

DIALOGUE ON CENSUSES AND PROVENANCE

CASE ILLUSTRATION: MADISON, FLORIDA

Patricia A. Kaufmann

There are differences of opinion among Confederate students on the way information is accumulated and how it should best be recorded for censuses and provenance. Provenance, by dictionary definition, is the place of origin or earliest-known history of something, tracing it to the current day.

Census criteria on the CSA website states the listings “*must be supported by an image in a book, periodical, or named auction catalog.*”

Most times, an auction house will not have a named sale when only one or a few items are consigned, even if they are rare. There are some notable exceptions. Or, perhaps the consignor prefers to remain anonymous at that time. Is the person then to be excised from provenance for all time, if it is easily proven and accepted he owned the subject rarity?

I understand these census mandates are made in an abundance of caution to ensure accuracy. But I respectfully disagree. In my opinion, these requirements are too restrictive. There are exceptions to every rule.

It is no coincidence that the website census criteria are similar to those used for the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Postage Stamps and Postal History*. However, for the catalog, information did not need to have been published; the editors simply had to have an image on file for an item to be listed in the catalog. An image from a private non-published source was

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sufficient, as opposed to a requirement for an image from a publication. This allowed for covers in the Lincoln Kilbourne collection, which had not been seen or exhibited in decades, to be counted in the catalog's patriotic cover section, for example.

There is no debate that care must be taken to ensure accuracy and that sources are properly established. There also must be trust in the philatelic knowledge of the person compiling the census or listing of provenance. A deep level of expertise in the subject matter is required. I fully support the census efforts on the CSA website as a major contribution to the hobby. I have wanted to see detailed censuses in print for years. They are now logically presented on the CSA website where they can be continually updated when new discoveries are made. But, in some cases my view diverges from the compulsory criteria used to create those censuses, as I feel it unnecessarily omits valuable information for posterity.

Provenance of Madison Provisionals and Kaufmann Census

I use the Madison provisionals as my example because I arguably have more information about them than anyone else. Thus, my mission is two-fold. First, it will serve as a go-to resource on the full background of the coveted Madison provisionals, in which I have no current monetary interest; rather, they are a lifetime obsession. Second, it serves as the basis for a discussion of the criteria used in compiling census and provenance data.

When my husband John and I purchased the five Madison stamps/covers in 1983, they came with a wealth of prior research and provenance, although not enough to then get them recognized as genuine. It became a Kaufmann cause célèbre, which has been one of the defining endeavors of my philatelic life.

Among the provided papers was a letter from Robert A. Siegel to Charles Keene in Boston. In that 1974 letter, Siegel offered \$25,000 for the group, along with their accompanying provenance, which all belonged to an undisclosed Keene client. Those items were purchased by us from Robert W. Lyman, a dealer known for British North America stamps, acting as an intermediary for Charles Keene and his client.

The certificate abbreviations and numbers that follow are noted on descriptions of the items as “PF” for the Philatelic Foundation and “CSA” for the Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Committee or Service. The name changed from Committee to Service in 2006 to better reflect the purpose of the group. Both Scott and CSA catalog numbers (CC) are noted.

CNETS error. Scott: 3AX1a, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01a. Stated in the CSA online census as “Provenance: Briggs.” (Figure 1)

Currently, the online CSA provisional census simply attributes the Madison, Fla., provisional CNETS error solely to Briggs in the 21st century. Yet this was the first Madison provisional ever found, almost 150 years ago.

The published documentation on this error stamp is enormous. It goes back through many published articles, including my 1984¹ and 2000² articles in the *American Philatelist* (AP) and *Confederate Philatelist* (CP). The later article is published on my website.

The first of those articles quotes dealer Warren H. Colson's March 3, 1943, four-page letter to collector William L. Moody III, (Figures 2a-d), indicating his letter is a follow-up to the sale of three Madison provisionals to Moody “some time ago.” Less than a week later, Colson wrote a one-page supplemental letter to Moody on March 8, 1943, saying that he overlooked men-



Figure 1. Madison spelling error stamp “CNETS” (Scott 3-AX1a).

tioning the Confederate 5¢ entire, which he also sold to Moody (Figure 3).

Colson specifically traced the early provenance of these stamps to Moody. There is no doubt the letters were specifically written to establish their provenance. Are we not to credit Colson's words, already published in *CP* and *AP*, as well as in other earlier publications with photos, even though Colson was a prominent early dealer directly involved with the sales?

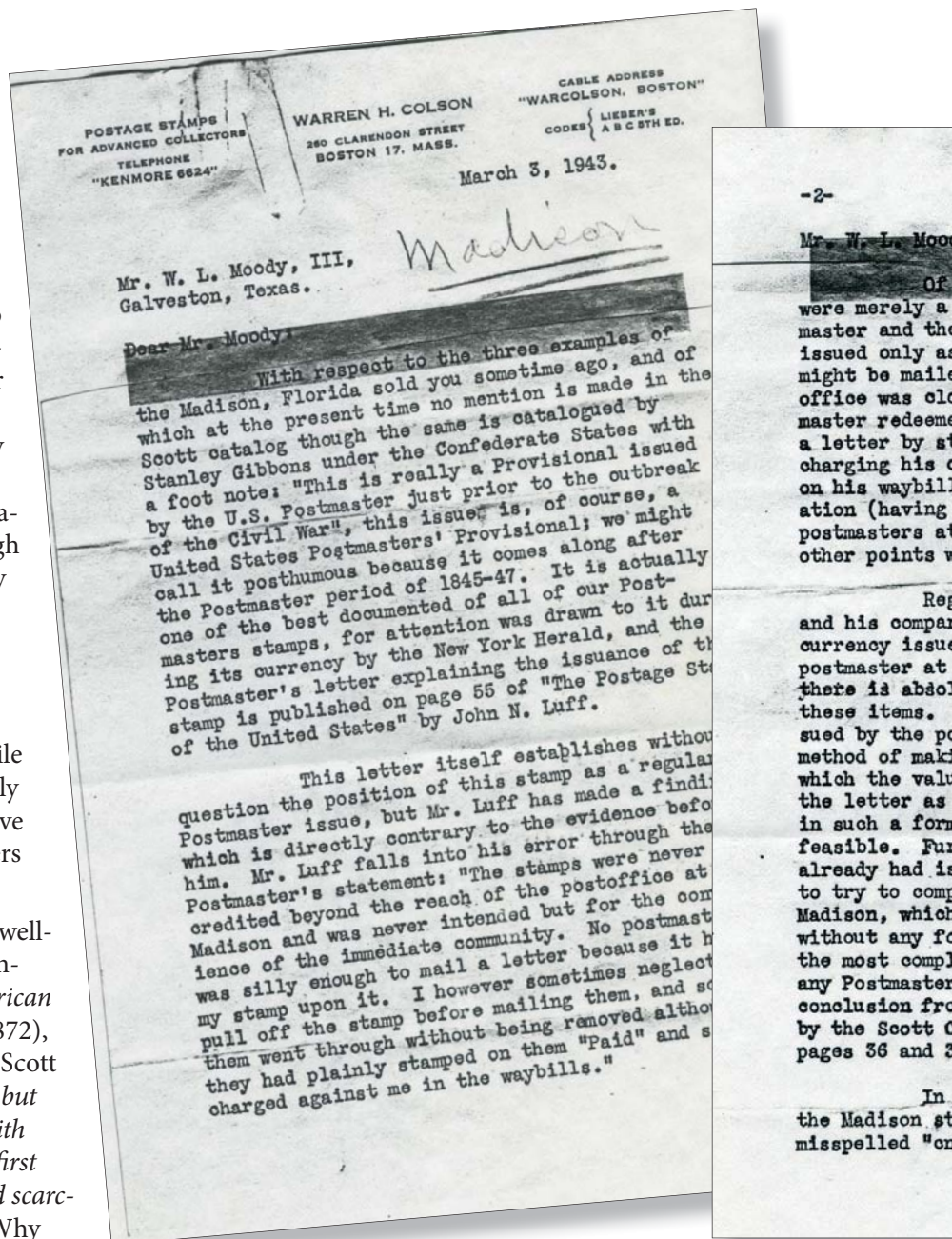
It is my opinion that any provenance should begin at the beginning, if known. While I'm unsure of some of the early chronology, we have conclusive evidence of many more owners than just Briggs.

• **John Walter Scott.** This well-documented discovery was announced by Scott in the *American Journal of Philately* (March 1872), Vol. 5, Page 29. In his article, Scott proclaimed: "I have no doubt but that my readers will believe with me that the *Madison* was the first issued, best authenticated, and scarcest Confederate provisional." Why would any provenance not start at the beginning and cite Scott?

• **James W. Paul, Jr.** See the Moody album page shown in Figure 4. The Moody album page came with the provisionals sold to Kaufmann. Unfortunately, I can find no other corroboration, as Paul was a reclusive collector.

• **Judge Frederick A. Philbrick.** Per the third page of the herein illustrated Colson-Moody March 3, 1943, letter. The illustrated Moody album page also shows him owning this in 1874.

• **Philipp von Ferrary.** English dealer Paul Fraser (Paul Fraser Collectibles, formerly of Stanley Gibbons) notes that perhaps Ferrary's first major purchase was his 1880 acquisition of Judge Philbrick's collection.³ Ferrary's stamp collection, which he had bequeathed to a museum, was confiscated by the French soon after his death in 1917. As he was Austrian, it was auctioned in the name of World War I reparations, selling for 30 million francs. Ferrary provenance is per the illustrated Colson-signed 1943 letter.



March 3, 1943.

Mr. W. L. Moody, III.

Of course, all Postmasters' stamps were merely a private contract between the postmaster and the patrons of his own office and were issued only as a local convenience so that letters might be mailed prepaid during the hours when the office was closed to the public, and the postmaster redeemed his own stamps on presentation on a letter by stamping the letter itself "Paid" and charging his office with the amount of prepayment on his waybills. Mr. Perry handled his local situation (having run out of stamps) exactly as the postmasters at New York, St. Louis or any of the other points where Postmasters' stamps were issued.

Regardless of Mr. Luff's personal opinion and his comparison of this stamp with fractional currency issued by various people, particularly the postmaster at New Orleans, one can only say that there is absolutely no point of comparison between these items. The fractional currency or tokens issued by the postmaster at New Orleans was simply a method of making change, and the little cards on which the value was stamped ^{was} never applied to the letter as a postage stamp, and they were printed in such a form as to make such a use completely unfeasible. Furthermore, the New Orleans postoffice already had issued its own Postmaster's stamp, and to try to compare any form of token money with the Madison, which was issued primarily as a stamp, is without any force whatsoever. Mr. Luff has taken the most completely documented evidence we have of any Postmasters' stamp and simply drawn a wrong conclusion from it. The republication of his book by the Scott Company in 1937 carries forward on pages 36 and 37 this same error.

In some ways, the most interesting of the Madison stamps is the one which has the value misspelled "cnets" instead of "cents". This example

Figure 2. A four-page letter from dealer Warren Colson to W.L. Moody III, detailing the sale of the Madison Provisionals, as well as describing the discovery of the first CNETS error (bottom of page 2 and top of page 3. Colson closes the March 3, 1943, letter with his pronouncement that the Madison Provisional will eventually receive the attention it deserves.

March 3, 1943.

Mr. W. L. Moody, III.

was originally in the Judge Philbrick Collection and later passed into the Ferrari Collection. Though we know of possibly five examples in all of the Madison--four certainly--the misspelled word "cnets" exists only on a single example. The only example that I have ever seen used on the full letter was originally in the Duveen Collection, passed from that collection into the Hind Collection and is now in the Caspary Collection. The three examples in your collection (the collection of Mr. W. L. Moody, III) are the only other ones that I have ever seen. Luff mentions still another example besides the four spoken of here, but I have never seen it, and it may or may not be in existence.

Mr. Perry, the Postmaster at Madison, Florida, says; in speaking of his stamps: "Ordinary foolscap paper was used. All of the fractional currency in circulation disappeared about that time, and it was difficult to make change; indeed almost impossible to conduct the postoffice, having no United States postage stamps, as my supply was exhausted soon after the assemblage of the Confederate Congress at Montgomery, Alabama, and under whose authority I was instructed to conduct the office under the rules of the U.S. Government, and pay over all monies due to that government until I should be commissioned postmaster under the Confederate States and believing my allegiance due to the Confederacy, I was loth to apply for stamps to the U.S., and determined to mail letters paid in money only. Therefor the stamps were issued by me for the purpose of making change, and sold in quantities to suit the business part of the community, so that any later found in the letter box with my stamp on it had evidence of having been paid for."

Letter

The Provisional Congress of the Confed-

1861, so his provisionals were in circulation from the middle of February until the establishment of some postal service within the Confederacy must have occurred sometime during the first week of April 1861. Madison in 1940 boasted a population of 2730, but back in 1861, it might have been a town of 1000 to 1500 inhabitants, so the amount of correspondence leaving it prepaid in 1861 for a period of just 60 days or so could not have been very much, and it is not to be wondered at that only four or five of these stamps have survived. It is even more amazing that even one of them has been saved.

In years to come the Madison will certainly receive the complete recognition that it deserves as a Postmasters' stamp, and it is difficult to think of any more interesting situation than the one which caused its issue, so I consider it in many ways the most interesting of all of our Postmasters' issues.

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Warren H. Colson

- **William Lewis Moody, III.** Purchased from Colson, as documented by the first 1943 Colson-Moody letter (Figure 2). Sold in a series of H.R. Harmer auctions, Nos. 615-17, United States, Part 5, November 1950. Purchaser unknown.

- **Lapham.*** See detailed Lapham story that follows.

- **John W. and Patricia A. Kaufmann.** Purchased by private treaty from unidentified owner via Lyman and Keene in 1983, likely from a Lapham heir. John died in 1988 and ownership transferred solely to Trish Kaufmann. Sold via Siegel Rarities of the World, sale 824, May 13, 2000.

- **Dr. Deane R. Briggs.** Purchased from 2000 Siegel Rarities of the World sale.

- **Hon. J. William Middendorf II.** Purchased from Briggs sale, lot 2093, Robert A. Siegel sale 1153, May 9, 2017.

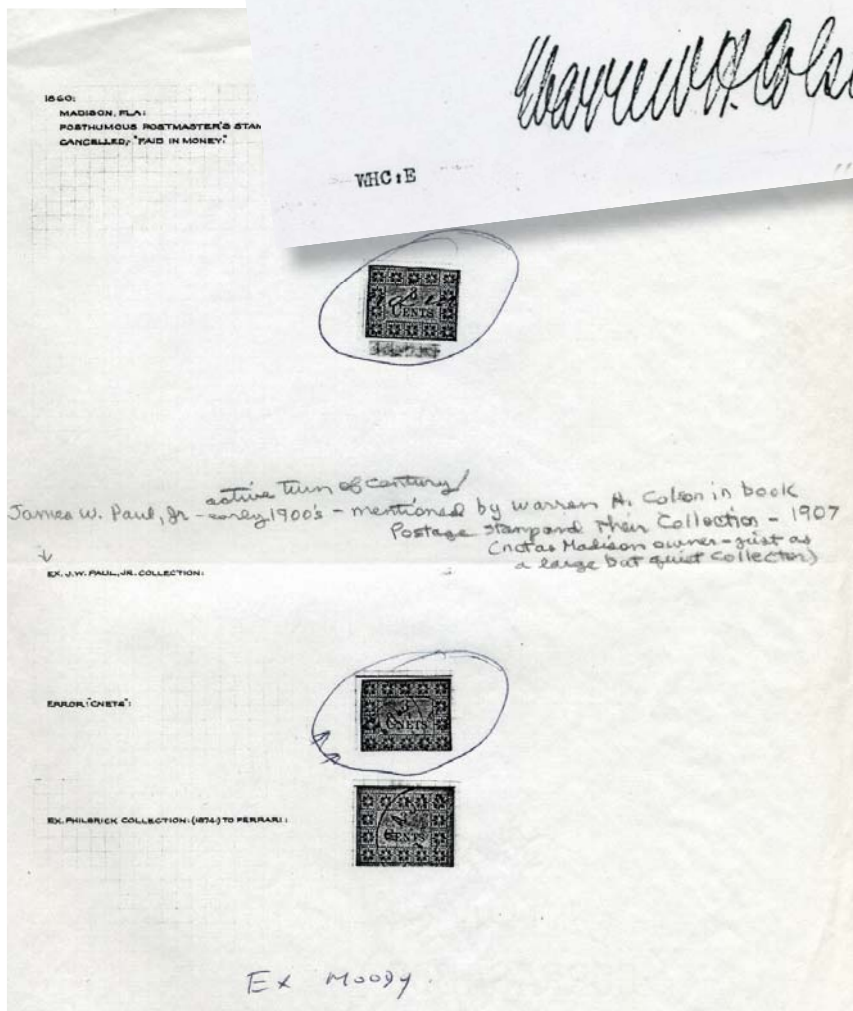
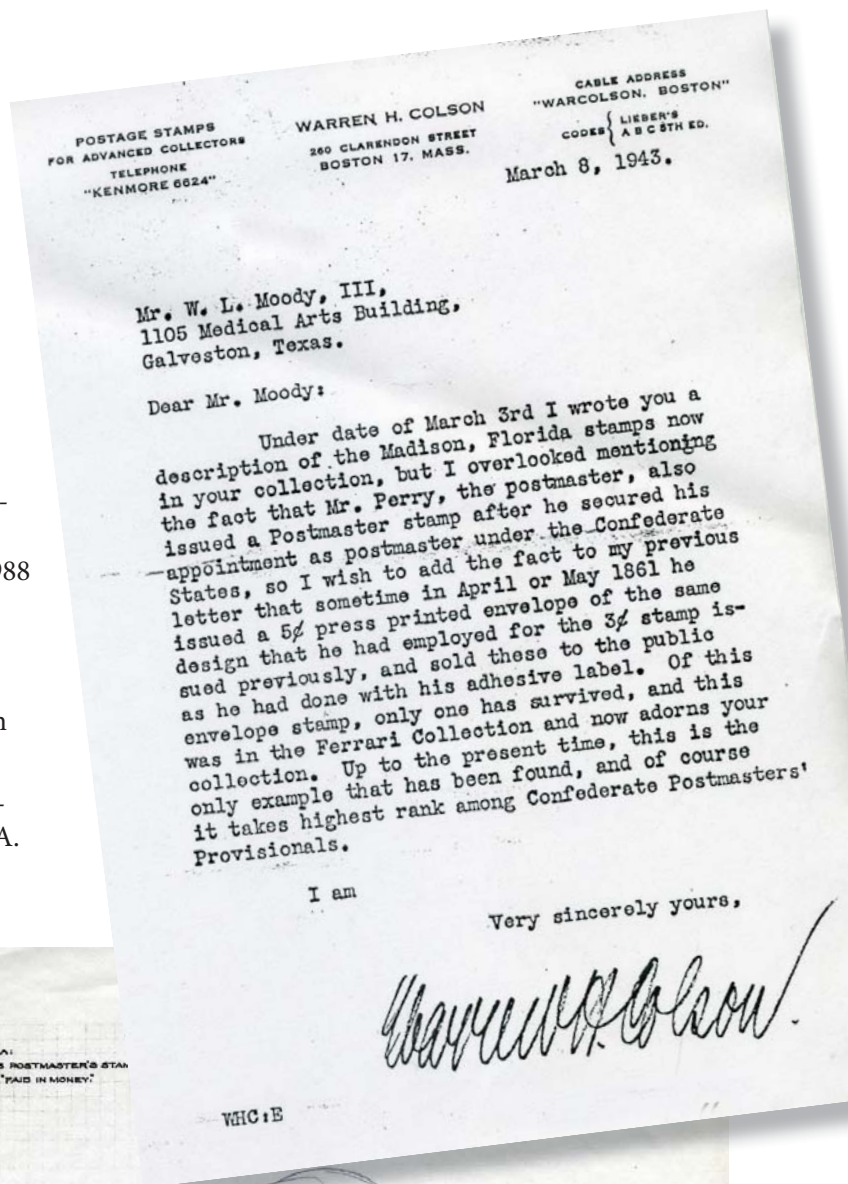
Certificates: CSA 02904, PF 139964, PF 0189963.

Madison with manuscript cancel "Paid in Money." Scott: 3AX1, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01. WHC (Colson) backstamp. On current CSA website as "Provenance: Felton." (Figure 5)

- **Philipp von Ferrary.** As documented by the Figure 2 March 3, 1943, Colson-Moody letter and illustrated on the Moody album page.

Figure 3 (top). March 8, 1943, letter from Colson to Moody regarding the Confederate 5¢ Madison provisional entire, stating it came from the Ferrary collection.

Figure 4 (right). Moody album page showing the name of J.W. Paul, Jr. as an owner of the CNETS error.



• **William Lewis Moody III.** Purchased from Colson, as documented by the Colson-Moody letter. Sold in a series of H.R. Harmer auctions, Nos. 615-17, United States, Part 5, November 1950. Purchaser unknown.

• **Lapham.*** See detailed Lapham story that follows.

• **John W. and Patricia A. Kaufmann.** Purchased by private treaty from unidentified owner via Lyman and Keene in 1983, likely from a Lapham heir. Sold to an undisclosed dealer in late 1987, who sold it to an unknown private collector. The dealer or collector obtained a private certificate, as noted under certificate information.

• **Unknown.**

• **Rex H. Felton, Jr.** Purchased via private treaty Nov. 28, 2009, from Trish Kaufmann, in partnership with Stanley Piller, who no longer remembers the private source.

• **John H. Walker.** Purchased in 2011 from Siegel sale No. 1016, lot 594, where Felton consigned it.

Certificates: PF 139965, Bruce E. Corson Certificate No. 2362, dated Dec. 10, 1987, New York City.

Madison with town cancel No. 1. Scott: 3AX1, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01. Current CSA website listing as “Provenance: Briggs” (Figure 6).

• **Judge Frederick A. Philbrick.** Noted in multiple sources as Philbrick, owning it in 1874. I have not yet found the discovery source.

• **Philipp von Ferrary.** Per Colson-Moody letters and Moody album page shown in Figure 4.

• **William Lewis Moody, III.** Purchased from Colson, as documented by the Colson-Moody letter. Sold in a series of H.R. Harmer auctions, Nos. 615-17, United States, Part 5, November 1950. Purchaser unknown.

• **Lapham.*** See detailed Lapham story that follows.

• **John W. and Patricia A. Kaufmann.** Purchased by private treaty from unidentified owner via Lyman and Keene in 1983, likely acting for the Lapham family. John died in 1988 and ownership transferred solely to Trish Kaufmann. Sold via Siegel 2000 Rarities of the World, sale 824, May 13, 2000, lot 440.

• **Dr. Deane R. Briggs.** Purchased from the 2000 Siegel Rarities sale.

• **Undisclosed private collector.**

Certificates: CSA 02903, PF 139966, PF 189962.

Madison with town cancel No. 2. Scott: 3AX1, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01. Not listed in CSA website census (Figure 7).

On the CSA website, this example is not mentioned in the online census, although it was mentioned in my census of the Madison provisionals in the February 2000 issues of the *AP* and *CP*. It



Figure 5 (above). Madison stamp canceled with manuscript [Paid in [Money] in the handwriting of Postmaster Samuel Perry (Scott 3-AX1).

Figure 6 (below). First of two Madison stamps canceled with Madison town cancel (Scott 3-AX1).

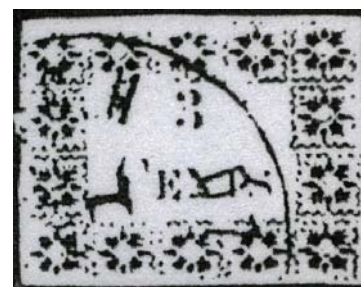


Figure 7. Second of two Madison stamps canceled with Madison town cancel (Scott 3-AX1). Scan of photocopy from the files of the Philatelic Foundation.

was not shown in the articles due to poor image quality. But poor quality or not, it is shown here to simply get it on the radar. The source in those articles was cited as a black-and-white photocopy in the files of the Philatelic Foundation. The old PF photocopy is poor quality, but it unmistakably shows a Madison provisional with a circular datestamp that appears to be dated with day date "1."

- **Raymond G. Weill and Roger H. Weill.** Whether they were dealers or collectors, this stamp should be recorded, if only as the possible or probable former owners. I have on file a Nov. 1, 1996, dated letter from Roger Weill in reply to my inquiry about its whereabouts.

Currently, this is the only information we have on the "missing" second town canceled example. In Moody's first letter, he says there is possibly a fifth example, which would doubtless be this one.

In his 1996 letter to me, Weill said: "I have not seen a Madison, Florida 3¢ Provisional in many years and, unhappily, I cannot refer you to anyone who might own this stamp. The last Madison we owned was perhaps ten years ago. It had to be sold on an 'as is' basis and did not bring very much." He wished me luck with my research to establish their rightful place in philatelic history.

My letter to Weill was precipitated when Brian Green, then assistant curator of the Philatelic Foundation, sent me a black-and-white photocopy of a page from the PF files showing all the Madison stamps the organization had ever handled and mentioning Weill as the source of the mystery example. It also included numerous fakes the PF then attributed to Dr. J.A. Petrie. There were no certificate numbers on any images nor any catalog numbers, as they were not then listed in any catalogs after being delisted at the turn of the 20th century. The blame for this has been laid at the feet of John Luff, who misguidedly believed them to simply be "labels used as fractional currency." They were, however, listed in the Stanley Gibbons *United States Stamp Catalog* as late as 1962, Page 946.

- **Unknown.**

Certificates: Stamps without catalog numbers are notoriously difficult to locate in the PF files. This was in the files before Scott or CSA catalog numbers were assigned. But the image of the stamp is in the PF files somewhere, unless thrown out, which is highly unlikely.

Madison with pen slash cancel. Scott: 3AX1, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01. Listed in the CSA online census as "Provenance: None" (Figure 8).

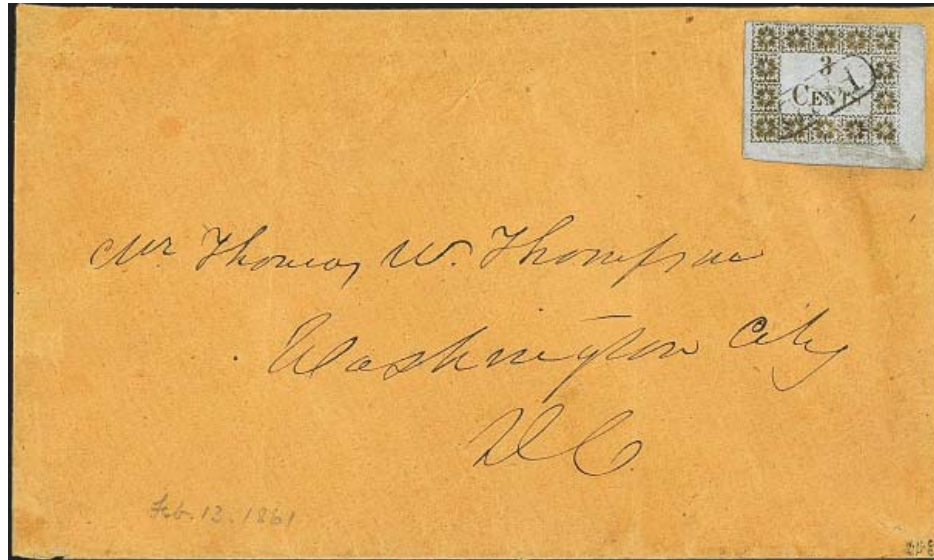
- **Stanley Piller.** The first public mention of this stamp of which I am aware is when it was stolen from California dealer Stanley Piller's car on the way home from a CSA annual convention in Sarasota in February 1999. The story was well covered in the philatelic press at the time. Please see the Feb. 28, 2000, edition of *Linn's Stamp News*, which relates how it was recovered after I spotted it in a Cherrystone auction and immediately recognized it as one of the stolen stamps. I woke Piller at 7 a.m. PST to tell him. It was all I could do to wait that long, as I had discovered it very early that morning EST and was bursting to tell him. I made note of this in my census of the Madison provisionals in the February 2000 *American Philatelist* and First Quarter 2000 *Confederate Philatelist*; the stamp was photographed in both publications. This stamp, and others, were recovered by the FBI and sold in the Siegel 2005 Rarities of the World sale 896, as lot 756. Piller does not remember from whom he purchased the stamp, but it was from a private collector, not an auction. Whether Piller was acting as a dealer or not, I believe the provenance should start here until the hobby is able to add prior history to the timeline.

- **D.K. Collection of Southern Postmasters' Provisionals.** Sold in Siegel sale 1022, lot 1001, March 28, 2012.



Figure 8. The only known Madison stamp canceled with a pen slash.

Figure 9 (right).
The only recorded
Madison
provisional on
cover, canceled
with an oblong
boxed "PAID." Has
datelined top of
letter dated Feb.
13, 1861.



• **Daniel J. Ryterband.** Purchased from the D.K. sale.

Certificates: PF 189961, PF 223633, PF 503953.

3¢ Madison on Thompson cover. Scott 3AX1, CC: A-MAD-FL-A01. WHC (Colson) handstamp on front, bottom-right corner. Listed on CSA website simply as "Provenance: Hind, Gross, Briggs" (Figure 9).

• **Dr. Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh.** Brumbaugh was physician to Fanny Corbin Thompson (1819-96), wife of the cover's addressee. Dr. Brumbaugh's signature is on her death certificate (record No. 105712), a validated copy of which I still preserve. A firsthand account of the discovery was related by Brumbaugh in his letter to H.F. Albrecht & Co. in New York, as printed in *The Postage Stamp* (Fred J. Melville, London). Brumbaugh related that he asked Mrs. Thompson to scour her old wartime correspondence, as he was a stamp collector. Thus, he acquired the cover and letter (of which only the dateline was retained, to keep the contents confidential) in 1895.

Albrecht either bought and resold the cover or brokered it to Sir William B. Avery, as noted in that article. The article noted Brumbaugh sent the full letter to Albrecht on the promise that it would be returned, which it was, except for the Madison dateline, which is still with the

cover since there is no dated town cancel on the cover.

I personally knew Brumbaugh's heirs, who were stamp collectors and Kaufmann clients. Kaufmann Auctions sold a family collection for one of them, who was – years after the fact – still bemoaning the fact his family sold the 3¢ Madison cover. This is the undisputed origin of this cover, incredibly well documented. In my opinion, it is important to relate it as such.

• **Sir William B. Avery.** Sold to Avery by Albrecht & Co. per *The Postage Stamp*, Oct. 18, 1913 (Fred J. Melville, London).

• **Henry Joseph Duveen.** Ownership passed from Avery to Duveen via W.H. Peckitt, per *The Postage Stamp*, Oct. 18, 1913 (Fred J. Melville, London). Also mentioned in the first Colson-Moody letter.

• **Arthur Hind.** Sold via Charles J. Phillips and William C. Kennett Jr., who was Hind's philatelic secretary, as lot 32, Nov. 20, 1933. Also mentioned in the first Colson-Moody letter and by George Sloane in the Caspary sale foreword.

• **Alfred H. Caspary.** H.R. Harmer sale of *The Alfred H. Caspary Collection, Sale 1: United States Postmasters' Provisionals (lot 41)*. George B. Sloane wrote the foreword for the sale, saying the 3¢ Madison on cover came from Hind.

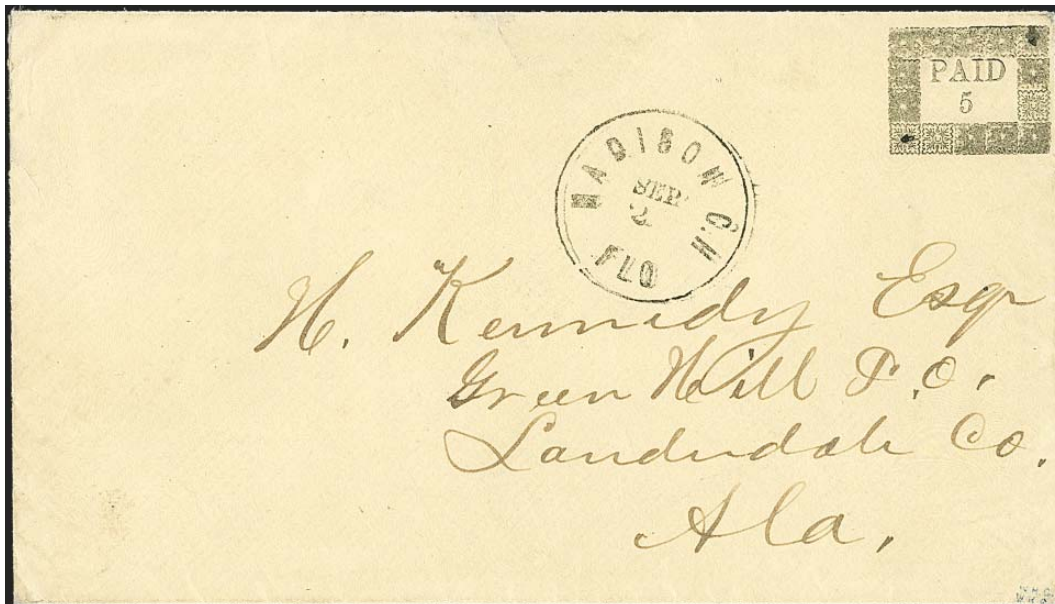


Figure 10. The only recorded Confederate-rated 5¢ Madison provisional entire .

He additionally mentioned the two 3¢ 1861 Tuscumbia provisionals offered in the same U.S. sale, still then erroneously thought to be antebellum productions before detailed Kaufmann analysis published in 1984. Also mentioned in the first Colson-Moody letter.

• **John W. and Patricia A. Kaufmann.**

Purchased by private treaty from unidentified owner via Lyman and Keene in 1983. John died in 1988 and ownership transferred solely to Trish Kaufmann. Sold via the Siegel 2000 Rarities of the World, sale 824, May 13, 2000, lot 439.

• **William Hunt Gross.** Purchased from Siegel 2000 Rarities sale. Sold in a Spink-Shreves auction, lot 1, Nov. 19, 2009.

• **Dr. Deane R. Briggs.** Purchased from the Gross collection. Sold in the sale of Briggs' collection of Florida in the Civil War, Siegel sale 1153, lot 2094, May 9, 2017, for \$100,000 plus buyer premium.

• **Hon. J. William Middendorf II.** Purchased from Briggs sale.

Certificates: CSA 02906, PF 139967, PF 189964.

Confederate 5¢ black Madison press-print-

ed entire. Scott: 137XU1, CC: MAD-FL-E01. WHC (Colson) initials at the lower right front of cover. On the CSA website, this is indicated as "Provenance: none." Yet it, too, has a well-documented origin. (Figure 10)

• **Charles Haviland Mekeel.** The discovery of the Confederate 5¢ provisional entire was announced by C.H. Mekeel in the April 25, 1895, edition of the *Philatelic Journal of America* 13, No. 4, and discussed again by him in *Mekeel's Stamp Collector*, Volume 15, No. 40, Oct. 4, 1901. Henry Spelman wrote about the Madison 5¢ entire in the *Confederate Philatelist*, February 1965, Page 9, where he shares the second Mekeel article in which he announces that he has just purchased said cover from a relative of the addressee, Mr. Kennedy. Spelman's article, titled "Missing Provisional?," asks if anyone can provide any information as to its current whereabouts, as it should be listed in the catalog. Legendary dealer Ezra Cole answered Spelman in a letter to the editor published in the *Confederate Philatelist*, May 1965, Page 39, saying the cover was no doubt part of the Ferrary sale IV, lot 28, which sold for 850 francs plus 17½% tax (at the time, about \$88).

• **Philipp von Ferrary.** Per March 8, 1943, Colson-Moody letter (Figure 3), written a week

after the first, tells Moody (as published by Kaufmann in 1984 in both *AP* and *CP*) that this was in the Ferrary collection and states Colson sold it to Moody. Part of a mixed lot, lot 28, Sale IV of the Ferrary Collection.

- **William Lewis Moody, III.** Per March 8, 1943, Colson-Moody letter. Sold in a series of H.R. Harmer auctions, Nos. 615-17, United States, Part 5, November 1950. Purchaser unknown for certain, but was probably Lapham.

- **Lapham.*** See detailed Lapham story that follows.

- **John W. and Patricia A. Kaufmann.** Purchased by private treaty from unidentified owner via Lyman and Keene in 1983. Sold by Trish Kaufmann via Siegel Rarities of the World, sale 824, May 13, 2000, lot 439.

- **Dr. Deane R. Briggs.** Purchased from 2000 Siegel Rarities of the World sale.

- **Dr. Daniel M. Knowles.** Purchased from Briggs Florida Collection, Siegel sale 1153, lot 2095, May 9, 2017.

Certificates: PF 139968 PF 189961, CSA 03408.

Henry G. Lapham and Raymond W. Lapham

When the Madison stamps were sold to Kaufmann in 1983, they were so tainted – despite the still relatively hefty price tag – that the brokers for the unnamed seller(s) insisted on removing at least one person in the provenance chain whose family did not want to be associated with the Madison provisionals.

Nonetheless, I have two pieces of evidence that indicate that person was Raymond W. Lapham, son of prominent Colson client Henry G. Lapham from Boston, who collected rare provisionals. It is addressed to him in Brookline, Mass.

The name/evidence was literally ripped out of my hands as I was looking at it – receipts, research, the works. But I took extensive notes through every bit of the Madison research process. My earliest notes, made nearly 40 years ago, show that person was Raymond Lapham. I believe Colson doubtless sold the group to Ray Lapham's father but that, after he died, Ray tried to establish both provenance and authenticity.

I have a photocopy of an undated letter from Colson to Ray Lapham, with Wite-Out® correction fluid over the address, which was easily scratched off. It also shows it was first scratched out with blue ballpoint, then blotted out with the white correction fluid. A close-up of the obliterated address is shown in Figure 11. Under the mostly removed eradication is revealed Raymond Lapham's name and address. It has the identical content as the letter from Colson to Moody, but the typing alignment is slightly different, as letters in those days had to be typed individually. I believe Colson used the identical wording to two different clients to establish provenance.

I can find no incontrovertible evidence of Lapham owning any of these stamps, since there was no “name sale” of Lapham's collection. However, Henry Lapham did opine on them and assert Luff was “in error.”

Raymond White Lapham (1928-1976) was the inheriting son of Henry Lapham's collection. On record is the fact that together Raymond Lapham, Walter A. Brown, **Charles I. Keene** (from whom Kaufmann bought the five Madison items) and Harry G. Collier purchased Benson's Wild Animal Farm in Hudson, N.H., from the estate of John T. Benson.⁴ Benson's was a private zoo and amusement park, which opened in 1926 and closed in 1987.

Henry G. Lapham died in 1939 and his son, Raymond, died in 1976. By the time Kaufmann bought the Madison provisionals in 1983, seven years after the son's death, the specific Lapham-

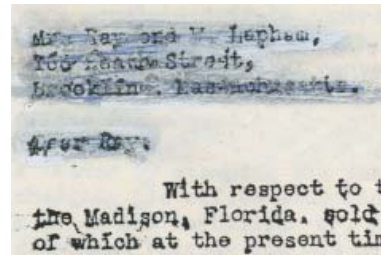


Figure 11. Colson letter to Raymond W. Lapham, the address of which was crossed out with ballpoint pen, then further obliterated with correction fluid, which has since been scratched off.

Keene connection leads me to believe – more likely than not – I am correct.

I suspect a later inheriting Lapham heir insisted the family name be removed. It is likely that Lapham is a missing gap in the chain of custody and father, then son, owned all five of the items sold to Kaufmann. Yes, this is conjecture. But it is an educated guess supported by two pieces of evidence. I believe the Laphams should at least be noted in any census/provenance as a strong likelihood.

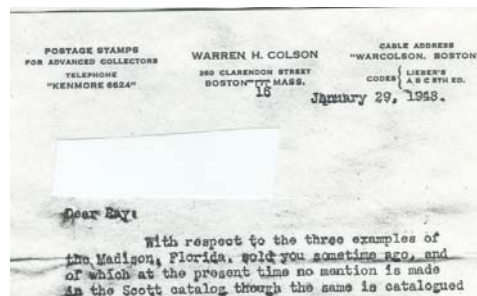


Figure 12. Letter to Lapham, cut-out address.

Another typewritten Colson letter, dated Jan. 29, 1948 (Figure 12), is in my files with identical content to the one written to Moody and it is certainly to Ray Lapham. Since this is five years after Colson’s letter to Moody, this almost undoubtedly places Lapham squarely between Moody and me in the timeline. This time, correction fluid was not used. Instead, the address was cut out of the letter but (oops) the salutation of “Dear Ray” is still visible. There is little doubt this is to Ray Lapham, especially with the familiar use of his first name. Moody’s salutation is “Mr. Moody.” In all cases, the content begins, “*With respect to the three examples of the Madison, Florida, sold you sometime ago, and of which no mention is made in the Scott catalog though the same is catalogued*...”

The Madison Owners

The following list of people were all owners of some of the Madison provisionals, per my research. The people noted with asterisks (*) cannot be verified beyond a shadow of a doubt, but I believe still deserve at least a significant note in the chain of events.

Sir William Beilby Avery (1854-1908) was named on the RPSL Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1921 as one of the Fathers of Philately. He was a member of a long-established dynasty of scale makers and was created a baronet in 1905, a hereditary title awarded by the British Crown. In organized philately, Avery was president of the Birmingham [England] Philatelic Society. Avery built one of the finest collections of his day. London stamp dealer, W. H. Peckitt, bought his collection in 1909.



Avery.



Briggs.

Dr. Deane R. Briggs is a retired otolaryngologist from Winter Haven, Fla., and immediate past president of the Confederate Stamp Alliance. In philatelic exhibition competition, his Florida Confederate postal history exhibits garnered four grand awards, an international gold in London 2015 and two single-frame grand awards for two Florida Confederate Provisionals showings. He is author of the award-winning *Florida Postal History During the Civil War*, published by the CSA.



Brumbaugh.

Dr. Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh (1862-1952) devoted his life to the practice of medicine. He received his M.D. degrees from Howard University in 1885 and University of Georgetown in 1888. His hobbies included philately, genealogy, magic and the preservation of the Pennsylvania Dutch culture. He was born in Penn Township, Pa.



Caspary.

Alfred H. Caspary (1877-1955) is best remembered for his spectacular collections of United States and Confederate States of America, particularly the postmasters' provisionals. He was one of the founders of the Philatelic Foundation and signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for which he was an advisor to the expert committee. He was named to the APS Hall of Fame in 1977.

Warren Howard Colson (1882-1963) was an internationally known and respected dealer in classic stamps, mainly United States, Confederate States and Hawaii. For more than half a century, Colson bought and sold great rarities for his wealthy clients, building the most famous collections of his time. Colson began in the late 1890s as a partner in New England Stamp Co. in Boston, Mass. He left in 1906, forming his own company. The Colson stock was acquired by the Weill brothers in 1963.



Colson.



Duveen.

D.K. Collection. Identity not disclosed; high-end client of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

Henry Joseph Duveen (1854-1919) was born in the Netherlands, but went to New York City to establish an art gallery there in the 1870s, while his brothers founded galleries in London and Paris, collectively known as Duveen Brothers. They supplied the richest Americans with furniture, paintings, porcelain and tapestries for nearly a century, from 1876 to 1964. Henry was an eminent philatelist, named on the RPSL Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1921 as one of the

Fathers of Philately. He owned some of the greatest rarities of philately, restricting himself to issues before 1896.

Rex H. Felton, Jr. is a retired Certified Public Accountant from Tiffin, Ohio, who served as CSA Treasurer 1994-2003. He has a taste for the rare and unusual, having created and sold several high-level Confederate collections both at auction and by private treaty.



Felton.



Ferrary.

Philipp von Ferrary (1850-1917) was born Philipp Ferrari de La Renotière, but he preferred Ferrary. His name seems to be spelled in endlessly different ways. He is said to have assembled probably the most complete worldwide collection that ever existed or is likely to exist. He purchased many important collections, including those of Judge Philbrick. He was one of the storied owners of the 1¢ Magenta British Guiana.

William Hunt Gross is an American investor, fund manager and philanthropist, nicknamed the "Bond King." He became only the third person to form a complete collection of 19th-century United States stamps. The William H. Gross Gallery at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum



Gross.



Hind.

(NPM) is the world's largest gallery dedicated to philately. He donated \$8 million to NPM in 2009 to help create the 12,000 square-foot gallery that bears his name.

Arthur Hind (1856-1933) was a noted textile industrialist from Utica, N.Y. He came to the United States from England in 1890. Hind poured the profits from his business into rare stamps, acquiring many of the world's greatest rarities. He purchased from the Duveen collection and from the Ferrary sale, including the 1¢ Magenta British Guiana, outbidding King George V for a then-record price.

John William (1941-88) and **Patricia Anne Kaufmann**. John, a stamp collector from early childhood with an early love for Confederates, began his philatelic career in New Jersey with several small mail-bid sales in 1971. He moved to Washington, D.C., in 1973 and hired his first employee – Patricia Green. Together we incorporated as John W. Kaufmann, Inc., with Trish as vice-president; we were married in 1975. I was first introduced to Confederates in 1965 and joined both the CSA and APS in 1969. In 1970, I became co-editor of the *Confederate Philatelist*, and sole editor in 1973 for a combined total of 17½ years. I served as editor-in-chief of the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*. I formerly exhibited, but not since 1984.



The Kaufmanns.

Dr. Daniel M. Knowles is an internationally renowned pathologist. He has been listed in “Best Doctors in America” almost annually since 1992. He has published more than 275 scientific papers, primarily in hematopathology. As he is recently retired, the hope is that now he'll have time to share his philatelic knowledge in print. He is a current CSA trustee and a winning exhibitor, having been successful at the Grand Award level with both his United States and Confederate States collections. He won the Reserve Grand at the 2019 Civil War Postal Exhibition and Symposium.



Knowles.

Henry G. Lapham* (1875-1939) was an American investment banker, oilman, philanthropist and sportsman from Boston who played an instrumental role in the construction of the Boston Arena. His collection of U.S. postmasters' provisionals was legendary. Charles J. Phillips was quoted as saying that, “*after the death of Arthur Hind, Henry Lapham ranked as the third greatest stamp collector in the United States.*” He was well known as one of Colson's wealthy private treaty clients.⁵ Numerous of his acquisitions came from the collection of Henry C. Gibson, Sr., via Colson. He won the Grand Award with the provisionals at the 1936 Third International Exhibition (Tipex), entered in the name of his son, **Raymond White Lapham*** (1928-76), who inherited the collection and also had an interest in philately. The son mostly worked his father's businesses after his death. He served as president

Henry G. Lapham* (1875-1939) was an American investment banker, oilman, philanthropist and sportsman from Boston who played an instrumental role in the construction of the Boston Arena. His collection of U.S. post-



Lapham.
(courtesy Robert A. Siegel)

of the Boston-Garden-Arena Corporation, worked for a time at the refinery of Texas Oil Company, etc. Both were graduates of Yale University.

Charles Haviland Mekeel (1861-1921) was a stamp dealer and editor of numerous philatelic journals. Mekeel was involved in the study and authentication of the 1895 discovery of St. Louis “Bear” postmasters’ provisionals, which verified the plating of the provisionals and the authenticity of the 20¢ value. His research was invaluable to the hobby.



Mekeel.

Hon. J. William Middendorf II is a Harvard graduate. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union 1985-87, Organization of American States 1981-85, the Netherlands 1969-73 and was



Middendorf.

Secretary of the Navy 1974-77. He is a well-known collector who has sold more than one stellar specialized collection through Siegel auctions, including one in February 2020. He was in the Washington, D.C., area when Kaufmann Auctions was active. My personal memory is when his collection of carriers and locals was stolen. I was calling an auction and, from my vantage point on the podium, I saw police come in the door. After the sale, I found the robber had tried to sell the collection to John while I was calling the auction. John immediately recognized the collection, excused himself and called the police, who immediately came and arrested the robber.

William Lewis Moody, III (1894-1992), known as Will, was part of the legendary Galveston, Texas, family with ties to ranching, banking, insurance and investments. Will was flamboyant and loved fast cars and speedboats. He made a fortune of his own in the oil business in the 1920s, but the business crashed during the Great Depression. According to Charles Deaton in his book, the *Great Texas Stamp Collection*, his father never forgave him. His father died in 1954 as one of the country’s 10 wealthiest men. He left Will \$1, an inheritance Will contested. He eventually got a \$3.6 million settlement. Will obviously loved more than fast cars. He built a significant stamp collection that was sold in a series of auctions by H.R. Harmer in 1950.

James W. Paul, Jr.* (1851-1908) was a financier who was the son-in-law of prominent Philadelphian, Anthony Drexel. The witness for the marriage was financier J.P. Morgan. In 1907, in his section on “Captains of Industry,” Warren Colson said, in *Postage Stamps and Their Collection*, that, “[Mr. Paul] has been a quiet collector for many years, and today has one of the finest collections to be found in the country. For years he enjoyed the distinction of owning the only 2¢ Hawaiian Missionary in an American collection.”

Judge Frederick A. Philbrick (1835-1910) was appointed Queen’s Counsel, later King’s Counsel, in 1874. He was one of the founders of the “Philatelic Society, London,” which later became the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He was its first vice president and was president 1872-1892. He was named as one of the “Fathers of Philately” on the RPSL Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. According to Melville, Philbrick disposed of his entire collection, except for Great Britain, to Ferrary for £8,000 in 1880.



Philbrick.

Stanley Piller. Stanley is a New York native who was bitten by the philatelic bug when he was ten years old. He began dealing in stamps on an informal basis at age 13. In 1976, he bought the stamp store of O. Jack Taylor in Oakland, California. He is known as a savvy student who deals in high-end U.S. classics and Confederates.



Ryterband.

Daniel J. Ryterband is chief executive officer and head of the New York office of FW Cook & Co., which provides consulting services to corporate boards. Ryterband has numerous collecting interests, including the U.S. 1847 issues and the American Civil War. In 2019, he won the Grand Award in Stockholm against international competition with his Civil War exhibit, as well as the Grand Award at the Civil War Postal Exhibition and Symposium in October 2019.



Piller.

John Walter Scott (1845-1919), born in England, is considered the Father of Philately in America. After a brief attempt to find gold in California, he opened what would become Scott Stamp and Coin Co. in 1863. The first official “Scott Catalogue” was published in 1867; it remains the definitive stamp catalog to this day. In 1870, he held the first stamp auction anywhere. He was indisputedly the nation’s leading stamp dealer of his generation; his legacy is far-reaching. He was named to the APS Hall of Fame in 1941, one of the first inductees.

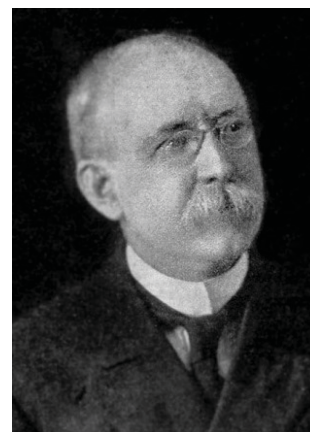


Walker.

In 1870, he held the first stamp auction anywhere. He was indisputedly the nation’s leading stamp dealer of his generation; his legacy is far-reaching. He was named to the APS Hall of Fame in 1941, one of the first inductees.

John H. Walker is a retired British businessman and Confederate collector who is a current CSA trustee. He persuaded the Alliance to have its first-ever annual convention in London at Europhilex 2015, a memorable event for those who attended. Walker is an avid exhibitor of Confederate patriotic covers, although his full collection is more extensive than just patriotics.

Raymond G. Weill (1909-91) and **Roger H. Weill** (1913-2003). Over a 60-year period, the Weill brothers, under the name Raymond H. Weill Co., built one of the world’s most valuable stamp holdings in a tiny elegant French-Quarter shop on Royal Street in New Orleans, La. They handled some of the world’s greatest rarities, yet had a reputation for being as attentive to the youngest and least-monied of novice collectors. I can personally attest to this with fond memories of my first trip to their shop in 1968.



Scott.



Weill Brothers.

Dealers vs. Collectors

I have spent much of my life researching the Madison provisionals. I'm a dealer, but I am also a collector. I know no dealers who did not begin as collectors. Many professional philatelists have given a great deal of time and energy to research, writing and advancing the hobby. Some are exhibitors. Some are writers. Everyone marches to their own beat, using his or her individual gifts to best advantage. It is not about making money. It's for the love of the hobby. Professional philatelists are often not given credit when tracing provenance. Sadly, I have often found it can be a "them vs. us" mentality.

Why is John Walter Scott ignored? He is universally acclaimed as the Father of American Philately and was the discoverer of the first Madison stamp recorded. Is it because he was a dealer rather than a collector? I submit that the vast majority of new discoveries in philately are made by avid dealer-students who live their lives consumed by philately 24/7.

Dealers see a vast amount of material – usually far more than the average collector. Dealers have the experience and the knowledge to recognize a treasured nugget among the mundane in their areas of specialization ... or to take up the challenge of proving a maligned example, such as the Madison provisionals.

As it stands today, a dealer is credited with provenance only if (s)he exhibits or sells at auction in a named sale. Provenance is rarely attributed to private treaty deals which, in my opinion, is a mistake. Auction house descriptions (as opposed to censuses created solely by collectors) tend to give more detailed provenances, which include dealers.

To further make the point, I cite a different example – the Victoria, Texas, provisionals which I sold in 2008 (Scott Nos. 88X1 and 88X2). Does their origin not count because they were not first discovered and photographed in an auction catalog?

I testified that I brokered the Victoria provisionals between private parties, yet no provenance credit is given in current online censuses. News stories of their discovery, with photos, are online on my website at www.trishkaufmann.com/DWLibrary/linns-victoria-001.jpg (Rick Miller, *Linn's Stamp News*, March 3, 2008, Page 16), and www.trishkaufmann.com/files/victoria_pages.pdf (Arthur R. von Reyn, *Texas Philatelist*, May-June 2008, pp. 30-31).

I brokered the deal on the Victoria provisionals as a set, per seller request; I did not own them. My name should not be counted as owner provenance in this instance because I never owned them, but I **can** testify that they originated from H.E. Harris, the well-known dealer/stamp company.

They were sold in a Harris reference collection consisting of mainly fakes. Many "fake" collections contain genuine items, too, although rarely of this magnitude. Carl Kane bought the Harris collection, which was then sold to another collector with whom I dealt, but who does not want to be named. I brokered the deal between that unidentified owner to Rex Felton by private treaty and he sold them through Robert A. Siegel, sale 1016, Nov. 15, 2011. None of these people are noted in the current online census.

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It is possible someone in the future will trace these Victoria provisionals back farther than H.E. Harris. There is every likelihood that they may have appeared in some early auction catalogs and will eventually be so identified in one or more places. Something similar happened with the Oakway, S.C., provisionals after the corroborating evidence and research of the late Daniel T. Gilbert was published in the *CP* years ago.

Final Thoughts

Must information and sales only be printed in an auction catalog or article, even if there is clear testimony from an established and reputable retailer that a deal was done?

Famous works of art get sold privately and their chain of custody is recorded, whether at auction or as a private treaty deal.

I submit that it is a different case when I owned five of the seven Madison PMPs (both 3¢ and 5¢) – only six of which are recorded in the CSA website census. The seventh is photographed in the files at the Philatelic Foundation.

I owned three of the Madison stamps and both Madison covers for many years as both a collector and dealer. That is easily traceable. Four of my five examples were sold in the 2000 Rarities of the World Sale; it was pretty clear it was on my behalf – but four stamps don't make sense as a "name sale," although my name was mentioned as the derivation of the research on the topic.

With the Madison provisionals, there are only seven recorded and all but the two with the Madison circular datestamps are completely different from each other. Thus, it is no challenge whatsoever to differentiate one from the other simply by description. There is only one 3¢ recorded on cover and only one misspelled CNETS.

This discussion focuses on seven stamps or covers from just one town – Madison. But imagine doing a census for cities such as New Orleans. In those cases, I would agree that "image mandatory" makes more sense. But I put forth that this should not be the case when tracing provenance on items such as the Madison provisionals.



RECORDING NEW CSA FINDS

New Confederate finds are still being documented for future editions of the *CSA Catalog*. In addition to new, unlisted finds, I am seeking quality images to replace old black and white tracings or poor-quality images that were used in earlier catalogs. It is important that new images be quality *300 dpi .tif or .jpg files* if they are to be used in future editions.

For questions or to send your digital images and information:
Trish Kaufmann
trishkauf@comcast.net

If you are not a computer user, please send color photocopies to me
10194 N Old State Rd
Lincoln DE 19960

In the Frank Crown-edited *Surveys of the Confederate Postmaster's Provisionals*, which reprinted Charles Phillips' articles from the 1930s, the Frank Hart ones from the 1950s and Crown's Georgia survey, there were no image mandates. Phillips simply contacted collectors he knew and made detailed notes. Phillips provided important provenance for items in the 1920s and 30s. Published in 1984, these surveys give us information gleaned a century ago. It continues to be a valued resource.

The effort it takes to produce these sorts of censuses is enormous, whether it be for provisionals or other topics. We all have our favorite areas. If you can't tell, the Madison provisionals continue to be one of mine, although they left my hands more than two decades ago. If you are looking for a project and have the ability and inclination, your assistance would undoubtedly be most welcome – no matter how you feel about the criteria used for censuses and provenance.

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Randy Smith for reviewing an early draft of this manuscript and making valuable suggestions. I am also indebted to Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries for use of some of its images, which are far superior to my old ones.

Your thoughts and feedback are welcome at trishkauf@comcast.net or to Trish Kaufmann, 10194 N Old State Rd, Lincoln DE 19960-3644.

ENDNOTES:

1. Patricia A. Kaufmann, "U.S. 3¢ 1861 Postmasters Provisionals Used in the Confederacy," *American Philatelist*, (November, 1984), pp. 1117-24.
2. Patricia A. Kaufmann, "Anatomy of a Postal History Research Project," *American Philatelist*, (February, 2000), pp. 158-168.
3. Paul Fraser, "The Collections of Philipp von Ferrary," www.justcollecting.com/miscellania/the-collections-of-philipp-von-ferrary, Accessed Jan. 28, 2020.
4. "Benson's Wild Animal Farm," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benson%27s_Wild_Animal_Farm, accessed Jan. 29, 2020.
5. Stanley M. Bierman, M.D., "Henry G. Lapham: United States Primitives Extraordinaire," *Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, November 1988, Vol. 40, No. 4, (No. 140), pp. 224-229.

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