items at \$700.

Sincerely yours,

Philip R.

See page 37
in your book on
the 104 1855-7
relative to Pos.
23L

S.B.A.
NOTATION
READS
NOTE
Weakness
3
Reads

Dec. 13, 1954.

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

Dear John:

Herewith the two 10¢ 1855-57 from your sale of Dec. 15th - Lots
691 and 751.

Mr. Philip G. Rust is of the Opinion that both copies have the
recut lines painted. It never occurred to me after almost forty years of
work on the 10¢ 1855 Plate No. 1, that any faker or should I state "Artist"
could make a paint job that would fool me. I am as yet not wholly convinced
that Mr. Rust is correct and that the recut lines on these two stamps are
faked. For my own satisfaction, I have made a number of enlarged photographs
which I wish to carefully study.

Mr. Rust is a very keen student of the 10¢ Plate No. 1 and has gathered
together a large amount of material which he has available for comparison.
It is possible that his conclusions are correct, but if so, then somewhere in
this world there is a faker at work who can paint 10¢ recuts and fool an old
hand like me. I hate like the devil to admit that this could be possible,
hence at this time I wish to make a very careful examination of the photographs
that I have made.

In view of the holiday rush of mail, will you please acknowledge receipt
of this letter on the enclosed post card.

WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Copy to
Mr. Philip Rust.

Dec. 12, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

John Fox forwarded to me the two copies of the 10¢ 1855-57, 64LL, from his sale to be held on Wednesday, the 15th, same being Lots 691 and 751. They came by Special Delivery Saturday night. I am returning them air - registered - special delivery - this afternoon. I enclose copy of my letter to him.

I am also in receipt of your registered of the 10th with the three items mentioned, all of which I am returning herewith.

I made a number of enlarged photographs which I desire to study very carefully. It seems impossible to me that a faker could fool me on a 10¢ 1855 Type IV stamp, but I no longer have all my former material for actual side-by-side comparison, so the question arises in my mind, without such material, could a very clever artist make a Type IV that would fool me. All this writing I have not fully satisfied myself on that point, but I intend to go into the proposition as thoroughly as possible.

I note the two plating marks that you mentioned in the bottom margin of 64 - the two dots. I note that these appear on copies that we are quite certain are genuine. I also note that they are absent on other copies of 64LL. There is no question but what this is a most important point but I wonder if it is conclusive proof? Early prints would show these dots but what about later prints after they had disappeared? Another solution might be that a cleanly wiped plate might not leave enough ink to print either dot. Incidentally, I have a very fine photo of a 64LL perf copy that was in the Hammatt collection. I made this photo along about 1920 or 1921. It shows both bottom margin dots. I mention this because I do not think we should assume that if a perf copy shows the dots that all imperf copies should also show such dots. Exposure to strong light could fade such faint plating marks. I seem to have very few photos of 64LL with sufficient bottom margins to include the dots.

Regarding the spacing between 54L - 64L. On your Moody strip I note the space between the recut line on 54L and the top recut line on 64L is $1 \frac{6}{10}$ MM. On the Fox stamp, Lot 691, the same margin is $1 \frac{7}{10}$ MM. This is rather significant but I wonder if it is conclusive? I have a B & L - 6X - with scale of $1/10$ MM. I measured the above very carefully. It seems to me that paper shrinkage could account for this $1/10$ MM difference. We must remember that these sheets of paper were damp when the print was made. I think think this quite an important point regarding the Fox stamp but before coming to any definite conclusion (if such is possible) I would like to pursue this study further.

One thing that puzzles me and raises a question in my mind. On certain

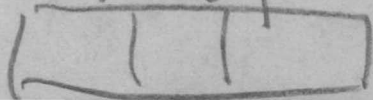
WARD

FOX 318

FOX 751

FOX 691

RUST



Moody

A653 8x10

Bottom 3 over

of 6441-

@ 13 - Red F128

100 See

Top To Bottom

Moody 11

RUST

FOX 691

FOX 751

FOX 318

WARD

A652 8x10

Exposed

Tops of 64L

© 13 - Red F128 - 100Sec
over

#2. Mr. Philip G. Rust - Dec. 15, 1954.

stamps that you believe to be faked I note that the space between the letters of the top label and the top line appears wider than on the Moody 64L. To be more explicit - the distance between the top of the "T" (POSTAGE) and the recut line seems less on the Moody stamp than on the Fox stamp, Lot 69A. On the "Given" cover the distance is almost 2/10 MM.

The 1857 copy that you purchased from Ward has an unusually heavy top line. I did wonder about this copy. Did you consider it okay? It seemed to me that if I was to question any of these 64L it would be this Ward stamp. However, I did not give it a careful examination but I will examine my photo prints later.

The Fox sale Lot 318 also has a very heavy top line which is very close to the top of the "P."

I am herewith returning all the items contained in your two letters of the 3rd and 10th, and with a \$1,000.00 valuation.

Later

Re - the Fox stamp, Lot 691. The three pearls at right are very weak - no doubt about that at all. I have no record of a 64L with the three right pearls as faint as on this stamp. I regret that I do not have a 23L or a photo of the position, at least, none that I have been able to locate. However, I will check further.

Yes, I quite agree that this is a most interesting problem and one that I sincerely wish to solve.

More on the subject later.

With every good wish -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 14, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

Herewith item "B" as per yours of Dec. 3rd. This, a 10¢ 1855- center line copy, 91R1. It is my opinion that this copy has had a cancelation removed. This is just my personal opinion from the general appearance of ink and paper and after examining a photo I made by ultra-violet, print of which I enclose herewith.

WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Dec. 14, 1954.

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

Dear Doc:

Thanks for the word on the "Post Estante." Here is a question that I would like to ask you. Do you think it would be possible for some faker to fake a 10¢ 1855 Type-IV and make it so perfect that it could not be possible to distinguish it from a genuine copy? Do you think you could be fooled by a 10¢ 1855 double recut 64L1? You have had years and years of experience with recut lines of the 3¢ plates, hence I feel sure that no one has a finer eye for such a steel plate variety.

Several 10¢ 1855 double recuts have come up lately which Philip Rüst claims are paint jobs. They look genuine to me. Could he be right and could I be wrong? Could a faker fool me on a 64L1? Could a faker do such a perfect job that would fool you?

WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

JOHN A. FOX

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

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

December 10, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing herewith two stamps. Would certainly appreciate receiving your opinion on same.

With kind personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

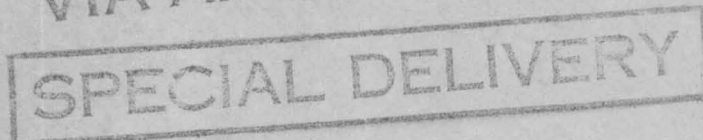
John
JOHN A. FOX

RETURNED BY

JAF:ew



VIA AIR MAIL DEC 13 1954



Dec. 14, 1954.

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

Dear John:

Yours of the 8th received with the return of your check. This is more than kind of you and very much appreciated.

Would you like to have a photograph of the cover? If so, I will send you a print.

Regarding the matter of the 10¢ 1855 Type IV double recut stamp. I know you are always quite busy and have little time for details but I wish you would think this matter over and write me. I ask you this question - Do you think it possible for some faker, some very clever "artist" to take an ordinary copy of the 10¢ 1855 (or 1857) and to paint in imitation lines of the top and bottom recuts and do it in so clever a manner as to fool a student of this stamp such as Chase or Neinken or E. Perry? I do not mention myself. What is your opinion on this? Philip Rust is of the opinion that this is possible. I wonder? If he is right, then what? If I can't tell the difference between a faked 64L double recut and a genuine copy, what is the answer? Think it over and write me.

Would you like some prints of some enlarged photos I made?

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

Dec. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

Herewith I am enclosing some photographs of recent items of the 10¢ - 64L1. Note the Moody strip, which shows the plating dots in bottom margin under the "E" of CENTS and the fainter dot under the "C" of CENTS. Note the two large prints showing a comparison of the top and bottom recut lines. For example, the bottom lines. This print shows from top to bottom -

Your "Ward" copy
Fox Sale Lot 318
Fox Sale Lot 751
Fox Sale Lot 691
Copy by Rust
Moody strip.

I believe the Ward copy shows a faint trace of the dot under the "E" - which we will refer to as the "E" dot. In other words, my photo print shows what the eye failed to detect. Consider the next stamp, the Fox 318, which apparently shows the "E" dot. The third copy, the Fox 751 does not show the E dot. The fourth stamp is the Fox 691, an imperf. This does not show either of the dots. The Fifth, is your copy - no dots are shown. The bottom is the Moody strip which shows both dots.

Regarding the other of the top lines of the above items. From top to bottom these are as follows:

Moody strip
Rust copy
Fox 691
Fox 751
Fox 318
Ward

Note the Moody strip (which is unquestionably genuine), and the distance between the top of the "T" of POSTAGE and the top line. Compare this distance with the other stamps. On several the distance appears wider. Note the recut of 54L1 - on the Moody strip -(bottom) and the top line recut on 64L1 - the distance on this print is 6 MM. The fox 691, an imperf stamp shows a wide margin at top. On this print the distance is 6 1/2 MM but there is no evidence of the recut line at the bottom of 54L1. This difference is very slight and could be(?) due to paper shrinkage.

#2. Mr. Philip G. Rust, Dec. 19, 1954.

Further referring to the "E" dot on the Fox 318. Am I correct in assuming this was green and not black and a part of the cancel?

I do not know if these photo prints prove anything one way or the other but they are in a way nice to refer to.

I don't place too much reliance in the absence of the "E" and "C" dots where there are sufficient margins to show them, nor am I wholly convinced on the difference in spacing between 54 and 64. I must confess I am very much impressed with the faintness of the three right pearls on Fox 691. It seems highly improbable that a genuine copy of 6411 would show such a feature.

Are you convinced that the Ward stamp is genuine?

About all that I can state at present is this - If there exists somewhere a very clever forger who can convert 10¢ Type III stamps into copies of Type IV, then we surely are faced with a dangerous proposition. I certainly hate to think that this can be true.

With best wishes -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 18, 1954.

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

Dear John:

I am enclosing copy of letter to Philip Rust together with duplicate prints of those I am sending him. In this letter I referred to three Fox auction lots. Lots 691 and 751 were in your sale of Dec. 15th, whereas Lot 318 was in a previous sale.

Rust has a reconstructed plate of the 104 Plate No. 1 and plenty of reference material. In addition, he has accessories such as microscopes, ultra-violet, etc., etc. Also quite a keen eye. Whether he is right or wrong - I do not know at present.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Dec. 29, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Rust:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Mortimer Neinken who is on vacation at Miami Beach. Kindly return at your convenience.

I wrote Mort and inquired if he thought it possible for some crook to paint in the recut lines on a 10¢ 1855-57 and do it in so clever a manner that the faked copy would deceive him?

So far I have not heard from you since our phone conversation so I am wondering if you sent anything up for me to examine.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Dec. 29, 1954.

Mr. Mortimer L. Neinken,
% The Sterling Hotel - Room 631,
67th St.,
Miami Beach, Fla.

Dear Mort:

Yours of the 26th received.

Thanks for return of the photo print and for the check for \$3.00.

I appreciated your remarks re - the 10¢ '55-'57 Type IV. Several weeks ago Mr. Rust sent some copies of the double recut 64LL to me that he claimed were fakes. I examined them very carefully and in addition made enlarged photographs. I must confess that I was most skeptical, because the stamps appeared okay to me. I simply could not believe that some lousy faker could take a Type III stamp and paint in lines that would fool me. Rust claims that he has been able to plate some of the Type III stamps with the painted lines. He also submitted to me some copies of 64LL which are unquestionably genuine, such copies have very definite and consistent plating marks, and said plating marks are absent on the copies he claims are paint jobs. I certainly hate to admit that this thing could be true and that is the reason I wrote you as I did.

Mort where do we go from here? I think this is darn serious. I have worked with this 10¢ plate since along about 1918 and thought I could tell a genuine copy of Type IV if it was ten feet away - and along comes some crook who is so damn clever he can take a cover with a Type III imperf - paint in the recut lines and make a perfect(?) Type IV stamp. And the only person who can state positively whether the stamp is good or bad is the person who owns a reconstructed plate, and a whole mass of material for comparison. What is your reaction?

Re - the faked One Cent 1851 Type I. Did I send you a photograph? I have been so busy during the holidays I have not filed any letters so cannot lay hands on the one I wrote you. The fake is a vertical pair of Type II from 9th and 10th rows of Plate 2 - with large sheet at bottom. The faker made a Type I out of the bottom stamp. A very clever piece of work. So far I haven't been able to plate the darn pair - can you imagine!!! This made me wonder if it could be from Plate 3.

I note that you will be down there until the 8th or 9th.

Mildred joins me in best wishes to Anna and you. May you both have a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Cordially yours,

P.S.--I forgot to mention that Rust stated that the recut lines on faked copies were painted with plastic ink.

JOHN A. FOX

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

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

December 20, 1954

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

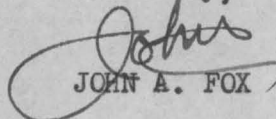
Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letters of recent date. Just finished checking the two stamps and feel that I must agree with Mr. Rust that the two stamps are definitely faked. They just do not fluoresce right and a comparison with other recuts does not show a similarity. Therefore I am convinced that some faker has used plastic ink and drawn in the lines. I believe I know when it was done, about six or seven years ago. I believe the faker who did this has passed on to the great beyond.

I withdrew the stamps from the sale and am going to attempt to buy them from the Estate for Mr. Rust if he wants them. I in turn would like blown up photographs if we can obtain them. I will be glad to defray any expense.

With kind personal regards and best wishes, and trusting that you and Mildred have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sincerely,



JOHN A. FOX

JAF:C

Jan. 2, 1955.

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

Dear John:

Thanks very much for yours of the 20th re -
the 10¢ 1855-57 Type IV stamps. It is hard to be-
lieve that someone can convert type III copies into
Type IV but our mutual friend Philip Rust seems to
have some very convincing evidence. I still have
the matter up with him and he has promised to send me
some further evidence.

I will be glad to send you any further photos
that I make.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,



AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

~~OFFICE OF TREASURER~~

ADOLPH STEEG

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

1048 GENESEE STREET
BUFFALO 11, NEW YORK

December 12, 1954

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

Dear Stanley:

Do you have any record of ever seeing a bisect of the upper left quarter of the 12c 1851 stamp used to pay 3crate used from Geneva, N. Y. The enclosed sketch is a fairly good facsimile of the face of the cover (brown paper)

This cover was supposed to have been found by the great-grandson, W. B. Maynard, in one of the trunks in the attic of his home in July 1928 at North Haledon, New Jersey. With the cover is a signed statement dated April 3, 1937 made by said Maynard wherein he states how he found them and authorizes a Mr. Peter V.O. Barkelaw of Moorsetown, N. J. "to dispose for my account all the letters and covers addressed to my great-grandfather, John J. Messerve, including the split of the 12c 1851 issue United States"

The party who send me this cover said he believed that a certificate had been issued on it by the Philatelic Foundation several months back, but such was apparently withdrawn with no reason having been given the owner. Looks like there is something fishy about this cover.

I hope that you are in the best of health, with my kindest regards, beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

Adolph Steeg

Dec. 14, 1954.

Mr. Adolph Steeg,
1048 Genesee Street,
Buffalo 11, N.Y.

Dear Adolph:

Confidential

Replying to yours of the 12th, I am quite familiar with the 12¢ '51 Bisect cover supposed to have been used from Geneva, N.Y.

This was sent to me on several or more occasions in the past. The Philatelic Foundation thru error, did issue a certificate on it but when some proof was submitted to them that the item was bad, they withdrew their certificate. I have heard that the man who owns it and has made repeated efforts to sell it in the past year, has a very bad reputation - was convicted and sent to prison in the middle thirties for philatelic faking. Whether this is true I do not know. The item dates back to 1936 in my records when it was reported to me by Nick Sanabria.

It was nice to hear from you.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Cordially yours,

See
33-38

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

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
Architects Building
17th & Sansom Sts.
PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

November 24, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I had lunch this week with the president, the Managing Director and the Chairman of Publicity of The Franklin Institute. We discussed, among other things, our philatelic activities and it was agreed that The Institute would like to do everything within its power to advance philately.

I have arranged in my will for a gold medal to be awarded annually to a leader of American industry and one of them suggested that The Institute award a gold medal to an outstanding philatelist. I told them if they would do this I would pay for such a medal each year while I am alive and leave funds in my will to continue it. It would be a medal awarded somewhat like the Lichtenstein medal. They would like to have philatelic meetings in the Institute from time to time, would like to make efforts to enlarge the Jefferys collection greatly and do everything they could to make the local philatelists as well as others know that the Institute was interested in such activities. They have asked me to get suggestions as to what they should do and how they should do it and I am writing to you and will write to several others, asking for advice so that we can proceed. Write me at your convenience and let me have any suggestions that you might care to make.

If this goes through, and I am sure it will, you certainly will be my candidate for the first medal as I sincerely believe you have done more for American philately than any man alive. The thought this very second occurred that we could award two medals, the first year, and give the other to Dr. Chase.

Sincerely yours,


PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

STANLEY H. WRIGHT
(M. AM. SOC. C. E.)
4005 LORCOM LANE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

November 18, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

I am offered the copy of the 1¢ blue imperforate 1851, which is declared to be a Type III A, but appears to me to be doubtful and is more likely some other type.

Are you in the business of expertizing these stamps and, if so, would you pass upon this one, without prejudice, if I send it to you? I should expect to pay a reasonable charge for the opinion.

I have studied your book on the 1¢ stamp very carefully, but I am unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion for the one described above.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley H. Wright

SHW/ja

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Nov. 22, 1954.

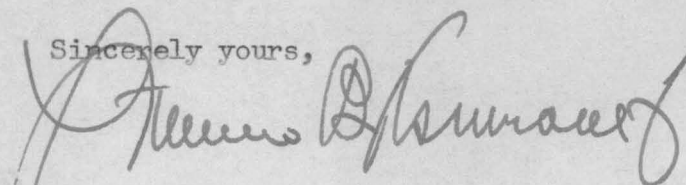
Mr. Stanley H. Wright,
4005 Lorcom Lane,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Replying to yours of the 18th.

If you will forward the 1¢ 1851, I will be very glad to type it, and if you wish, to give you the plate position, if it is a platable copy. My fee will be very modest and will include return registration. If you by any chance would consider it excessive, then there would be no fee whatsoever.

Sincerely yours,



Dear Mr Ashbrook:

Here it is!

SABW

11/25/54

Nov. 22, 1954.

Mr. Stanley H. Wright,
2005 Lorcom Lane,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Replying to yours of the 18th.

If you will forward the 1¢ 1851, I will be very glad to type it, and if you wish, to give you the plate position, if it is a platable copy. My fee will be very modest and will include return registration. If you by any chance would consider it excessive, then there would be no fee whatsoever.

Sincerely yours,

150

Nov. 27, 1954.

Mr. Stanley H. Wright,
4005 Lorcom Lane,
Arlington 7, Va.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Herewith your 1¢ 1851 as per yours of the
25th.

I am pleased to report that you have a very
nice stamp from the rare Plate 3 and in addition,
a copy showing the typical "Pl. 3 surface cracks"
variety. This is an "A" relief, Type II. I have
mounted same on a diagram showing the location of
the fine cracks.

My fee is \$1.50

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY H. WRIGHT
(M. AM. SOC. C. E.)
4005 LORCOM LANE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

150

December 2, 1954

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

My check is enclosed for your modest fee of \$1.50. I want to say that I think you have done a very nice job and have submitted your information in a most attractive way.

This is the first of the stamps from Plate 3 that has come through my hands, so far as I know, which is probably the reason I was unable to place it.

One point remains: Scott's Catalogue lists the general run of Type II at \$10.00. Can you say what in your opinion would be an estimated catalogue value for this stamp?

I am not trying to pin you down to an appraisal, but I am hoping to obtain some idea of what you would think the estimated worth would be for, say, an auction catalogue. I have had a number of Austrian stamps (which is my real specialty) certified by Edwin Mueller and the Friedl Committee in New York, who base their charges on a percentage of what they think is the estimated value of a given stamp.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley H. Wright

SHW/ja
enc. 1

Dec. 6, 1954.

Mr. Stanley H. Wright,
4005 Lorcom Lane,
Arlington, Va.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Thanks very much for yours of the 2nd with check for \$1.50. I make it a rule to be excused from expressing an opinion on the value of items submitted to me, because on such a subject one person's opinion is perhaps as good as another's. About all I can inform you is this - If properly described your stamp might bring as high as \$20.00 at auction. On the other hand, it might not bring more than \$10.00. It would depend upon how bad two or more buyers might want it. If the stamp belonged to me and I had it for sale I would price it @ \$25.00. You can thus appreciate how unreliable is an opinion such as the above.

Sincerely yours,

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



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

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

December 15, 1954

Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
P.O. Box 31
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Forth Thomas, Ky,

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your very detailed letter of December 3rd which greatly clarified the situation for me on the items in question.

I am enclosing a cover which I believe to be an extremely rare one for your analysis and comments as well as possible inclusion in a future of your "Special Service". I have read your article in the "Stamps Specialist" and have concluded that a cover with the "supplementary mail" marking tying the stamp is highly unusual. I would appreciate your signing the back of the cover and shall look forward with interest to your comments. If you should decide to include it in a future "Special Service" issue and care to mention my name as the owner, same publicity would be appreciated.

With best regards,

Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

P.S. Also enclosing cover with two #26's to China for signing & comments on odd rate.

Plus a 5¢ Taylor cover from last Kellster auction - client for whom I purchased claimed stamps removed. I don't agree, but can't explain gum marks to left of stamp. Your comments appreciated.

Dec. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Herewith the three covers as per yours of the 15th. Here are some comments:

30¢ 1861 - I sent for this before the Paige sale but it is my recollection it was out and it was not sent to me later. This cover is so contradictory that I simply cannot okay it, though it is possible it might be genuine. The stamp is not tied by either the S.M. marking or the New York postmark. The latter is so indistinct it does not show a credit figure, and the date is so indistinct it cannot be read. The letter inside is dated Dec. 19, 1861 and the routing is "per Africa." This was a Cunard mail ship and my records show that a Cunard mail ship was scheduled to sail from New York on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1861. If this letter was written on Dec. 19 '61, why was it routed by the Africa, which was scheduled to sail the day before on Dec. 18, 1861? Further, the French receiving shows "Et - Unis - Serv. Am. A.C" which meant, from the U.S. by Amer. Pkt thru Calais, that is, by Amer. Pkt to England, thence to France. The next sailing after the 18th was not on the 19th but on Saturday, the 21st. Bear in mind - no Amer. Pkt on the 18th, 19th, 20th - so if this letter, written on the 19th, went by Amer. Pkt on the 21st why the "1?" in the New York postmark? At left is what appears to be a red pencil "6." The question is - was this the credit to France? If so, then it would indicate a paid rate of 15¢ - 3¢ per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. for the Channel crossing and 3¢ French internal, however this letter mentioned "enclosures" so it must have weighed over $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. I recognize the possibility that due to winter weather, the Cunard sailing of the 18th was delayed a day, hence this letter written on the 19th was sent to ship side and mailed as a "S.M." letter but if so why the French marking indicating "Amer. Pkt." This could have been an error but I have very, very seldom noted such an error. Further, had this letter gone "Br. Pkt" the credit if over $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. (30¢ rate) would have been 24¢. There is no indication of a 12¢ or 24¢ credit required on a 15¢ or 30¢ rate by British Packet.

Under the circumstances you will appreciate the fact that I would be assuming too much to state that in my opinion the cover is genuine. Further, covers with stamps canceled by the type "A" S.M. marking are exceedingly rare and several may be open to question. This marking was not intended to be used as a killer but rather to show "source" or "origin." In brief I have come to the conclusion that a cover with a stamp canceled by the Type A should be viewed with suspicion, though of course such an item could be genuine. One thing in favor of this cover is the possibility that the New York postmark did not have a credit figure at the bottom as such would have been a type used ship side, but unfortunately this strike is too indistinct.

You will find remarks on the other two covers in accompanying letters.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

10 ⁰⁰

Dec. 17, 1954.

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

Dear Jack:

Re - the cover to Hong Kong from Terre Haute, in 1860. The year dates of "60" in the two back markings are a bit queer. The Hong Kong is in reverse "06." The New York is Sep 26. Wednesday was the Cunard sailing day and in 1860 Sep 26 fell on Wednesday, so I suppose there is little doubt the year use was 1860. This was a 1¢ over-pay of the 5¢ "U.S. Internal under the U.S.-British Postal Treaty." In other words, postage was collected from the addressee by the British from the U.S. frontier. See Service photo #49. This cover is perfectly good and I have signed it on the back.

Re - the 5¢ Taylor cover. I seriously doubt if any stamp or stamps are missing from this cover. Everything is perfectly okay and regular in my opinion. For a similar cover see Service photo No. 58. See page 126 in my Service for an analysis of cover No. 58. In 1876, the rate to or from Peru was 12¢, viz: U.S. to or from Panama 5¢

British " " " Peru 12¢, or 6 pence.

This cover was not placed in the Peru P.O. but mailed direct to a British mail ship, thus the British debit to the U.S. of "12" or 6 pence. This was collected from the addressee by "due 14." We had to settle with the British in gold, hence if collected in paper the rate was 14¢. What stamps could be missing? If any Peru stamps had been on this cover then surely there would be a Peru postal marking. I suppose there might have been and the writer removed them when he decided to mail direct to the British ship. Had there been any British stamps, there would not have been the British debit of "12" So again I ask - What stamps could be missing? Ask your client this question. I have endorsed the cover as genuine.

My fee for the three covers is \$10.00.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

(34-55)

PAID
JAN -1 1955

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



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

Jack E. Molesworth

Philatelic Dealer and Broker

102 Beacon Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

December 28, 1954

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

Dear Stan,

I thank you for your very prompt reply on the three covers recently submitted and enclose my check for \$10 to cover your opinions on them.

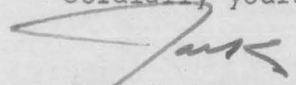
I found your comments on the 30¢ 1861 cover especially interesting. I have read them very carefully and conclude that the contradictions which you note in the cover would not necessarily in any case imply that the cover had been tampered with or that the stamp now on it was not originally there. Is that conclusion correct? Also, I conclude that if the cover is genuine then the following facts must be the case. The letter was mailed on December 19, 1861 and the date in the postmark which is not completely legible is that of December 19th. The Cunard mail ship, "Africa", scheduled to sail on December 18th, was delayed and did not sail until December 19th with this letter having been delivered on board on that date. The French receiving mark noting American packet is in error and should have been British packet. The letter is a double weight one due to the enclosures mentioned in the letter and would therefore require a 30¢ rate, the fee for the "supplementary mail" having been paid in cash at the ship's side or dock as the case may have been. Is this correct?

On the other hand, if the cover is not authentic, I would assume that this stamp still would have to have been used on the cover in view of the fact that the "supplementary mail" marking at least ties it to the cover by making a deep indentation into the stamp and the envelope beneath. Have you any records of this particular marking having been completely faked on this or other issues of similar vintage? I should mention that the above questions and comments are in no way intended to influence you ^{to work} verifying the authenticity of the cover but rather to get the facts clear in my own mind as I may still offer it for sale in view of your letter which to my mind does not condemn the cover in any way, though does of course present questions for which a proven answer cannot be found. If the cover is genuine, I trust you agree that it is a very rare one.

Enclosed is another interesting stampless cover from the same Paige auction which as you can see has the notation "registered number 522". Since this letter was written several years before registered mail was supposed to have started, I am curious as to the explanation for it and will look forward to your opinion. I presume that the number may merely have been a registered sending or receiving number of the respective parties involved and have nothing to do with the postal service.

With season's greeting and best regards,

Cordially yours,


Jack E. Molesworth

JEM/pww

Jan. 2, 1955.

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

Dear Jack:

Yours of the 28th received with check for \$10 as per mine of the 17th. Thanks very much.

Re - your query about the 30¢ 1861 cover. I doubt if I can add anything further to the facts that I gave you in my letter. I regret to state that your conclusion was not correct. Had I not questioned the cover I would have okayed it. I think that under the circumstances the cover should be sold "as is." I cannot condemn it as a fake nor can I okay it as a genuine 30¢ 1861 S.M. cover. I really don't know how I could add anything further.

Re - your query about S.M. markings. I suggest that you read an article that I published some years ago in the "STAMP SPECIALIST." No doubt you have a file. It is the most exhaustive article that has ever been published on the subject. I have little doubt that there are numerous counterfeit Type A markings in collections. Some I have no trouble in detecting. I thought you were familiar with the above article. Perhaps after you have read it you will have a better appreciation of the 30¢ 1861 cover. However, bear in mind that the article is way out of date and I have added a lot to my record since it was written.

Re - the Mobile stampless which I return herewith. This is what I call a "recorded letter." See my One Cent Book, Vol. 2, page 350-351, etc. You will note illustrations of similar covers from the same "Bell" correspondence. Note the instruction in upper left - "record." In other words, an instruction to the Mobile P.O. to "record" or make a record of the mailing of this letter. This was done in a "Record" book and given No. 522 - and by the postal clerk "Registered." (no fee). This was March 16, 1855. The Registration Act went in effect July 1, 1855. The fee was 5¢ payable in cash.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sincerely yours,

A.P.S.

S.P.A.

C.S.A.

B.N.A.P.S.

A.S.D.A.

C.C.N.Y.

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

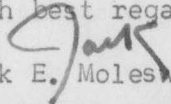
January 7, 1955

Dear Stan,

Many thanks for your letter of January 2nd. I appreciate your additional comments on the 30¢ 1861 cover, and am glad to be corrected that my conclusion was not correct in assuming that your opinion of the cover was not based on any observations of it having been tampered with. Yes, I had already read your article in the "Stamps Specialist" before sending this cover along, though possibly I did not read it as carefully as I might have.

I thank you for your comments on the "registered" cover. Please advise if there is any fee on this and I shall be glad to remit.

With best regards,


Jack E. Molesworth

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

JACK E. MOLESWORTH

102 Beacon
BOSTON 16, MASS.



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

VIA AIR MAIL

Sunday night,

Dec. 19th, 1954.

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

Dear Em:

As per our phone conversation tonight I am enclosing the following lots of the H. R. Harmer London Sale of Dec. 6th, as follows:

40, 57, 71, 90, 156, 273, and 276

Re - the above:

40 - No reason to question this.

57 - There is a pin point on the chin but I do not think it is a pin hole - You can examine this but I don't think the "thing" is a damage.

71 - Okay

90 - Looks okay but I did not put in tetro

156 - Okay - 5¢ good color but I did not see this in daylight - may be better than red brown.

273 - This rate was \$2.40 - hence 4 x 24¢ missing

276 - Both are okay.

I put pencil memos on each cover to photo - remove them if you wish.

I am returning cover #63 to Ezra because, in my opinion, these stamps were not used originally on this cover. I am enclosing copy of a letter I sent Ezra to accompany this cover.

With regards -

Yours etc.,

Copy to Ezra Cole.

Sunday night
Dec. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

Your air registered special arrived at 5 P.M. and an hour later, Em got me on the phone. I explained to him that I certainly would not okay lot 63 as I was positive this cover is a fake. He instructed me to return it to you, and this I am doing with a special letter which you can show the Harmer firm if you wish.

I informed Em that the 10¢ '47 on the "Steam Boat" cover had a mark on the chin which I suspected at the time I talked to him might be a pin point. Later examination indicated it was something on the surface so I am sending the cover to Em and he can decide whether he would be justified in refusing it.

Re - your cover #66 which I return. This item appears genuine but if this letter went by a British packet in August 1848 I really do not know why the sender put 35¢ on his letter. All that was required was 5¢ if the letter originated within 300 miles of New York. This letter is even routed "Per British Steamer America" from "New York 16 Aug 48". The "America" was a Cunard British mail ship. I don't know why the sender put 35¢ on this letter. Had it been sent by "American Pkt" and over 300 miles from New York the rate would have been 34¢, i.e., 10¢ U.S. domestic - over 300 miles plus 24¢ by "Amer. Pkt."

I don't suppose anyone would put a strip of 10¢ on a cover like this and then crease two of the stamps so I suppose the strip and single was used as we see them but the question arises - Why did the sender put 35¢ on this letter when 5¢ or 10¢ (according to distance) would have been sufficient. Further to be in the retaliatory rate class the letter would have to have gone by American Packet. Perhaps it did and that is why an extra strip of 10¢ was added. No doubt that is the answer.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

COPY

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

Dec. 19, 1954.

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

Dear Ezra:

I am returning herewith Lot 63 from the London
Sale of H. F. Harmer, Ltd., of Dec. 6, 1954.

In my opinion this cover is not genuine, that
is, the stamps on this cover were not used originally
as we see them. Neither stamp is tied to the cover but
the important point is that the 5¢ stamp is from a
printing that was much too late to have been used as
early as May 22, 1848. It is from what is known as a
"worn plate" but the condition was actually "dirty plate"
rather than worn. A stamp of this color and impression
could not have been used, in my opinion, as early as
May 1848. For that reason I do not believe that this
stamp was used on this cover.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

Re Lot
66 In
LONDON
Sale

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 22nd, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

Your letter of the 19th with the two lots plus letters to Harmer and Krug. I will return lot 63 to Harmer.

With reference to Lot 66. I did not necessarily want this return to me and you state in your letter now "this item appears genuine." In view of its condition I do not see how it could be anything else, and you wrote me in your letter of November 19th "Lot 66" might be picked up cheap as it is in the same class as 65. Even if damaged it should be worth a couple of hundred dollars."

Of course I do not know why anybody put stamps on. I think it came from the same correspondence as Lot 65. At any rate we may have to bury it for a while for if Bacher sends the other cover over they may belong together. This cover actually cost, with commissions and everything, \$132.00.

I cannot send it back unless it is a fake and of course the same remarks apply to Lot 57, which you sent to Em.

Sincerely,

Ezra D. Cole.

EDC:mk1

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

Dec. 28, 1954.

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

Dear Ez:

Please refer to your letter of the 22nd in reference to the lots in the Dunham sale.

Lot 66 - I did state in my letter of Nov. 19th that Lot 66 was in the same class as Lot 65. I suppose I should have stated that "in all probability - because of the same rate - Lot 66 is in the same class as 65." Bear in mind that I had never seen either cover. When I saw Lot 66 I realized it was a bit different from Lot 65 because of the routing in the upper left hand corner, "Per British Steamer" etc. Had this been sent by a "Br Pkt" the only U.S. rate required would have been the U. S. domestic. You stated - "In view of its condition I hardly see how it could be anything else," (but genuine). I agree 100% to that conclusion, and that is the sole reason why I okayed it. It is not from the same correspondence as Lot 65 and not to the same address in Scotland. I believe that the explanation is that this was originally intended to be sent by a Cunard mail steamer but was sent by an American Packet - thus requiring an additional 24¢. I explained this in a letter.

Regards.

Yours etc.,

R.S.—Was there any evidence of the origin on Lot 66? Evidently I forgot to make a memo of same.

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 24th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I agree with your opinion on that cover,
Lot 63, the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 cover. I think
you are perfectly right in that that 5¢ stamp
was probably an added starter. I am not sure
that the 10¢ was always on there either.

Because there are so many complications
I had to submit it to the Philatelic Foundation.
On my application blank I carefully stated that
you had examined it and considered it not genuine.

The reason I did this is not because Harmer
doubts your opinion, or I did. It is because I am
doing business with H. R. Harmer, Ltd. in London.
and they in turn are doing business with a vendor
or owner. Therefore besides your letter they will
have to show the owner something that he may know
a little about, in this case a Foundation certificate.

I did this on the advice of Bernard because
he thought it would help things in London, and it is
going to cost me some more money, but as I may want
to buy some stamps in the Waterhouse sale, I want to
do things like they want me to do. them.

Sincerely,

EDC:mk1

Ezra D. Cole.

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

12/30/54

Dear Stan:

I have written an article on the 3¢ rate for printed
circulars Mar. 3 to 1847 to July 1, 1851. There is one marking
on which I need your help. On page 126 of Vol. II, Figure 442
tracing (F) from New York. Was this applied by
the New York office or was it a private handstamp?



In my collection I have two examples [1] Apr. 3, 1849 and
[2] Aug. 12, 1851 (one in the 3¢ period and the other in the 1¢ period)
^{the circulars}
They are ~~from~~ ^{for} different concerns. Both are in black and the
New York marking is in red. I recall seeing a third example in
an auction but made no notes on it. I have only seen this
handstamp used from N. Y. which suggests P.O. use. What is
your opinion?

all good wishes for the New Year.

Arthur

Jan. 2, 1955.

Dr. Arthur R. Davis,
76 Brooks St.,
West Medford, Mass.

Dear Arthur:

Yours of the 30th received.

Regarding the marking mentioned. I don't know whether this was privately applied or was handstamped on paid circular mail at the New York Post Office. I have never noted it used elsewhere. At one time I thought it was privately applied to show that the mailing firm had paid the postage. You will recall that there was much complaint in the early fifties about business firms sending out printed matter unpaid.

I have a memo in my files that Richey had three circulars with this marking - all were from different business firms. Dates of use ranged from 1849 to 1854 inclusive. This could(?) mean it was a stock stamper sold to business firms, hence not a N.Y. P.O. You will find a tracing of the marking in my One Cent Book, Vol.2, page 126 (this for my record).

If this was applied at the New York P.O. why is it scarce? Thousands and thousands of circulars went thru the New York P.O. between 1849 and 1854. Why do we find so few with this marking? After July 1, 1851, the New York postmark for circular mail read, "Paid 1 Cent." (red) - Then why this extra stamping in black, if this was applied at the New York Post Office?

With best wishes for the New Year -

Cordially yours,

HENRY K. JARRETT
135-44 - 77TH AVENUE
KEW GARDENS HILLS 67, N. Y.

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

Dear Mr. Ashbrook:

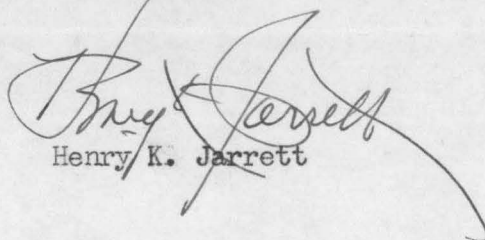
Enclosed herewith are three copies of the 5¢ New York on BLUE PAPER, one of which is on cover. One of these was from the Sir Nicholas Waterhouse collection, one from the late Eugene Klein and one from Nassau Stamp Company, all purchased years ago as authentic BLUE PAPER variety as listed in Scott's.

During the past 25 years I have had more than one thousand New Yorks and have made a very thorough study of them in all the phases of research a philatelist could make, including inkings, papers, impressions, platings, etc. The enclosed are not the customary bluish paper, being both thicker and of a different weave plus a difference in color. I have several varieties, such as on hard yellowish paper and very soft yellow woven paper, which are unlisted and are very scarce in the opinion of specialists, but then one is almost sure to acquire such oddities from more than one thousand examples.

The three enclosed have been questioned by sources of supposed experts altho they are not specialists in this field, much the less of this 5¢ New York. Accordingly, I am enclosing them for your observation and opinion, to be returned to me at your convenience in the enclosed addressed envelope and also your advices as to the charges for your opinion, the which I will remit by return mail.

With every best wish for a Happy Christmas and 1955.

Very truly yours,


Henry K. Jarrett

VIA AIR MAIL



Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook

P. O. Box 31

33 North Ft. Thomas Avenue

Ft. Thomas, Kentucky



HENRY K. JARRETT
135-44 - 77TH AVENUE
KEW GARDENS HILLS 67, N. Y.



Dec. 27, 1954.

Mr. Henry K. Jarrett,
135-44 - 77th Ave.,
Kew Gardens Hills 67, New York

Dear Mr. Jarrett:

I am in receipt of your undated letter postmarked Flushing, N.Y. Dec. 22nd, 1954 (374014) enclosing two off cover singles of the 5¢ New York and a cover with a single. I note that it is your opinion that all three stamps are the variety on BLUE PAPER S.U.S. 9X1 (A). I am quite sure that you are well aware of the fact that the 5¢ New York on the real blue paper is quite a rare stamp, in fact, much rarer in all probability than the value indicates in the S.U.S. Because of that fact, I think that if you believe that these three stamps are 9X1(A) you should have each one authenticated by the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City. I am therefore returning them herewith.

I thank you for your kindness in sending them to me.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 27, 1954.

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

Attention: Mrs. Louise Dale

My dear Mrs. Dale:

I am enclosing copy of a letter that I have written Henry K. Jarrett which is self-explanatory. It is possible that he may take my advice. If he does, it may interest the Committee to know that none of the three copies that he submitted to me are the rare blue paper.

Sincerely yours,

EZRA D. COLE

Rare Postage Stamps

NYACK . NEW YORK

Commissions . Appraisals

TELEPHONE NYACK 7-0964

December 29th, 1954

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

Dear Stan:

I am sending back the copy of Jarrett's letter. I don't know whether you want this back or not but just to be safe I am sending it to you.

With reference to "my friend". This is the same Jarrett with the phoney 12¢ Geneva cover and some more phoney post-masters Provisionals. I can fill you in on a little detail. I am quite sure he has already submitted these 5¢ New Yorks to the Foundation and that they were turned down. As you well know, this stamp which as you said in your letter to Jarrett is a very rare one, people have alleged blue paper 5¢ New Yorks in their collections and they think they are the right thing but they are not. Quite a number of them come on the "bluish paper" but it is not the "BLUE PAPER". Actually this Blue paper is very thick. Of course if you have nothing to go by or have not seen the stamp, it is hard to tell, but besides the color it is so thick that once having seen it I think most people would be able to identify it.

Back to Jarrett again. The less you have to do with this fellow the better. Me too. Above all else don't forget that this fellow is smart and a slick operator.

O. K. on the Kelleher, Paige and Fox prices etc.

Lot 105 was \$3.80 in the Kelleher sale.

Re the Waterhouse sale. I am going to see Harmer today. The news has leaked out all over. I will see if he has any more dope. I think we probably know enough about it for now.

Re: ~~66~~ in the Dunham sale. I submitted this to the Philatelic Foundation not because I had any doubts at all about your opinion. I did it because the vendor (owner) may want something when Harmer in London returns it to him so that possibly he can get his money back from his source. I will keep you posted as to what the P. F. says.

Re Lot 66. I will keep you posted on this.

Sincerely,



Ezra D. Cole.

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

COPY

Dec. 27, 1954.

Mr. Henry K. Jarrett,
135-44 - 77th Ave.,
Kew Gardens Hills 67, New York

Dear Mr. Jarrett:

I am in receipt of your undated letter postmarked Flushing, N.Y. Dec. 22nd, 1954 (374014) enclosing two off cover singles of the 5¢ New York and a cover with a single. I note that it is your opinion that all three stamps are the variety on BLUE PAPER S.U.S. 9X1 (A). I am quite sure that you are well aware of the fact that the 5¢ New York on the real blue paper is quite a rare stamp, in fact, much rarer in all probability than the value indicates in the S.U.S. Because of that fact, I think that if you believe that these three stamps are 9X1(A) you should have each one authenticated by the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Foundation, New York City. I am therefore returning them herewith.

I thank you for your kindness in sending them to me.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK

RAYMOND H. WEILL Co.
ROGER G. WEILL-RAYMOND H. WEILL

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

Philatelic Dealers

407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

December 21, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

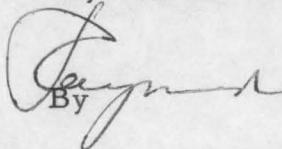
Dear Stan:

I bought the enclosed 30¢ 1869 cover in Paris a couple of weeks ago and considering the low cost, it should not be good. At any rate it was worth the price just for reference material. Please let us know what you think of it. When returning, be sure to include bill for expertizing.

Roger joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Ashbrook the merriest of Christmases and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.

By 

Lomet Sale

12/19 - 1951

Loh 433

SB 22 - p. 46
rhw:fc
enc.

See Photo B122

Dec. 27, 1954.

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

Dear Raymond:

Herewith the cover as per yours of the 21st. I regret to state that the cover is a fake, that is, this stamp was not used originally on this envelope. I am sure you can appreciate that fact when I state that this envelope was used in 1854 or perhaps earlier.

This cover came up in a sale by M. Jamet, in Paris on Dec. 19, 1951. It was Lot 433, and as I recall, it was illustrated. It was purchased by Jack Molesworth for 37660 francs - approximately \$108.00 at that time. Molesworth refused to pay for it unless I okayed it so in February 1952 Jamet sent it to me. I photographed it at that time (print herewith) and assured Jamet it was a fake. The year dates in all the French postmarks have been altered, something that is quite obvious. All of the markings on this cover are absurd for 1869 or 1870. For example, just about as absurd as finding a cover used in 1868 with a 2¢ Columbian.

My fee for the above including photo print is \$3.50.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in wishing Roger and you A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

PAID

JAN - 3 1955

34-59

TELEPHONE
RAYMOND 0022

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

Philatelic Dealers

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

407 ROYAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS 16, LA.

December 31, 1954

Stanley B. Ashbrook
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

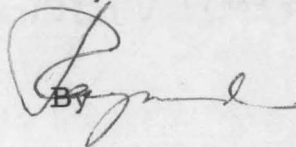
Thanks very much for the opinion on the 30¢ 1869 cover. As previously mentioned, there was little at stake so we are not disappointed. The item cost \$14.00 which is what the stamp is worth off cover.

Have you done much work separating stuck mint stamps ? Several of the dollar value blocks in the Columbian lot we recently acquired in London are stuck together. Included is a block of fourteen of the \$5 value which is stuck to a large block of the \$2. Do you think it would be possible to separate this material without serious alteration to the gum or splitting apart of the perforations? We realize this is a delicate task and unless one had considerable experience with it, it would not be easy to predict the outcome.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year to Mrs. Ashbrook and yourself from Roger and myself.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond H. Weill Co.


By

rhw:lc
enc.

ROBERT A. SIEGEL

POSTAGE STAMPS

AUCTIONS

APPRAISALS

WANT LISTS

TELEPHONES

MURRAY HILL 2-4309
WHITE PLAINS 9-5837

505 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

December 20th, 1954.

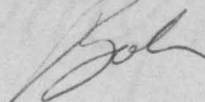
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
83 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue,
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing a cancellation that I question, and would like your opinion on same. Kindly enclose your invoice for services rendered.

Best wishes for the holiday season

Yours very truly,



ROBERT A. SIEGEL

RAS mcg



4



Dec. 28th

Dear Stan:

This will acknowledge
receipt of 1st 1857 with

"Louisville & Cin. S. B." cancel.

Will be interested in hearing

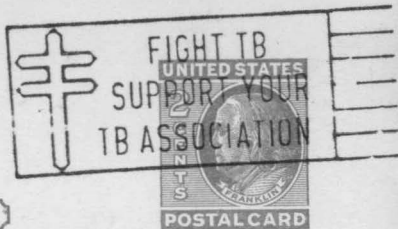
your opinion on this.

ROBERT A. SIEGEL

506 FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK CITY

Kindest regards
Bob



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

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

Dec. 23, 1954.

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

Dear Bob:

Herewith the 1¢ 1857 - Type IV with the red "Louisville & Cin. S.B." of "Nov 18" (21 M). This surely looks too good to be true but I will give you my opinion later, after I have located some data that I have on this and which I have been unable to locate. I made a color transparency of it, also a photo by ultra-violet so I have a good record. I have a recollection that I have seen a fake cover with this marking but cannot locate the print or reference. I will report later.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in best wishes to Mrs. S. and you for a very Happy Holiday Season.

Cordially yours,

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

HENRY A. MEYER
516 READ STREET
EVANSVILLE 11, INDIANA

MY ZONE NUMBER HAS BEEN CHANGED TO

10

PLEASE USE THIS NUMBER HEREAFTER.

You did.

Dear Stan:

I think this must be the mark you refer to, but it is 26 mm., not 21 mm. I have seen it in black also. I have no reason to think it is ~~fraudulent~~ fraudulent, as it is exactly the type in use by route agents (boat and rail) all over the country at that time. I will be writing again in a day or two.

Henry

Dec. 23, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

I have a faint recollection that you showed me a cover with a rather small circular marking reading,

"LOUISVILLE & CIN

Date
S.B."

measuring 21 MM. Am I correct? If you have a photo of such a cover or any record will you please send it to me by return mail, special delivery - stamped envelope enclosed.

I hate to bother you at this time but will appreciate anything that you have on this marking. I can't remember if we had some correspondence on it. Can you? Did you send me a photo of a cover with it with a memo on the back? Did we not think it was fraudulent? I am very hazy about it.

WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Jan. 8, 1955.

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

Dear Bob:

Yours with return of the S.B. cover received.

I made a photo of your 1¢ '57 by ultra-violet but due to the holidays I have not had time to make a print. The negative seems to indicate the stamp had been cleaned. However, I will send you a print later and you can judge for yourself. I hate to condemn any item unless I have some basis. Also I hate the thought of okaying some product of a Zareski or Sperati. The Continental crooks are extremely clever and of course they know all about a "lamp" so the best of them work under a lamp so as to leave no trace.

Naturally no fool would put a fake cancel on a 1¢ 1857 Type IV that was actually unused but perhaps they would not hesitate to do so on a cleaned and repaired copy, though one would think they would slap on some mucilage on the back.

I have no idea how the crooks remove cancels and leave no trace on certain stamps with delicate colors. Consider the 5¢ '61 Buff. How the devil do you suppose they remove a cancel - pen and handstamped from such a color? I only wish I knew. The gentry who do such work must think that the fellows who collect 19th U. S. "mint" are really saps.

With regards -

Cordially yours,

Jan. 8, 1955.

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

Dear Henry:

Herewith I am returning your cover with the
"Louisville & Cin S.B." marking. Later I will send
you photo prints of the item I am sure is a fake.

Re - your cover. I have no previous record
of this marking, but I have not been very careful in
recording such markings in the sixties or later. Is
it your opinion this marking is scarce? Should I
send a photo to Delores Hertz and inquire if she has
any previous record of it? Klein did not record this
in his book or supplement.

Here is a post card - just jot down receipt of
this and a word regarding scarcity.

With best wishes - and thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 27, 1954.

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

Dear Bob:

I borrowed a cover with what I consider a genuine strike of the "Louisville & Cin S.B." marking, and though I have no actual proof I am of the opinion that the strike on your 1¢ 1957 - Type IV stamp is a fake. I note the genuine is 26 MM whereas the one on your stamp is 21 MM.

Incidentally I believe covers such as the one enclosed are quite rare. I may have seen a cover such as the enclosed but if so I have no recollection or record.

Kindly return the enclosed at your convenience.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

RETURNED BY

RETURNED BY

RETURNED BY

Dec. 27, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

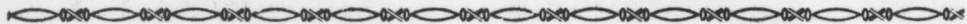
Thanks so much for the loan of the cover.
I am taking the liberty of sending this to my
friend for a look. The copy submitted to me and
which I think is a fake is 21 MM - therefore smaller
than the strike on your cover which is genuine in
my opinion.

I will send you a photo of the fake and
return your cover later.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Siegel : 505 Fifth Avenue : New York 17, N. Y.



Dec 29th

Dear Stan:

Thanks for submitting the cover for comparison. The size is certainly different than on my 1c 1857 stamp any makes it seem to be highly questionable. The thing I couldn't understand is why would a faker use a type IV with double transfer that would probably be worth more unused.

Wouldn't it be possible that there could
be more than one size on this? I
wasn't too impressed with the
red ink and a strike like this
certainly makes one question it.

Have been tied up on jury
duty and had to delay my
mail.

Kindest regards,
Bob

Jan. 10, 1955.

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

Dear Henry:

Here is a slide of the 1¢ 1857 Type IV with what I believe is a fake strike reading, "Louisville & Cin. S.B. Nov. 18." I suppose the faker cleaned the cancel from a 1¢ '57 Type IV but instead of putting on a fake cancel I wonder why he didn't put some "gum" on the back and make a mint copy.

Accept this slide with my compliments.

Sincerely yours,

Dec. 21, 1954.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
17th & Sansom Sts.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Phil:

I have yours of the 14th.

Re - the proposed Franklin Annual Award. Keep me advised and in case any suggestion occurs to me I will advise you. This reminds me - You know I was awarded the Crawford in 1938. It has always been described as a very heavy gold medal. Well it isn't gold at all but antique silver, gold plated. Maybe they give gold to British recipients but to damn fool American - silver, gold plated.

Re - the Confed Reprints. Did you read the Linn editorial in "Linn's" of Dec. 20? If not look it up.

Re - the 5¢ New York sheet of nine. As far as I can recall, only two are known. One is in the Miller collection at the N.Y. Public Library and the other is owned by a client (unknown to me) of John Fox. Some months ago, John borrowed this sheet for me and I made a good photograph of it. I have heard there was a third sheet but this I doubt. The following is strictly confidential, so please do not mention it.

The Waterhouse collection will be sold by H. R. Harmer in London on June 27-28. This time it will include everything in U. S. that he owns.

You have a cover with a 90¢ National used in 1873. I would like to give this a write-up in my Service and illustrate it. Would you loan me the cover for that purpose?

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Yours etc.,

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.
ARCHITECTS BUILDING
17TH AND SANSOM STREETS
PHILADELPHIA 3

December 27, 1954

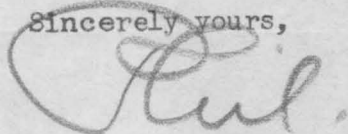
Mr. Stanley B. Ashbrook
33 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Dear Stan:

I am enclosing herewith the cover with the 90¢ National as well as a block of four of the 15b Venezuela, one with the frame inverted. This is a very rare piece and is the only block known in any condition. I have a client abroad interested and want to send him a good photograph. You make the best that I have seen and I would thank you to let me have a couple prints.

Tell me what they cost and I will promptly send you a check. I enclose return postage and registration and you can hold both items until they have been photographed, so you can return them at one time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil.", written over a circular scribble.

PHILIP H. WARD, JR.

enc.

Dec. 29, 1954.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
17th & Sanson Sts.,
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Your registered letter of the 27th received today with enclosures as stated. I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have today written to Jere Barr regarding the 90¢ Bank Note cover, and I would like very much to have your comment on the contents of same.

I will be glad to make the photograph as requested.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Dec. 30, 1954.

Mr. Philip H. Ward, Jr.,
Architects Bldg.,
17th & Sansom Sts.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Phil:

Herewith the 90¢ Bank Note cover and the Venezuela block. I made photographs of both, but as yet I have not developed the plates to see if I obtained proper results. I generally do this before returning items - just to be sure. In this case I am making an exception because we are leaving at noon for Central Kentucky and I want to return these items to you without delay. I did not get a chance to do the photographing until this morning.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

REGISTERED

Dec. 29, 1954.

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

Dear Jere:

In your letter dated December 14th last, you stated that Phil Ward, quote: "Has a magnificent cover with a 90¢ - 24¢ and three 10¢ Nationals, from Galveston, Texas in June 1873." (unquote). Inasmuch as I did not have a photograph of this cover I wrote to Phil and requested him to loan it to me, and he was kind enough to do so. This cover was in the Emerson sale by Kelleher on Oct. 19, 1937 and was Lot 252. It was described as a 90¢ and 24¢ National and three 10¢ Continentals. (You will note you stated the 10¢'s were nationals.)

The cover was acquired by Wm. West and in his sale of April 26-30, 1943, this cover was lot 1613, but the 10¢ and 90¢ were described as Continental prints (161 and 166). The 24¢ as 153, National. I worked with Phil on the West sale and it appears that both of us concluded the 90¢ stamp was a Continental rather than a National.

In the Ward column in Makeel's - Issue of Jan. 9, 1953, Phil mentioned this "Emerson cover" but he stated that the 90¢ was a Continental. This was a large wrapper, a court house cover, a legal deposition. On the face is a pencil "1873" but the use was not 1873 but rather June 1875. One of the notations on this piece of a wrapper is "Received from the Post Office, Galveston, Texas June 30, 1875

C. Dart Clerk"

There is another memo which reads "We agree that these depositions may now be opened by the clerk - May 20/76"

To be quite frank, I do not know if the 90¢ stamp on this wrapper is a National or a Continental print, but if it is the latter I think it is a mistake to refer to it as a National. It is in a dark carmine shade and I suppose if I saw this stamp off the cover I would call it a National, but I wonder how much dependence can be placed in the shade of a 90¢ when assigning a stamp to 155 or 166. I don't suppose I should express this opinion as I am certainly no authority of any sort on the Bank Note issues. I suppose that a 90¢ National on cover is probably more rare than a 90¢ Continental but either one is so very scarce that I doubt if it makes very much difference.

There is a pencil memo by Emerson "Mozian \$100.00." The cover sold in the Emerson sale @ \$26.00 and in the West sale @ \$27.50.

In the Brookman book, Vol. 2 - the author illustrated a cover with a 90¢ and 12¢ National used from Cincinnati. As I recall, the use was October 1873. I sold this cover to Mr. Saul Newbury for \$200.00. It came from the Richey collection. This cover was a "court house" as I recall, and was from an original find. Collectors don't seem to have the slightest idea how very rare is a cover with a 90¢ Bank Note used before, say - 1877.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Phil Ward.

WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Dec. 28, 1954.

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

Dear Les:

Here is a copy of a letter I have written
Jere Barr with copy to Phil Ward. Knowing your
interest in the 90¢ Bank Note covers, I thought this
letter would be of interest to you.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,



L. G. BROOKMAN

STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS

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

121 LOEB ARCADE . . . MINNEAPOLIS 3, MINNESOTA

Jan. 3, 1955

Dear Stan:

Regarding the 90¢ Bank Notes, I doubt if the good Lord and the 12 Apostles would agree on the colors and antecedents of a mixture of ten copies!

Some copies are of course easy to tell as to origin but others run from tough to impossible in my book. I like to have a grilled copy for comparison purposes. The Continentals seem to have a little more "life" to them than the Nationals and of course some of them are in a distinct shade but I for one never would be so foolish as to claim that I could separate all of the 90¢ copies that come along without ever making an error. When you find an "expert" that claims he can tell ALL of them apart his opinions should be examined carefully.

I've been as busy as the very devil. Stamp business has picked up a lot. I've also finally finished redecorating after the fire and for the first time in a long time the place looks pretty good. I have the whole space to myself--got rid of the gift stuff--and now I have the room I have long needed.

Now MUCH to do so I'll get at it.

Sincere regards,

Jan 1 1955
Service Issue

Page #364

originally a Type II stamp from the bottom row of Plate 2, which some philatelic painter tried to convert into a Type I by painting in the full Type I ornaments at the bottom. This is a greatly enlarged photograph, but it demonstrates the class of work that can be turned out by crooks who prey on the collecting public by devoting their talents to such swindles. Just imagine a person being able to imitate to such a clever degree the fine engraved lines with a paint brush, or whatever kind of instrument that they employ.

This pair is on a piece of cover canceled Richmond, Va., May 15, with the year use probably 1856 or possibly 1857. The item has been branded as a fake and taken out of circulation.

This paint job was done by a person who is very clever with his hands and eyes but we have another class of philatelic crook who is very clever with his tongue. This is the slick talker who sells some fake item with the statement that it had been okayed by this or that recognized authority. Ever so often I have an item submitted to me with the statement that the buyer had been assured I had passed upon it as genuine, though I never saw the thing before. Some of these fast talking crooks make a business of traveling around the country and looking up prominent collectors, and introducing themselves as a close friend of several well-known philatelists. Within the past year one of these chaps paid a visit to a well-known collector in a southern city and gave the usual falsehood about being a very close friend of a number of prominent members of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. His story was evidently quite convincing and the local collector was pleased to have a visitor with whom he could talk stamps and covers. He gave up an evening to his guest and showed him parts of his valuable collection. The next day he found a number of his finest covers were missing, the value running into a considerable sum.

Kindly refer to Photograph No. 165 in the August 1954 Issue of this Service. This is a photograph of a very rare Pony Express cover that was franked as "Free" by a U. S. Senator. This is one of the gems that was missing the day after the charming guest had departed.

HOUSATONIC RAILROAD

Photograph #188 illustrates a very beautiful 5¢ 1847 Railroad cover from the Paul Rohloff collection. This is a white envelope with the markings in a bright vermillion. There is no indication of origin or of the year of use, but from the shade and impression of the stamp, I would fix the use as sometime in late 1849 or early 1850. This railroad ran north from Bridgeport, Conn. to Pittsfield, Mass., a distance of 110 miles. The cover is addressed to Hartford, Conn., which was located on a different railroad. The letter was mailed direct to the Route Agent on this particular Mail Route.

THE 90¢ 1870 & 1873 ON COVER

Two years ago, in the Service Issue of January 1st, 1953, Issue No. 22,

pages 151 and 152, I discussed the 90¢ stamps of the eighteen seventies of the several different bank note engraving firms and commented upon the scarcity of covers with the 90¢ value of any of the three bank note companies, viz: National, Continental and American.

Whenever an important auction sale is scheduled I generally glance at the National and Continental issues to see if by any chance a cover with a 90¢ stamp is to be offered. A very fine collection may have this or that rare item, but there is one thing that is always missing, viz - a cover with a 90¢ National or a 90¢ Continental. Likewise we never find a cover offered with the 90¢ 1869.

With the expiration of the original U.S.-British postal treaty on Dec. 31, 1867, a marked reduction occurred in the rate of postages to foreign countries, followed by further reductions in 1869 and 1870. Here we have the principal reason why covers with the 90¢ grill of 1867 and the 90¢ 1869 are non-existent in the finest of specialized collections. I have no record whatsoever of a cover with a 90¢ 1870 grill and have little hope that I will ever be able to record such an item.

THE S. U. S. #155 & #166

#155
&
#166
90¢.

In the 1954 "S. U. S." the 90¢ 1870 National without grill is listed as #155 Carmine and Dark Carmine. The 1873 Continental is listed as #166 Rose Carmine and Pale Rose Carmine. The quotations are as follows:

#155	-	\$72.50	-	\$14.00	-	cover	\$90.00
#166	-	52.50	-	15.00	-	"	90.00

It is well to remember that both the #155 and #166 were printed from the same steel plate of 200 subjects, both were printed on a hard paper, the grades of which are practically identical, and that #166 contains no secret mark to identify it from #155. Therefore, to distinguish the difference between a National 90¢ and a Continental 90¢ one has to depend on the color alone, unless, of course, one has a genuine cover with a 90¢ with a use before the Continental was issued. Or in lieu of same, some other positive source of identification. I am not quite sure that a stamp off cover could be positively identified by color if laid side-by-side with a known copy of the National or Continental. I have little doubt that this statement would be emphatically repudiated by students who have spent years in the study of the Bank Note Issues.

Further, I hold much the same opinion regarding the two 30¢ stamps of National and Continental and because of the unstable color of the 24¢ purple I believe it is impossible to identify copies by color alone. And this in spite of all that has been written in the past and present by very competent students.

In the reference collection of Philip H. Ward, Jr. is a complete set of National prints in blocks of four which are in an original envelope with a circular distributed by the Post Office Department in 1870. These were discovered years ago by The Scott Company and were acquired by Mr. Ward. For reference purposes the blocks of the three high values, 24¢

30¢ and 90¢, are invaluable, but the question arises - Was every 24¢ stamp printed in the same color as the Ward block? Was every 30¢ printed in the same color as the Ward block and could it be possible that every sheet of the 90¢ printed by the National Company was in the same color as the Ward block?

I believe that some students claim that the 90¢ Continentals can be identified if they are in what is classed as a "Yellowish Carmine." I wonder? Perhaps the yellowish tint may be due to age or exposure, etc.

We started off this discussion on the subject of the scarcity and desirability of any cover with a 90¢ National or Continental and we find we got somewhat side-tracked on the subject of positive identification of the three high values of the two bank note company's products.

90¢ BANK NOTE COVER

VALUE?

#155 And

The "S. U. S." for 1954 quotes both the #166 "on cover" @ \$90.00. No quotation was given in previous editions. I really do not know where such a figure was obtained, but I feel confident it is quite misleading. In my opinion any sort of a cover, large or small, wrapper, court house, etc., etc., showing a 90¢, either #155 or #166 genuinely used is worth far in excess of \$90.00.

Photograph #189 illustrates a "Court House" cover with a 90¢ - 24¢ and three 10¢. The three 10¢ show the secret mark, hence are Continental prints. What about the 90¢ and what about the 24¢? Are they National or Continental? This was a heavy piece of mail showing \$1.44 in postage, or 4 x 3¢. (Note - The rate was 3¢ per half ounce). It was mailed from Brownsville, Texas in June 1875 to Galveston, Texas. A use in June 1875 might indicate that all the stamps are Continental prints, yet when this cover came up in the Judge Emerson sale by Kelleher on Oct. 19, 1937, the 24¢ and 90¢ were listed as National prints. It was Lot #252, and was acquired by Philip Ward, Jr. and later passed into the collection of Wm. West. When the West collection was sold by Ward in April 1943, this cover was Lot #1613 and the 24¢ and 90¢ stamps were listed as #153 - 24¢ National, and #166 - 90¢ Continental. The cover was sold at a ridiculous low price. Evidently everybody was looking out of the window. Perhaps the 90¢ stamp on this cover is a Continental but I wonder if any authority can state with any degree of assurance whether the 24¢ is a National or a Continental?

The S. U. S. does not list a 24¢ Continental "without grill," therefore, indicating that all 24¢ stamps in collections are Nationals and none are Continentals. In spite of this there are some very competent students who believe that the Continental Bank Note Company printed large(?) supplies of the 24¢ value and that many post offices thruout the country were furnished with them.

One might well ask the question - If Continental printed supplies of the

30¢ and 90¢, and these were distributed to post offices thruout the country, why should anyone question that similar supplies of the 24¢ were not also distributed and sold to the public? Why every other value by Continental and no 24¢ Continental?

The S. U. S. states under #164 (Continental), quote: "No. 164 is not known to exist without grill." It is my own personal opinion that there are just about as many 24¢ Continentals in collections thruout the country as 24¢ Nationals, but I know of no way in which 24¢ Continentals can be positively identified as such. This brings up the subject of listing the 24¢ Continental in the Scott Catalogue. No doubt such a stamp should be listed but the question arises, if it is listed, how would collectors be able to tell the difference between a National and Continental? The only guide that the S. U. S. gives the collector on the 30¢ and 90¢ is the shades. For example, the 30¢ National is listed as "Black" or "Full Black" and the 30¢ Continental as "Gray Black" and "Greenish Black." I wonder if all 30¢ Nationals come only in "Black" or "Full Black" and if no Continentals are found in such shades? In my opinion the same applies to classifying the 90¢ by color or shade.

A SUGGESTION FOR LISTING

Inasmuch as the three high values, the 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢, have no secret marks, and in my opinion, the majority of copies cannot be positively identified by color or shade, I suggest that the National and Continental prints, without grill be listed under one heading with a proper notation to the effect that these three values on hard paper cannot be positively identified by color alone. That would do away with guess-work and it would be an honest solution. If the advanced student wishes to classify his three high values as National and Continental there can be no objection, but in my opinion it would be much better to list these two printings as suggested above.

END OF ISSUE NO.46
(Fourth Series - 1954-1955)
January 1, 1955

Dec. 14, 1954.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT,
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edgar:

I have yours of the 10th with check for \$3.00 for the two slides enclosed in mine of the 8th (A19-19 and A19-36). Thanks very much.

Re - the Boston Express Mail cover. It was purchased in the sale by Molesworth. I failed to get hold of it before the sale. After the sale I wrote Molesworth and asked him if he could explain why he paid such a big price for the cover. He replied he bought it on order for a client who instructed him not to let it get away. I then asked Jack to borrow it so that I could photo it. You know the rest. I have no idea who owns it but it might be Philip Rust.

The 1¢ '51 Ocean Mail cover is nice and inasmuch as it is MAR 29, I sincerely hope you land it. Gordon wrote that it would be in a future sale. I will watch for it. I have no explanation as to why this has such an odd date as "Mar 29." According to my records there was no California sailing on March 29 in 1854 or 1855. I suppose later years should not be considered.

Re - cover "N C R R." I haven't made a print from the negative up to this time but I will send you a print. All the data that I have is the Wiltsee article in "STAMPS." As I recall, I thought he had the correct solution. I wrote Baker if he ever saw the Wiltsee article. No reply as yet. There were two of these covers. Do you know who owns the other one?

Colson Bulletin. Thanks for same. "Colson of Boston" sure gets around. Quite remarkable considering his age. He must surely be between 75 and 80.

"P.F. Member's Bulletin." These are not sent to me in spite of the fact I do a lot of free work for them. It seems to me that everything they do is wrong. If a bunch of 15 year old grade school kids were running that outfit it couldn't be any worse.

I have no recollection of ever seeing the 10¢ bisect cover but I have a description of an auction lot that seems to fit it. Perhaps half a dozen are known from New Haven to Birmingham, Conn.

Re - 7RLE cover. I have a record of this louse and have known it for years. I would not call this stamp a Type I but rather - "This was a Type I before the scissors cut at bottom destroyed the type." The last time I noted this cover offered was in a sale by Irwin Heiman on May 6-7-8, 1953, Lot 26. I return the Bulletin herewith.

Gerber 7RLE. I think this fellow is a crook. He don't send me any of

#2. Mr. Edgar B. Jessup - Dec. 14, 1954.

his catalogues. Be careful in having any dealings with him.

Regarding the stamp. The only record that I have of this copy is that it was illustrated in GOSSIP June 13, 1953 and advertised to come up in a sale by Herman Herst, Jr. on June 28, 1953. I have no record that I ever saw the copy much less signed it on the back. I will write Herst.

With best regards and HOLIDAY GREETINGS

As ever yours,

Dec. 24, 1954.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edgar:

Please note copy of letter herewith. Keep this confidential but I am very fearful that my suspicions have some basis of fact. I do not suspect this particular cover but I do want to check it. Examine carefully your copies of 6411 and if you note anything suspicious about any of them send them to me.

Believe me this faking business is a serious problem. If the crooks can make fakes as good as the genuine where do we go from there?

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Yours etc.,

P.S.—Referring to my letter of Dec. 14 - Herst replied that when the 7RLE was in his sale 6/28/53 - Lot 188, it is his recollection it was not signed. It was purchased by Sy Colby at \$340.00 (It must have been a crumb). I am writing Colby.

Dec. 24, 1954.

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

Pat -

Thanks very much for yours of the 21st.

I am writing Sy and I will keep you
advised.

Your "Outbursts" No. 67 was carefully
read. Thanks.

New Year Greetings

Cordially yours,



Greetings

December 21, 1954.

It is always interesting to see how you pedigree these stamps.

The 1c 1851 you mention was in my June 28th, 1953 sale. It was lot #148 and the description follows:

"

148.

O #5 1c Ty.I, 7RIE, Fine Sgl., Sheet Margin T., fine margins at sides touches at B., Extremely Rare, unusually fine. (Photo, Front Cover) \$1000.00."

I don't suppose it is any secret for me to tell you that the stamp was bought by Sylvester Colby, the price paid being \$340. Of course, I have no way of knowing where it has been all this time, but it is curious to see where it has finally turned up. If it was indeed "signed by Ashbrook", the submission to you must have taken place after I sold it, for the identification when I offered it was so clear that I didn't feel it needed expert verification.

I am glad to oblige and I would be very curious to know what you find out, probably through Mr. Colby. I don't have a vested nor a proprietary interest in the item but I do have a lot of curiosity.

Pat

Dec. 24, 1954.

Mr. Sylvester Colby,
505 Fifth Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Sy:

I will appreciate the favor if you will give me some information. In a sale by Herman Herst Jr. on June 28, 1953, Lot 148, was described as a 1¢ 1851, Type I - 7R1E. I believe you purchased the stamp for \$340.00. I believe that this same copy came up in a sale by Lambert Gerber recently and it was described as "signed by Ashbrook."

Herst did not mention that this copy was signed by me, and I have no record that I ever saw the stamp much less signed it on the back, however, I am mindful of the fact that I may have failed to record it at some early date.

I do not receive Gerber's auction catalogues - thank heavens, as I want no part of that fellow in any way, shape or form.

When you had the stamp do you recall whether or not it was signed on the back?

WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Jan. 2, 1955.

Mr. Sylvester Colby,
505 Fifth Ave.,
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Sy:

Thanks very much for yours of the 27th.

I got a bit tangled in my filing but your letter set me on the right track and I have the copy of my letter to you of May 22. I noted that I signed the copy as TRIE rather than as a Type I. Thanks.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

Jan. 2, 1955.

Mr. Edgar B. Jessup,
% MARCHANT
1475 Powell St.,
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Edgar:

Re - that 7RLE that was in a Gerber sale. I traced this copy down and found that it was sent to me last May by Sy Colby, and that I signed it as a 7RLE but not as a 1¢ 1851 - Type I. You see a stamp can be a 7RLE but not a Type I if scissors have destroyed the type. I had a full record of the copy in my files but failed to connect Gerber with Colby.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all the family.

As ever yours,

Dec. 24, 1954.

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

Dear Mr. Jamet:

Earlier this year you forwarded to me a cover with a vertical strip of the U.S. 10¢ 1857 Type IV plus a vertical strip of the U. S. 5¢ 1857 Brick Red, a 45¢ rate from New Orleans, La. to Nantes, France. I would like to see this cover once more and again make a careful examination of the 10¢ strip. The reason I make this request is because I am a bit suspicious that some extremely clever forger has been converting Types II and III 10¢ 1855-57 stamps into the Type IV by "painting" the recut lines. Until recently it never occurred to me that it would be possible for a crook to turn out such a job and deceive me. Recently, three or four copies of the double recut 64LL have turned up in auction sales in New York that have some suspicious features.

I am sure the owner of your cover would like to be absolutely certain that his strip is genuine, therefore, if you will again send the cover to me, I will compare each stamp side-by-side with specimens of 54 - 64 and 74 that I know to be genuine by their plate positions rather than by the type.

The counterfeiting and repair work turned out by some very clever crooks is becoming a very serious menace to philately and I wonder where it will eventually lead.

I have been a student of the U. S. 10¢ Plate #1 since 1918 - I was the first one to reconstruct the plate and the first one to discover the location on the plate of the eight recut positions. Had anyone intimated to me a year ago that any faker could take a Type III stamp and convert it into a Type IV I would have considered such a suggestion as absolutely absurd. Now I am not wholly convinced but I wonder? Therefore this rather unusual request.

With New Year Greetings

Cordially yours,

Dec. 24, 1954.

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

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I am sure the owner of your cover would like to be absolutely certain that his strip is genuine, therefore, if you will again send the cover to me, I will compare each stamp side-by-side with specimens of 54 - 64 and 74 that I know to be genuine by their plate positions rather than by the type.

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With New Year Greetings

Cordially yours,



C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

West Lake Buckeye Drive

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

December 2nd,
1954.

Dear Stanley:-

I realize this is an inopportune time to write but I want you to see this stamp and examine it very closely. It came in to me in a lot for purchase from a wholesaler and right away I gave it a bath in "Benzol" and noted the frame line all away around the stamp. I put

"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

I understand a scope and you see what I see? -
What is it - The conference this stamp with
several real beauties of #67 I have in stock
and the frame line appears to be painted on
in a color that severe doesn't match, yet is
close - maybe the nuts Stanley but this
looks like #57 with the ornaments added
but why? That would be a silly thing
for someone to pull. A \$600.00 stamp reduced
to a \$40.00 - Well anyway I just knew you'd
be interested and I get it off to you in haste
as I'm not buying it unless you think I
should so will hold up payment on
the entire lot until I hear from you on
this - it will be OK with the wholesaler



C. M. PHILLIPS, JR.

Stamps for Collectors

West Lake Buckeye Drive

WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

as I buy from him quite a bit of stuff always
send him his checks by return mail - We
never seen anything like this before - I
saw a beautiful mounted copy of the 12^d
that had been trimmed to fit and then mounted
and perforated, in St Petersburg during the
show. Give me your story on this
want you please -

With best personal regards to Mrs
Ashbrooks and say I beg to remain
"If You Want It and I Don't Have It, I'll Get It"

Cardinally yours, C. M. Phillips

Dec. 23, 1954.

Mr. C. M. Phillips, Jr.,
West Lake Buckeye Drive,
Winter Haven, Fla.

Dear Clare:

Herewith the fake that you enclosed in yours of the 20th. It is a "paint job" and must have been done by a blacksmith or a plumber. It is so lousy it is terrible and absolutely valueless. I don't know what the crook was trying to make but perhaps not a #57. Anyone - if a dealer - who would offer to sell a fake like this should be reported to the A.S.D.A. I don't know who he is but surely he is a thief and a stinker. If he is so dumb he don't know a fake paint job such as this then he should not be in the stamp business.

Clare, for Heaven's sake be careful - there never was a time when so much fake material is being sold to innocent buyers who take chances thinking they are getting bargains or a sleeper. Be very careful and avoid bargains.

Crooks are traveling around the country selling fake material or rbbing collectors. Be careful of any strangers who give you a long song and dance about what great friends they are of this one or that.

Note the enclosed.

The box of fruit arrived Monday and it was most welcome. Stan Jr. is home and my daughter flew in from California last night - so we are planning a big Christmas - and will enjoy your fruit.

Mrs. Ashbrook joins me in wishing Mrs. Phillips and you and the childred A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

Now remember - be careful.

Cordially yours,

**HOBBY
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Dec. 25, 1954

To Jos. A. Herbert, Jr., 515 E. Capitol St., Washington 3, D.C.
and Stanley B. Ashbrook, 33 N. Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, Ky.

Dear Joe and Stan:

Merry Christmas! I am determined to accomplish this little job before this week is over, because on Monday I am going to St. Louis for a few days to the winter meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and this must not wait until I return. Therefore I must do this on the holiday.

My customary typewriter has developed some mechanical trouble, which I hope to have repaired while I am away at the meeting. I use this second-choice typewriter for stamp pages when pica seems to suit the occasion better than elite, but I do not like it as well for correspondence. However, with the regular machine doing queer stunts, the use of this one becomes necessary.

Joe, I am returning your two covers with my diagnosis; but I would like to have Stan check my findings. I am therefore returning the covers to you via Stan, with a carbon copy of this letter enclosed with the covers for Stan to read and consider.

Stan, may I request that after you have checked what I have written, you send the covers on to Joe with a brief statement of your agreement or disagreement with my findings? And if not too much trouble, I would appreciate a carbon copy of what you write to Joe.

Joe, if I gave you the impression in St. Louis at the Congress that I have seen lots of covers with the rate mark "7," that was an exaggeration. What I meant to say was this: My records show that at various times, a good many post offices imposed an extra 2c steamboat charge on letters brought in by non-contract boats. This would, of course, make a rate of 7c or 12c during the 5c and 10c period. During earlier periods, it would make a rate of whatever the zone rate was plus 2c. There was, of course, always a 2c charge on ship letters; but on inland and coastwise steamboat letters, while many post offices did not make the extra charge, a good many did. But I have not myself seen very many 7c rate letters.

Now for my diagnosis of your two letters: I am very sorry to tell you that in my opinion, the marks "7" are fraudulent; that at least the Maine letter, and perhaps both letters, were carried by hand, by favor, out of the mails, and the "7's" have been applied by somebody who has had access to them between the time of their discovery and the present time.

When I make a statement like that, it is only fair that I give my reasons, I can do that, but I cannot do it briefly. I will have to extend my remarks to some length. Here we go:

1. The two letters are to the same man, George Washington Blethen, and are from members of the same family, named Carpenter. They refer to each other in their letters. One time, G. W. B. was at or near the family home up in Maine; the other time he was down at Woodville, Miss., and the Carpenter who wrote was in Bayou Sara (a town, not a bayou) La., working or looking for work. Undoubtedly, the two letters were discovered in the same attic, probably along with many others.

2. The Maine cover was certainly carried by hand. Note that it is directed to G. W. Blethen of Glenburn, Maine, care of somebody & Co. in Bangor. The post office people would not have known how to handle the letter, whether to send it to Glenburn or to ~~XX~~ Bangor; but the person who carried it had directions. The Carpenter family had the custom of sending their letters by hand; the writer of the Maine letter refers to that custom in the opening part of the letter. The Bayou Sara-Woodville letter may have been carried by hand, also; the absence of the Woodville town mark (which I will refer to soon) suggests that it was so carried.

3. If the rate "7" means anything, it means a steamboat or ship fee. There is no other way for a 7c rate to happen. A steamboat to Bangor makes sense. A steamboat to Woodville, strangely, also makes sense; although Woodville is some 15 miles from the Mississippi, I have evidence from other covers that they received their mail bags at a convenient landing, had them brought to Woodville post office, and processed them there as steam and/or as (steamboat) way letters.

We now begin to find the discrepancies:

4. The absence of town marks need not disturb us; but the absence of the marks "Steam" or "Ship" must and does disturb us. Even post offices which customarily omitted the town mark from steam and/or way letters (for example, St. Louis and Washington) were very careful to apply the marks "Steam," "Steamboat," "Ship," or "Way."

5. A study of Woodville covers I have seen indicates that Woodville did use both the town mark and the origin mark "Steam" or "Way." They had handstamps at that office for all these purposes and they used them. (Bangor was not careful about the town mark, but used the mark "STEAM-BOAT.")

6. Neither ~~Woodville~~^{oo} nor Bangor imposed the extra 2c fee, as far as can be judged from covers I have examined.

7. The red of the marks is not the red used at Woodville. Bangor used a dark blue.

Now let us examine the figure "7" on the two covers.

8. The two figures "7" are not only identical in shape and size, but they were struck from the same instrument--at post offices something like 1000 miles apart. Observe these points:
9. The vertical flaws in the top horizontal bar of the "7's" (due to the grain of the wood or cork from which the instrument was whittled) ^{are} identical on the two covers.
10. The large flaw just to the left of the vertical ^{stroke} stroke is identical on the two covers.
11. The two "7's" are struck with the same ink, which is visually alike and alike under the ultra-violet light, but which is neither the shade used at Woodville nor the color used at Bangor.
12. The only conclusion I can come to is that which I stated at the beginning of this discussion, that the two covers have had the figures "7" placed on them as a joke or for dishonest purposes by somebody who has owned them or had access to them between the time of their discovery and the time you acquired them.
13. The "7" in ink on the Woodville cover may be a genuine postal marking, but I think not, because of the reasons stated in paragraphs 2-6. Woodville used a boxed straight-line "Steam 5."

My other typewriter has developed mechanical trouble, and this one seems to have spelling trouble. I think it is time to stop.

Joe, I am sorry to be the bringer of bad news, but you might as well know the truth. If Stan finds that I am wrong, you may accept what he says and cancel mine.

Stan, don't bother to photograph these covers. I have made good negatives of them; I developed them tonight, and will make prints and send you some after I return from St. Louis.

Stan, one of the first things I will do after I return is to search through my steamboat markings correspondence of the last three years and try to locate the letters re the other fake steamboat markings we have been discussing by mail together. As soon as I have something definite to tell you, I will write you.

Yours sincerely,

Henry

Dec. 28, 1954.

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

Dear Henry:

I have your two letters of the 25th and 26th, also the two covers sent to you by Mr. Jos. Herbert, Jr.

I am today forwarding the cover to Mr. Herbert and enclose herewith copy of my letter accompanying them.

As stated in my letter, there is no question but what the "7" on both covers are fraudulent. Herewith I am enclosing Mr. Herbert's letter to you.

I have carefully noted your remarks regarding mail conditions in Evansville. Your Special Delivery letter reached me about 11 P.M. Monday and your other letter I obtained at the P.O. (in my box) at 4:30 P.M. It was not there at 10 A.M. - the latter was postmarked Evansville Dec. 26 - 6 P.M. - So you see it reached me the next day - in late afternoon.

Again re - that "Louisville & Cin - S.B." with date in center. I am quite sure the item that was submitted to me is fraudulent though I have no positive proof. It was in red - circular - 21 MM - on a 1¢ 1857 - Type IV. Why on a Type IV? I made a photograph by ultra-violet but the negative does not show any sign (that I can detect) of a former cancel cleaned. Maybe the print will. The item looks just too good to be genuine.

WITH NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Cordially yours,

Dec. 28, 1954.

Mr. Jos. A. Herbert, Jr.,
515 East Capitol St.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Herbert:

Herewith I am enclosing the two stampless covers that were sent to me by our very good friend Henry Meyer. I suppose you have Henry's letter to you dated XMAS day.

Regarding the two covers. Henry is absolutely correct in his analysis of these two items and I wish to concur 100% in all of his statements. The two markings of the identical "7" on both of these items are unquestionably fraudulent.

May I wish you A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

Cordially yours,

72

Mr Geo W. Stethen
Woodville
Miss

Barlow Sav. Co.
1845

7

Foxcroft Me. Mr G. Washington Bledkins...

Glenburn,

Care of.
J. & Co Bangor

Maine.