

February 13, 1956

Stan:

Thanks a lot for the correction in yours of the 16th. It gives me no satisfaction to errors of mine or anybody else's perpetuated.

I may or may not have read the U.S.-British treaty of Dec. 15, 1848 among the many treaties I have read. I am in my 72nd year - not my 172nd. Where would I find time to do the things which I could do if my time was confined to one country?

Specialized work has been done here on engraved, lithographed, typographed stamps, and surcharges, and including British North America, all five Central American republics, five or more countries of South America, and very intensive work on The Dominican Republic and Haiti. And perhaps others that do not occur to me at the moment.

The work on the Brazil Dom Pedros was more or less continuous for eight years, included at least twenty plates, and the sixty volumes contained 3,000 or more pages.

In my opinion the work on the 10¢ Jeffersons rates with the studies of the 1¢ and 3¢ 1851-57. There are ten plates before the re-engraved, and not including re-entered states. No doubt I still have hundreds of copies which, if Latta's theory were correct, could not exist at all! My material contains plenty of proof that his "relief break" never happened. More than 20,000 of those stamps were examined here.

The Independent Mails book will take 360 printed pages, the Carrier book, for which 2,500 items have been photographed, will need 720 pages even when many of the photos are omitted, and there is enough data in hand to make a book of 600 pages or more on U.S. Local Posts and Stamps.

Much work has been done on U.S. General Issue Revenues, and also the Private Die stamps, Pony Express, Western Franks, etc. The files contain a record of 1,000 Mississippi River steamboats in operation during a period of about fifteen years.

I can take you to a room in the New York Library where I obtained data in 1916 and it hasn't been published yet. Twenty-five years ago Christie and I spent nearly a week in the Library of Congress. The wad of pages of her shorthand notes haven't been transcribed yet. I don't know what they contain.

That's why I cannot recall which treaties I may have read.

Probably my error resulted from confusion regarding the Cunard ships. I thought the service began in 1940 and had an idea that it went to Boston only for about four years.

Where we disagree is what constitutes a "domestic rate." I contend that a domestic rate is from one post office to another in the U.S. If the 5¢ New Yorks on letters to foreign countries prepaid only that

May 17, 1956

Stan:

Copy of page 26 from the U.S. Carrier Book is enclosed. It contains Section 2 of the Act of June 15, 1860, which extended the 1 cent fee on drop letters to include mail letters. I think I had difficulty in finding these Acts of Congress when the Carrier Chapter in your Volume II was being prepared, and don't know why they were not quoted there.

On page 180 in that chapter the paragraph beginning "The "existing law" was the Act of 1860" refers both to the Act of April 3rd and the Act of June 15th. The Act of April 3rd gave the PMG what he had asked for; the Act of June 15th gave him more than he asked for and was what he did not want.

To compete more effectively with the local (private) posts in some cities (particularly New York), mail letters had been taken to the post office free from 1851, and the ~~collected~~ delivery fee to addressees had been two cents. From July 1, 1860 the delivery fee could not be more than one cent, so the PMG construed the Act of June 15th to permit a collection fee to be charged on mail letters. As 2 cents plus nothing equals 2 cents, and 1 cent plus 1 cent also equals 2 cents, whenever the incoming and outgoing mail letters were about equal in number the carriers received about the same compensation as they did prior to July 1860.

The effect was to produce 1¢ collection fee plus 3¢ postage letters in New York and other cities where no collection fee had been charged on mail letters more or less continuously from 1851. Such 4¢ letters may occur from any carrier city during the three year period July 1, 1860 to June 30, 1863.

Beginning July 1, 1863 there was no collection nor delivery fee on mail letters but the 1¢ drop letter postage and 1 cent carrier fee were combined to make a 2c rate at all post offices, whether letters received carrier service or not. Hence the "black Jack" and 2¢ Jackson (~~envelopes~~) envelopes.

gummed

As ever,

P.S. - what Luff didn't know about carrier rates and service was plenty.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

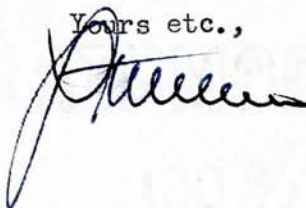
July 18, 1956.

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

Elliott:

The A.P. for July 1956 - page 748 -
states that a friend of yours was expelled from
membership in the A.P.S. I wonder why?

Yours etc.,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ashbrook", written over the typed text "Yours etc.,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

STANLEY B. ASHBROOK
P. O. BOX 31
33 NORTH FT. THOMAS AVENUE
FORT THOMAS, KY.

Sept. 6, 1956.

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

Elliott:

In mine of yesterday I intended to inquire if you still have a 3¢ 1861 cover with a fine pigeon blood? It was a cover from

Lee, Mass.

as I recall, postmarked in October 1861. A very deep pigeon blood. If you still own it I would like to make a color recording of the stamp as we both agreed it was a very fine example. If you do not own it do you know where it is today?

~~Yours etc.,~~

Shelton

Sent

PHILATELIST,

Broker, 75, Dies

Private Rites Set Today For S. B. Ashbrook — On 'Change At 20

Private services for Stanley B. Ashbrook, retired Cincinnati stock broker and one of the world's leading philatelists, will be held today at the Dobbling funeral home, Ft. Thomas. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell.

Mr. Ashbrook, who was 75 years old, died Thursday at his home, 33 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas.

An authority on early American stamps, he had been elected the "outstanding philatelist in the world" by England's Royal Philatelic Society.

He was honored on his birthday, October 12, at a party in the Hotel Terrace Hilton, attended by 50 stamp experts from all parts of the nation. At the meeting, a silver cup was established in his name to be awarded annually to the person contributing the most to United States postage stamp history. The cup was donated by the Philatelic Foundation of Philadelphia.

He was a member of the Cincinnati Stock Exchange at the age of 20. At that time, he was the youngest ever to be admitted.

Later, he was named to the exchange's board of governors. He sold his seat in 1929, shortly before the stock market crash.

Mr. Ashbrook and his late brother, Claude, operated the firm that financed the construction of the Fountain Square Building. Two years before he joined his brother in the business, the firm underwrote the first public financing of the Kroger Co. His brother, who at one time was president of the Stock Exchange, died in 1949.

The author of several books on stamps, Mr. Ashbrook was a member of the American Philatelic Society, Confederate Stamp Alliance, and England's Royal Philatelic Society.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mildred Lishawa Ashbrook; two sons, Elliott, Lexington, Ky., and Stanley Jr., Dayton, Ohio; a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Temple, New York City, and three grandchildren.

March 22, 1957

Stan:

Thanks for sending the wonderful lot of prints. They arrived yesterday morning in time for me to take them to the Caspary sale and show them to Morris F. to his great pleasure. They will be turned over to Arthur H. today or tomorrow as I have to go to New York today.

You must have had a terrible time. A few years ago one of my old friends had shingles and I saw him in the middle of it. He looked like "the morning after the night before" and felt even worse.

Whatever I have done for the 1857 perf book was done mostly to help Mort N. and Morris, both of whom have helped me. Morris plans to be here one day next week for a confab on the book.

Now I have to figure out whether I spent too much or not enough of someone else's money for Caspary carriers and locals. If there has ever been a worse dog fight I wasn't in the middle of it.

I hope you continue to improve.

As ever,

on the cover when the cover was mailed.

Apparently it has been assumed that a stamp was printed not very long before it appeared in general use. That a small part of a printing was never issued long in advance of the remainder of that printing. Are either of these assumptions necessarily true in all cases? If your argument fails to convince beyond all doubt I think it is because every one does not accept these assumptions as being invariably true.

As I recall, in 1873 the Continental Bank Note Co. prepared a bi-colored 300 reis stamp for Brazil and delivered a considerable quantity, none of which were issued until five years later (Scott #78). That is what records show and they should be reliable. But it would have been possible for someone to have taken out a sheet, or only a few stamps, and used any or all of them at any date from 1873 to 1878, and one cover might have been saved for philately. A user might even have put one of those stamps on a cover which was already fully prepaid. By your argument such a cover would be an example of fraud. I think others would be justified in disagreeing with you.

As far as I personally am concerned, I have been caught in unpleasant controversies before and this time I prefer to take the Fifth Amendment.

However, let me assure you that CeDora did not get the April 1858 date from me, and I am not sure I saw it until I read it in the book.

Of the old timers who studied the 1851-57 stamps so long ago and put their results in print "for better or for worse" you and Doc Chase could not attend the Perf Centenary and I am the only one alive who could be there, even part of the week. If the work is to be carried on someone must take our place. Young students - some of them very keen and competent - are coming along and should be encouraged, even if their batting average may not always stand at 1,000. Our own didn't!

Stan, I fear this matter of giving credit is too much like a two edged sword - it may cut both ways.

I never heard anyone criticize John Luff for not giving credit, yet sometimes when correcting someone else he gave "chapter and verse" and when he lifted and used the work of others as his own, it appeared to be his own.

I have been told that it made no difference who found a fact first - to have it made known was the only important thing. Yet I prefer to give proper credit, especially when I know who to credit, and have permission to publish the name. Caspary and others have said "no".

The last paragraph in your letter to CeDora pleases me very much and I believe it will please her and encourage her to keep on.

As ever

(sgd) Elliott Perry