

“The People with the Calumny”



"The People with the Calumny"

In Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, Vol. XV, page 85, number of October, 1904, appeared the following article, which I reprint here "verbatim," without omission of any kind:

Dans "*Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*," Vol. XV, page 85, numéro d'Octobre 1904, a paru l'entrefilet suivant que je reproduis ici, "in extenso," sans en retrancher un mot :

"PHILATELIC BLACKMAIL."

I cannot recollect having hitherto heard of any scoundrel in Philately who has attempted to blackmail any of his confrères, but a case has just come to my notice which I think it only right to publish.

Mr. S. Singer, formerly of 58 Rue de Chateaudun, but now of 13 Rue des Martyrs, Paris, writes to our firm under date of Oct. 20th, that he possesses thirty-nine letters that he has received from us during the past ten years, sending various stamps to be repaired, and states that he sends photographs so that we can see what they are, and that "we are to read them carefully and we will see that the letters could do us a great deal of harm if known in the philatelic world," and he further states that he holds the letters at our disposal for eight days, after which he will make such use of them as he may deem fit.

Well, this is what we pay him. We publish the particulars that all our friends shall know this gentleman.

As is well known by many of our best collectors, we have on different occasions had sent to us rare stamps which they have asked us to have carefully repaired for them, which we have done, and for which we have paid Mr. Singer his charges. During the ten years, Singer has possibly repaired for us perhaps some twenty stamps of a considerable degree of rarity, which, in accordance with the notice in our catalogue, have been stamped on the back with an india-rubber stamp in purple, "This stamp has been repaired."

This man Singer, as is well known in the trade, has a reputation that cannot be considered first class.

Some fifteen years ago, when I first knew him, he had a decent stock of stamps, and was apparently dealing in a straightforward way. He has degenerated vastly since then, but I never thought that he had degenerated so far as to become a blackmailer, and I think it only right to place these facts before my readers and to make this man's name and address public, as no doubt he will make an attempt of a like nature upon the many other firms who have availed themselves of his services during the past years. I have sent all the letters to the Chief of Police at Paris and leave him to take the necessary steps.

C. J. PHILLIPS in the *Monthly Journal*.

At the time, I was still living in Paris, (I came to New-York in September 1905, only,) and, therefore for a whole year, I vainly expected to be summoned before the Courts on the complaint of the firm of Stanley Gibbons.

But the Stanley Gibbons' firm remained quiet, and for good reasons too, first, whatever it may say in its article, as untruthful as it is insidious, I never, in any way whatsoever, tried to press upon it, never made any request for money to keep my mouth shut, I never threatened and never slandered it. It could therefore make no complaint against me, it did not do so and if, at the end of its article it does say it did, it is simply lying and I shall prove it.

In order to strike the reader's mind and beforehand prejudice him against me, the firm of Stanley Gibbons has searched the vocabulary of slander for the most violent words it could bestow upon me. But words and invectives do not signify anything, if they are not supported by facts and, no matter how perfidious insinuations may be, they do not suffice. The Stanley Gibbons' firm insinuates, affirms and lies without bringing the least proof; it delights in making its big gong heard and hopes the great noise it makes will prevent people from hearing its adversary's voice. I have not at my disposal the gong which a newspaper represents; I shall therefore limit myself to my little bell, the sound of which, I am sure, will appear, in the ears of Mr. C. J. Phillips, as the death-knell of the firm of Stanley Gibbons.

I ask the reader to patiently follow me to the end of this booklet, and I am sure he will then be satisfied that the philatelic blackmailer is really Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Stanley Gibbons, and not myself, for I bring unimpeachable evidence which is

A cette époque, j'habitais encore Paris, (je ne suis venu à New-York qu'en Septembre 1905) et, pendant un an par conséquent, j'attendais en vain d'être cité devant la justice sur la plainte de la maison Stanley Gibbons.

Mais la maison Stanley Gibbons s'est tenue coite, et pour cause; d'abord, quoiqu'elle dise dans son article aussi mensonger que perfide, je n'ai jamais cherché à exercer la moindre pression sur elle, je ne lui ai jamais fait de demande d'argent pour prix de mon silence, je ne l'ai jamais menacée, jamais calomniée. Elle ne pouvait donc déposer contre moi la moindre plainte, elle ne l'a jamais fait et si elle le dit à la fin de son article, elle a menti, et je le prouverai.

Pour frapper l'esprit du lecteur et, d'avance, le prévenir contre moi, la maison Stanley Gibbons a cherché, dans le vocabulaire de la calomnie, les mots les plus violents pour m'en gratifier. Mais les mots et les invectives ne signifient rien, si ceux-ci ne sont pas étayés par des preuves. Les insinuations, si perfides qu'elles soient, ne suffisent pas. La maison Stanley Gibbons insinue, affirme et ment sans apporter la moindre preuve; elle aime à faire entendre le gros bourdonnement de sa cloche et croit que le grand bruit qu'elle fait empêchera les gens d'entendre la voix de son adversaire. Je n'ai pas à ma disposition la grosse cloche qu'est un journal; je ferai donc entendre mon petit grelot dont la voix, j'en suis sûr, semblera, aux oreilles de Mr. C. J. Phillips, être le glas funèbre de la maison Stanley Gibbons.

Je prie le lecteur de vouloir bien me suivre patiemment jusqu'à la fin de cet opuscule et je suis certain qu'il sera convaincu que le calomniateur de la philatélie est le Sieur C. J. Phillips, de la maison Stanley Gibbons, et non pas moi, car j'apporte des preuves

somewhat more convincing than mere innuendoes and invectives.

First of all, what is it that caused the venomous article which was published against me by the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal? Fear, horrid fear, which makes people who imagine the house is on fire throw themselves from the fifth floor to the pavement below and who, in order to escape an imaginary danger, break their necks.

I wanted, at the time, to publish a small advertising booklet, dealing with the art I pursue and which consists in repairing damaged postage-stamps. As I am well satisfied that my role in philately is a useful one, I also wished to give, to philatelists who do not know me, the opportunity of taking advantage of my passage through this vale of tears to save their damaged stamps from absolute destruction by having them repaired. I wanted in that booklet, to print a few of the thousands of letters of thanks that had been addressed me by the most eminent philatelists of the world and, to that end, I had written several of them, and among these the firm of Stanley Gibbons, to allow me to do so, telling them that, if they did not wish it, I would not do it; but that, without an answer from them within a week, I would consider their silence as an acceptance and would go ahead. Several of them granted my request, but I am bound to tell the truth and must say that most of them asked me not to do so.

(I published the booklet in question, two years ago, under the heading "Collections and Collectors," and complying with the wish of the majority, I did not insert therein any of these letters of thanks.)

Instead of replying in a friendly way to not publish its letters, the firm of Stanley Gibbons, knowing

irréfutables qui seront autrement convaincantes que les insinuations et les invectives.

D'abord, qu'est-ce qui a motivé l'article venimeux qu'a publié contre moi le "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal?" La peur, l'affreuse peur, qui fait que les gens qui croient que le feu est à la maison se jettent par la fenêtre du cinquième étage sur le pavé et qui, pour fuir un danger imaginaire, se cassent les reins.

J'avais, à cette époque, l'intention de publier une petite brochure-réclame pour parler de mon art, qui consiste à réparer les timbres défectueux. Etant convaincu de l'utilité de mon rôle dans la philatélie, je voulais aussi donner aux philatélistes, qui ne me connaissent pas, l'occasion de profiter de mon passage dans cette vallée de larmes pour sauver leurs timbres rares défectueux d'une destruction certaine en me les faisant réparer. Je voulais, dans cette brochure, reproduire comme références quelques-unes des milliers de lettres de remerciements que m'ont adressées les philatélistes les plus éminents du monde entier; à cet effet, j'ai écrit à plusieurs d'entre eux, et aussi à la maison Stanley Gibbons, de m'en donner la permission, leur disant que, s'il y avait protestation, je n'en ferais rien, mais que, si dans la huitaine ils ne me répondaient pas, je considérerais leur silence comme une permission de le faire. Plusieurs d'entre ces philatélistes m'ont accordé la permission demandée, mais, cependant, je dois à la vérité de dire que la plupart d'entre eux m'ont prié de ne pas le faire.

(J'ai publié la petite brochure en question, il y a deux ans, sous le titre "Collections et Collectionneurs" et, me conformant au désir de la majorité, je n'y ai inséré aucune de ces lettres de remerciements.)

La maison Stanley Gibbons, au lieu de m'écrire amicalement de ne publier aucune de ses lettres, se sachant gra-

well it was seriously implicated if I did it, and shivering with fear for its reputation, found nothing better, in order to avoid a danger that did not exist, than to print in its paper the article I have mentioned, hoping, by invectives and innuendoes, to forestall the disastrous effect which might be caused by my publishing its letters.

I wanted to sue the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal and also the signer of the injurious article, Mr. C. J. Phillips, and bring them before the Courts and, to that effect, I called on my lawyer. The latter advised me to do nothing, because the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal and Mr. Phillips residing in England and I in France, it would have been necessary to bring suit through diplomatic channels, and everybody knows how slow and costly this procedure is; I would have needed a lawyer in London, and, being a foreigner, been compelled to give a rather high bond as "judicatum solvi." All this would have entailed a great deal of expense which, at the time, it would have been for me difficult to meet, for, as they say in English, I was "broke," owing to some unfortunate losses.

On the other hand, I could well afford, in the opinion of many friends of mine, to overlook such attacks, being, in spite of the Monthly Journal's say, well and honorably known for twenty years in the philatelic world, while, on the contrary, the Stanley Gibbons had, even then, a few little things to be forgiven and forgotten.

Well, in short, to my great sorrow, I was obliged to give up the idea of suing the slanderer who knew he was safe and out of my reach when he darted from ambush his poisoned arrow.

When, one year later, in September 1905, I left Paris for the United

vement compromise si je le faisais, tremblant pour sa réputation, n'ayant trouvé rien de mieux, pour parer à un danger qui n'existait pas, que de publier cet article dans son journal, pensant, par des invectives et des insinuations, atténuer l'effet désastreux que produirait sur les collectionneurs la publication de ses lettres.

Je voulais poursuivre le "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal" et le signataire de l'article injurieux le sieur C. J. Phillips, devant les tribunaux et me suis adressé, à cet effet, à mon avocat. Celui-ci m'a conseillé de n'en rien faire, parce que le "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal" et le sieur C. J. Phillips résidant en Angleterre et moi en France, il aurait fallu engager les poursuites par voie diplomatique, voie que tout le monde sait lente et excessivement coûteuse. Il aurait fallu engager un avocat à Londres et, comme étranger, déposer une assez forte somme comme "judicatum solvi". Tout cela m'aurait entraîné à de très fortes dépenses qu'à cette époque il m'aurait été difficile de faire, car, comme on dit en anglais, j'étais "broken" à la suite de pertes d'argent assez sensibles.

Je pouvais, du reste, de l'avis de beaucoup d'amis, parfaitement dédaigner de pareilles attaques, étant, quoiqu'en dise le "Monthly Journal," honorablement connu depuis vingt ans dans le monde philatélique, tandis qu'au contraire la maison Stanley Gibbons avait déjà pas mal de choses à se faire pardonner et à faire oublier.

Bref, à mon très grand regret, il m'a fallu renoncer à poursuivre le calomniateur, qui se savait en sûreté et hors de mon atteinte en lançant, d'une embuscade, sa flèche empoisonnée.

Lorsque, un an après, en Septembre 1905, j'ai quitté Paris pour les Etats-

States, friends of mine informed me that the Stanley Gibbons' firm, taking advantage of my absence, was spreading the rumor that I had left Europe to avoid an arrest, caused through its complaint against me. In order to cut short this new infamy, I wrote to the Prefect of Police at Paris to ask him whether it was true that the police was looking me up, and I offered, if such was the case, to return immediately to Paris, in order to answer all charges. Here is the answer from the Prefecture of Police, dated January 10, 1906:

Unis, des amis me firent savoir que la maison Stanley Gibbons, profitant de mon absence, répandait le bruit que j'avais quitté l'Europe pour me soustraire à une arrestation motivée par sa plainte. Pour couper court à cette nouvelle infamie, j'ai écrit au préfet de police, à Paris, pour lui demander s'il est vrai que la police me recherche et, dans ce cas, j'ai offert de revenir immédiatement à Paris pour répondre à toute accusation. Voici la réponse de la Préfecture de police, en date du 10 Janvier 1906 :

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Préfecture de Police

1^{re} DIVISIONN^o BUREAUN^o SECTIONN^o

Paris, le 10 Janvier 1906

Monsieur Singer
est informé, en réponse
à sa lettre du 20 Décembre
dernier, que la Préfecture
de Police n'a jamais eu
à le faire rechercher à son
ancien domicile.

Le Chef de Bureau,
e. B.

(Translation)

REPUBLIC OF FRANCE
PREFECTURE OF POLICE
1st Division
1st Bureau

Paris, January 10, 1906.

No.

Mr. Singer is informed, in reply to his letter of December 20th ulto., that the Prefecture of Police never had to look for him at his former domicile.

The Chief Clerk,
(Signed) Illegible.

which proves that the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal impudently lies when it says, at the end of its article: "I have sent all the letters to the Chief of Police at Paris and leave him to take necessary steps."

For three years, I have been living in the United States, I have been able by my art, my work, my technical knowledge in stamps and, I dare say, my honesty, to make for myself a good place amidst the New-York philatelists. But my awakening prosperity hinders the sleep of the scoundrels of the Stanley Gibbons firm.

This firm can abide no competitors and, to do away with them, it slanders. Instead of calling itself "The people with the goods" as it is pleased to do in its advertising, it should be called "The people with the calumny" and the motto of the Stanley Gibbons' firm ought to be that of Basile in the "Marriage of Figaro": "Slander, slander, there ever will remain some trace of it." There are very few stamp-dealers who have not had to suffer from such crooked ways in dealing of the Stanley Gibbons' firm and the only thing that makes its apparent or real importance is the cowardice of its competitors who have been slandered by them and harmed, but who do not dare to fight against the dumb-founded augurs of the Stanley Gibbons' firm.

Therefore, since I have been residing in New-York, the Stanley Gibbons' firm has pursued me with its ferocious hatred, because a man who is feared is always hated. It has tried to hurt me in every possible way, without succeeding. Even recently, the dunces, so-called experts of the firm had the audacity to call "fraudulent" some authentic stamps which I had sold. But, perceiving that all these sly attacks could not reach me, they decided to make a

qui prouve que le "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal" ment impudemment en disant à la fin de son article: "J'ai envoyé toutes les lettres au chef de la Police à Paris, lui demandant de faire les démarches nécessaires."

Depuis bientôt trois ans que je réside aux Etats-Unis, j'ai su, par mon art, par mon travail, par mes connaissances techniques en timbres et, j'ose le dire, par mon honnêteté, me faire une place respectable parmi les philatélistes de New-York. Mais ma prospérité naissante ôte le sommeil aux faquins de la maison Stanley Gibbons.

Cette maison ne peut pas souffrir la concurrence et, pour s'en débarrasser, elle calomnie ses confrères. Au lieu de s'intituler "The people with the goods" (les gens avec la marchandise), comme elle se nomme elle-même dans ses annonces, elle devrait se faire appeler: "Les gens avec la calomnie," et la devise de la maison Stanley Gibbons devrait être celle de Basile, du Mariage de Figaro: "Calomniez, calomniez, il en restera toujours quelque chose." — Il y a très peu de marchands de timbres qui n'aient pas eu à souffrir de ces procédés de la maison Stanley Gibbons et ce qui fait son importance apparente ou réelle, c'est la lâcheté des concurrents calomniés et lésés qui n'osent pas s'insurger contre la mauvaise foi des augures ahuris de la maison Stanley Gibbons.

Donc, depuis que je réside à New-York, la maison Stanley Gibbons me poursuit de sa haine féroce, car l'on hait toujours celui qu'on craint. Elle a cherché à me nuire de toutes les façons possibles sans y pouvoir réussir. Dernièrement même, les experts ignares de cette maison ont même eu l'audace de déclarer comme faux des timbres authentiques que j'ai vendus. Mais, voyant que toutes ces manœuvres sournoises ne pouvaient pas m'atteindre, ils ont voulu frapper un grand

big strike. Fear made them once more act very foolishly, and it may well be said, "Quos vult perdere Jupiter dementat prius." Then, believing that my indolence and my scorn would secure them a new impunity, the jackals of the Stanley Gibbons' firm resurrected their slander of the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal of 1904 and forwarded the same to the Mekeels' Weekly Stamp News, and the latter to please a good advertising customer, hastened to print it in its number of May 23, 1908, without realizing that it was lending its columns to professional slanderers.

The article from Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal of 1904, quoted at the beginning of this booklet, was, this time, preceded by the following :

" EDITOR MEKEEL'S "WEEKLY STAMP NEWS."

" We should be very much obliged (in view of the party mentioned in this paragraph being now in New York) if you will kindly reprint the following taken from our " Monthly Journal," Vol. XV., page 85, for October, 1904.

" Yours faithfully,

" STANLEY GIBBONS, Inc.

" E. B. POWER, Mgr."

Admire the generous solicitude of the Stanley Gibbons' firm for its confrères in warning them against my indiscretions. With an audacious hypocrisy, the Stanley Gibbons' firm admits for the only purpose it can speak of, in publishing its article of 1904 and re-publishing it, the desire to preserve its confrères from such same unpleasantness. This statement, quite worthy of the "Tartuffes" of the Stanley Gibbons' firm is sufficient by itself to make it odiously ridiculous to all confrères, for all of them know that if another than the Stanley Gibbons' firm had had the same trouble with me that it had, there would not be paper enough for

coup. La peur leur a fait commettre encore une nouvelle bêtise, et c'est bien là le cas de le dire : " Quos vult perdere Jupiter dementat prius." Alors, pensant que mon indolence ou mon dédain leur assurerait une nouvelle période d'impunité, les chacals de la maison Stanley Gibbons ont détérré leurs calomnies du " Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal " de 1904 et l'ont envoyé au " Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News," lequel journal, pour plaire à un bon client de sa publicité, s'est empressé de les publier dans son numéro du 23 Mai 1908, sans se douter qu'il prêtait ainsi ses colonnes à des professionnels de la calomnie.

L'article du " Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal " de 1904, cité au commencement de cette brochure, était, cette fois, précédé de l'introduction suivante :

Admirez donc le généreux souci qu'a la maison Stanley Gibbons pour ses confrères en les mettant en garde contre mes indiscretions. Avec une hypocrisie audacieuse, la maison Stanley Gibbons donne pour raison avouable de la publication de son article de 1904 et de sa réédition le désir de préserver ses confrères d'une même aventure. Cette affirmation tout à fait digne des Tartuffes de la maison Stanley Gibbons suffit, à elle toute seule, à la rendre odieusement ridicule aux yeux de tous les confrères, car tous savent que si un autre que la maison Stanley Gibbons avait avec moi les mêmes difficultés, il n'y aurait pas assez de papier au " Stanley Gibbons' Monthly

the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal nor would there be enough ink to print it, to brand and stigmatize such dealings.

Thus, it has not been that generous solicitude, but more simply the wish to hurt me in my customers' mind, which lead the Stanley Gibbons' firm. Since more than twenty years that I have been repairing stamps for most of philatelists, (collectors and dealers,) nobody ever had to complain of me; first, because it is quite lawful to repair stamps or have them repaired, quite as lawful as to repair pictures, paintings, pieces of furniture or statues which happen to be damaged; and then also almost all dealers who trust me with stamps to be repaired, sell these as such, they, therefore, have in no possible way to fear any indiscretion. Alone, the firm of Stanley Gibbons had some reasons to fear this, and good reasons too, although it was quite wrong in its belief, and the best proof of this is that, in spite of its defamatory article of 1904, I had not for a moment considered the advisability of publishing its letters, and this, because I believe that, like a physician, I am bound to professional secrecy.

But the firm of Stanley Gibbons relapses in its errors, always through fear, and ever with the intent of discrediting me, and also with the idea of putting aside a competitor.

Well, this is too much, and this time the British channel is no more between my slanderer and myself. This time, we are face at face, and before a public which does not let itself be imposed upon by profanity and is willing to decide upon reliable proofs. It shall not be said that, on this free soil of the United States, of which I am a future citizen, slander shall be victor against truthfulness, because the former leans upon a big

Journal" et pas assez d'encre pour le noircir, pour flétrir de tels agissements.

Donc, ce n'est pas ce souci généreux qui a guidé la maison Stanley Gibbons, mais tout simplement le désir de me nuire auprès de mes clients. Or, depuis plus de vingt ans que je répare des timbres pour la plupart des philatélistes (collectionneurs et marchands), jamais personne n'a eu à se plaindre de moi. D'abord, il est absolument licite de réparer ou de faire réparer les timbres, aussi licite que de faire réparer des tableaux, des meubles ou des statues endommagés. Ensuite, presque tous ceux des marchands qui me donnent des timbres à réparer les vendent comme tels, ils n'ont donc pas à craindre mes indiscretions. Seule, la maison Stanley Gibbons avait des raisons pour les craindre et pour cause, mais en quoi elle avait tout à fait tort, et la preuve en est que, malgré son article diffamatoire de 1904, je n'ai pas un instant songé à publier ses lettres, car, à l'égal d'un médecin, je me crois tenu à une discrétion professionnelle.

Mais la maison Stanley Gibbons récidive, toujours par peur, et toujours avec l'intention de me disqualifier d'avance, pensant en même temps se débarrasser d'un concurrent.

Eh bien, c'en est trop, cette fois-ci, le canal de la Manche ne me sépare plus du calomniateur. Cette fois, nous nous trouvons face à face devant un public qui ne s'en laisse pas imposer par des gros mots et qui ne veut juger que sur des preuves. Il ne sera pas dit que sur cette libre terre des Etats-Unis dont je suis un futur citoyen, la calomnie pourra sortir victorieuse contre la vérité, parce que, appuyée sur un gros sac. Cette fois, je tiens la

pile of money. This time I have gotten hold of the Stanley Gibbons' firm and shall not let go of it until I have plainly demonstrated to the philatelic world how long it has been the dupe of this firm's impostures.

I shall tear aside the mask behind which the hypocrites of the Stanley Gibbons' firm have hidden themselves and prove that their commercial proceedings do not in the least give them the right of posing as champions of philatelic honesty, and when I shall have accomplished this work of philatelic cleaning, I am sure that all collectors and dealers will approve what I have done. For not only do they harm, to an immense extent, their confrères who, having not so big an expense account as they, can sell much cheaper than they possibly can, by slandering them at every opportunity that offers, but they still hurt even more collectors by making them disgusted with their purchases elsewhere, through the most fantastic appraisals thereof, in order to sell them the same goods at double their value. Their proceedings are always the same, lying, slandering and bad faith.

By their talking to collectors, through their newspapers, they insinuate and spread the rumor of the appearance on the market of such and such counterfeited stamps which can seldom be met with or rather simply exist in their imagination. They put collectors on their guard against petty dealers who, according to their say, only sell counterfeits or stamps that are tricked and they add : Buy only from well-known dealers, i. e., in our place, as we offer you every possible guarantee. All this is simply Bluff, (I beg the compositor to print the word Bluff with B.) Their guarantee is no better than that of any other dealer, and oftentimes less. Collectors, you, who are

maison Stanley Gibbons et je ne la lâcherai pas que je n'aie démontré au monde philatélique combien longtemps il a été la dupe des impostures de cette maison.

J'arracherai les masques dont les faux bonshommes de la maison Stanley Gibbons se sont affublés et je prouverai que leurs procédés commerciaux ne leur donnent nullement le droit de se poser en champions de l'honnêteté philatélique. Et quand j'aurai accompli cette œuvre de salubrité philatélique, je suis sûr que tous les collectionneurs et marchands m'approuveront. Car non seulement ils font un tort immense à leurs confrères qui, n'ayant pas de si gros frais généraux, peuvent vendre beaucoup meilleur marché qu'eux-mêmes, en les calomniant en toutes occasions, mais ils font encore bien plus de tort aux collectionneurs en les dégoûtant des acquisitions qu'ils ont pu faire ailleurs, par des expertises toujours fantaisistes, pour leur vendre la même marchandise au double de sa valeur. Leurs procédés sont toujours les mêmes, mensonge, calomnie et mauvaise foi.

Dans leurs conversations avec les collectionneurs, dans leurs journaux, ils insinuent et ils répandent le bruit de l'apparition de tels ou tels faux timbres que rarement quelqu'un voit et qui plutôt n'existent que dans leur imagination. Ils mettent les collectionneurs en garde contre les petits marchands qui, d'après eux, ne vendent que des timbres faux et truqués et ils ajoutent : N'achetez que chez des marchands connus, c'est-à-dire chez nous, qui vous offrons toutes les garanties. Tout cela n'est que du *Bluff* (je prie le compositeur de bien mettre *Bluff* avec *B*). Leur garantie ne vaut pas plus que celle de n'importe quel marchand et le plus souvent moins que celle de beaucoup

reading me and who, through fear of being deceived, buy only of Stanley Gibbons', in order to satisfy yourselves, kindly make a call at all dealers, large and small, and I am certain that nowhere will you find any counterfeit stamps. Still better, the firm of Stanley Gibbons may sell you all the trash it wishes to and often does at the most fancy prices, you stick these in your album, Stanley Gibbons' pockets your money, and all is said, for it possesses your confidence. But when, perchance, you buy a few stamps elsewhere, you run quick to the dunce-experts of that house and it is simply a question of whether it is their pleasure or not if you keep your purchase or return it to the dealer. You may draw your own conclusions.

You know that the most priceless collections are those which were commenced 20, 25 or 30 years ago, when there was none of those so-called experts and when collectors followed their own inspiration, without throwing off their personality and their own judgment into the hands of ignorant and ill-intentioned high-priests.

But I notice that I am being carried away by this matter which I propose to treat separately in another pamphlet which I am writing now, under the title "Physiology of Postage-Stamp Experts." (I will forward free of cost and postage a copy of this pamphlet to any one who shall ask for it.

I therefore return to the article of the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal of 1904, reprinted in the Mekeels' Weekly Stamp News on May 23, 1908.

I take the paragraph in which the firm of Stanley Gibbons endeavors, by ambiguous phrases, to clear itself before it has been accused and in which it says:

d'autres. Collectionneurs, qui me lisez et qui par peur d'être trompés, n'achetez que chez Stanley Gibbons, pour vous en convaincre, faites une tournée chez tous les marchands, grands et petits, et je suis sûr que chez aucun d'eux vous ne verrez de timbres faux. Bien mieux, la maison Stanley Gibbons peut vous vendre tous les rossignols qu'elle veut et à des prix les plus fantaisistes, vous les collez dans votre album. la maison Stanley Gibbons empoche votre argent et tout est dit, car elle possède votre confiance. Mais quand vous achetez par hasard quelques timbres ailleurs, vous courez vite chez les experts ignares de cette maison et il dépend de leur bon plaisir que vous gardiez votre acquisition ou que vous la rapportiez à votre vendeur. Tirez-en vous-même la déduction.

Vous savez que les collections les plus recherchées sont celles qui ont été faites il y a 20, 25 ou 30 ans, quand il n'existait pas encore de ces soi-disant experts et quand les collectionneurs suivaient leur propre inspiration, sans abjurer leur personnalité et leur propre jugement entre les mains de pontifes ignorants et mal intentionnés.

Mais je m'aperçois que je me laisse entraîner par le sujet que je me propose de traiter dans une autre brochure que je suis en train d'écrire et qui sera intitulée : "La Physiologie des Experts en Timbres-Poste." (J'enverrai cette brochure gratis et franco à tous ceux qui m'en feront la demande.)

Je reviens donc à l'article du "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal" de 1904, réimprimé dans le "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" du 23 Mai 1908.

Je prends l'alinéa, dans lequel la maison Stanley Gibbons essaie, par des phrases ambiguës, de se justifier avant d'être accusée et où elle dit :

“ As is well known by many of our best collectors, we have, on different occasions, had sent to us rare stamps which they have asked us to have carefully repaired for them, which we have done and for which we have paid Mr. Singer his charges. During the ten years Singer has possibly *repaired for us perhaps some twenty stamps* of a considerable degree of rarity, which, in accordance with the notice in our catalogue, have been stamped on the back with an India-rubber stamp in purple : “ This stamp has been repaired.”

Well, no more lies or impostures have ever been written in such a small space. The firm of Stanley Gibbons states that it sent me stamps which its customers trusted them with, to have repaired, but at once it contradicts itself and confesses that, for ten years, it made me repair maybe *twenty stamps*, and that these were marked by them as having been repaired.

First of all, to whom does the firm of Stanley Gibbons hope to make believe that it marked, as being repaired, stamps which did not belong to them? The truth is that the stamps I repaired for account of the firm were its own and that it was not *twenty*, but *thousands*.

I cannot, and everybody will understand the reason why, print here hundreds of letters which, for ten years, the firm of Stanley Gibbons wrote me almost daily. But read only carefully these few letters which are picked out haphazard among hundreds, foot up the number of stamps named therein and you will find a total overreaching 150 stamps of a value of \$10,000 or \$12,000. From this, you may judge of the rest.

Eh bien, jamais plus de mensonges et d'impostures n'ont été contenus en si peu de lignes. La maison Stanley Gibbons dit qu'elle m'a envoyé des timbres que ses clients lui donnaient pour me les faire réparer, mais tout de suite elle se contredit et avoue que pendant dix ans elle m'a fait réparer peut-être *une vingtaine* et qu'elle les a marqués comme réparés.

D'abord, à qui la maison Stanley Gibbons pourra-t-elle faire croire qu'elle avait marqué comme réparés des timbres qui ne lui appartenaient pas? La vérité est que les timbres que j'ai réparés étaient leur propriété et que ce n'était pas *une vingtaine* de timbres, mais des *milliers*.

Je ne puis, et chacun en comprendra la raison, reproduire ici les centaines de lettres que, pendant dix ans, la maison Stanley Gibbons m'a écrites presque journellement. Lisez seulement attentivement ces quelques lettres que je prends au hasard parmi des centaines, faites l'addition des timbres y mentionnés et vous trouverez un total dépassant 150 timbres valant environ de 10 à 12,000 dollars. D'après cela, vous pouvez juger du reste.

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Maurice S. Singer

Maurice,

Notre livraison du 19 ans, nous est parvenue; mais, les timbres sont réparés bien et nous sommes bien satisfaits avec eux. - Le montant actuel nous n'avons pas de billets - banque français - chez nous, nous ferons dans semaine la semaine prochaine (quand nous renvoyez les choses ci- incluses. Parfait - nous employons notre chèque sur Londres au change de 25 s. - 2 s. - 2 s. Si oui, nous ferons toujours faire remise de cette manière; même les échanges. -

Sans ce pli nous trouverez ?

Corse 1: 2 soldi

2: 60 Crazie

1: 3 Lire,

Queensland: 6d,

N.S. Wales: 6d (error - walls -),

Br. Guiana: 1c brown,

Nova Scotia: 1/-;

et nous serons heureux de vous renvoyer bien les réparés avec tant possible soin. - Quelques uns de ce lot doivent être détachés du papier par le verre, mais naturellement c'est à vous à faire ça. -

(Translation)

April 21, 1908.

Mr. S. Singer,

Sir - Your est. of 19th has reached us. Thanks. The stamps are well repaired and we are satisfied. At the present time we have no French Banknotes, we will therefore remit next week when you return the enclosed. Could you use our check on London at the rate of 25 francs to the pound? If so, we always could remit this way, Astruc would exchange them.

Herewith you will find: Tuscany 1,2 soldi, 2,60 Crazie, 1,3 Lire; Queensland 6d., N. S. Wales 6d. (error walls), British Guiana 1 cent brown, Nova Scotia 1 sh., and we will be obliged to you if you can repair with the best possible care. Some must be removed with water, but of course you have to do it.

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Monsieur S. Singer

Cher monsieur,

*Vous ce-phi vous
trouvez de nouveau id timbres se tenant
et 13 autres timbres, que veuillez s. v. p.
réparer soigneusement et plus renvoyer
ici. — Rien à vous. —*

Yours faithfully,

Stanley Gibbons Limited

Mr. S. Singer.

(Translation)

391, Strand, London, W. C., October 6, 1894.

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*Monsieur
S. Singer*

Cher Monsieur Singer,

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(Translation)

Nov. 27, 1894.

Dear Mr. Singer,
 Thanks for your letter. Stamps are as well repaired as usual. Enclosed find Fcs. 50 in a banknote. French, No. 255, R. 416. We add also specially a Fidji with a surcharge, double printing, to help you for the repairing of this we enclose two stamps uncharged of same issue and which you may use.
 We also send you a block of British Guiana, parts of 3 unused stamps; we believe you can out of these make one good copy. Also 13 other stamps.
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Ch' Monsieur,
Dans votre remerciement
de votre housserie, nous retournons
le Guiana Anglais et le Canada,
ils sont très joliment réparés.
de montant demandé par nous
peut-être un peu haut; mais
ces timbres sont de grande
rareté, et sans les avoir
paris si bien, que nous ne
pouvons pas nous plaindre.
Veuillez sans tarder les faire
envoyer par un billet-banque
(P. d. France) N° 378. Z. 1142.*

*Vous trouverez aussi
à l'enclos un autre envoi (de
cette timbres de valeur
sont ordinaire). Veuillez
les réparer soigneusement et
nous les renvoyer quand vous en
avez le temps.*

(Translation)

Nov. 9, 1894.

Mr. S. Singer,

We thank you for your est. returning the British Guiana and Canada. They have been perfectly well repaired. The amount asked by you is rather high, but as these stamps are great rarities and you repaired them so well, we will not complain. You will find herewith 100 francs in a French Banknote, No. 378, Z. 1142.

You will also find enclosed another set of 11 stamps of ordinary value. Kindly repair carefully and return when you can.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

391 Strand W.C.

London, le 23 Dec 1894

M. Singer & Co.
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Reçu fait... £ 3 4

Monsieur,
Reçu de la somme

de 3 francs, mais sans sommes
trois, très occupés, et n'ayant
encore pas pu répondre plus tôt,
nous portons le montant sus-
dit à V. C.

Nous ajoutons
six timbres des îles 5 et 13 de
première émission, pour y abriter
spéciale, ces timbres sont spé-
ciellement rares et nous vous les
donne sans doute vous en occupez
très soigneusement et avec
toute la bienveillance
Nous ajoutons aussi 15 timbres
de valeurs moindres, ce qui

C'est la somme que vous m'avez envoyée le 17 Dec 1894

(Translation)

Dear Mr. Singer,

Dec. 28, 1894.

Work done..... L3 4s.

Received your est. of 17 inst., but we are very, very busy, and could not reply sooner. We place the above amount to your credit.

We enclose Sandwich Islands 5 and 13, first issue, for special attention; these stamps are especially rare and you will doubtlessly attend to them. Do so very carefully and with all possible attention. We also enclose 15 stamps of less value to which kindly attend when convenient.

Yours faithfully,

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C. J. Singer
1895

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*Monsieur S. Singer
Cher Monsieur,*

*Nous venons de recevoir
votre lettre et hier avec 3 Hawaï en retour, et nous
vous en remercions. Les Hawaï sont réparés d'une
manière tout à fait splendide. Nous prenons note
que les autres timbres arrivent sans peur. Le prix de 220
francs pour ce travail est bien cher, mais nous les payons avec
les autres 80 francs de l'autre jour en un chèque de £11.18.
que venillez trouver sans ce pli. -
Notre Monsieur Phillips est en voyage
pour l'Amérique. Nous vous saluons sincèrement avec nos bons
souvenirs pour la nouvelle année.*

(Translation)

My dear Mr. Singer,

We have just received your est. of yesterday, with the 3 Hawaii. Many thanks. The Hawaiis are repaired in a most splendid manner. We take note that the other stamps will follow shortly. The price of 220 francs for this work is very steep, but we pay this with the 80 francs of the other day, in a check of £11 18s. 0d., which find enclosed.

Our Mr. Phillips is journeying to America.

Yours faithfully,

January, 3d, 1895.

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Monsieur M. Singer
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vous envoie l'assurance d'ajouter à sept timbres que venillez réparer s. v. p. Pièce de 4d. a bassin de la Pentelure sur 1 côté, elle nait mesurer exactement le même que celle vis-à-vis. Le Nouvelle Galle du Sud 8d est le timbre rare, dont 12, deux de ses côtés sont défectives. pouvez-vous réparer cela? s'il ne le faites pas 12 1/2 ca est entièrement commun. Si vous ne pouvez pas faire la dentelure manquante exactement à mesurer 12 à 2 cms, ne la touchez pas. Le Naples Armes neuf est très rare, il est un peu mince en qq. places, et nous pensons que nous pourrions l'améliorer aussi l'erreur Lubeck, lequel comme vous voyez a 20 petits trous au centre.

M. Singer, l'été très soigneusement pour le Western Australia, c'est le rare. percez-en ligne.

*Yours faithfully,
 Stanley Gibbons Limited*

(Translation)

To Mr. Singer. London, February 28th, 1885.
 We beg to enclose herewith 7 stamps which kindly repair. Kindly note that the Bahamas 4d. needs perforation on one side, it must measure EXACTLY the same as opposite. The New South Wales 8d. is the rare stamp, with 12 perforation; two of its sides are damaged, can you fix that? But do not make it 12½, this is absolutely common. If you cannot make the missing edge exactly 12 for 2 cms., do not touch it. The Naples Arms new is very rare, it is rather thin at some places, and we believe you can improve it, also Lubeck error, which, as you may see, has some small holes in the center.
 Be very careful with the Western Australia, it is the rare one line perforated
 Yours faithfully,
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24th, June 1895

S. Singer Esq.

Dear Sir:-

Herewith we enclose you a few stamps to be repaired. Kindly pay special attention to the Afghans, they are valuable stamps. You will notice that where the portions are torn out you will get the correct portion on the other stamp, so you will be able to copy it we expect.

Yours faithfully,
Stanley Gibbons Limited.

(Translation)

21 Juin 1895.

S. Singer, Esq.

Cher Monsieur,

Inclus vous trouverez quelques timbres à réparer. Prenez un soin tout particulier des Afghans qui sont des timbres de valeur. Vous remarquerez qu'à l'endroit où il y a des parties déchirées, vous obtiendrez la partie exacte sur l'autre timbre, vous serez ainsi en mesure de le copier, nous l'espérons.

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a Monsieur S.Singer.

Monsieur,

Ci-inclus 2 timbres de la première émission de Hawaii, et 8 Fidji, pour être réparés.

Veillez réparer les Hawaii avec les plus grands soins. Vous verrez qu'il vous sera nécessaire de les tremper pour les enlever du papier, et de les soigner beaucoup, car on les avait négligemment réparés avant que nous les achetions.

Ces timbres sont de la première rareté, et nous vous prions particulièrement de les réparer de votre mieux.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre parfaite considération.

*Yours faithfully,
Stanley Gibbons Limited.*

(Translation)

July 17, 1895.

To Mr. Singer,

Enclosed 2 stamps of first issue of Hawaii and 8 Fidji to be repaired.

Kindly repair the Hawaii with the greatest care. You will see that it is necessary to dip them to remove them and to care for them, as they had been poorly repaired before we bought them.

These stamps are first rarities and we shall ask you to do your best.

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à M.S.Singer.

Cher Monsieur,

Nous avons dûment reçu votre honorée du 22 ct.,
avec des timbres. Ci-inclus nous avons le plaisir de vous en-
voyer chèque de £8-: pour régler le solde à ce jour-ci.

A notre avis vous avez très bien réparé les Hawa
aïi , première émission.

Ci-inclus quelques timbres pour réparation à
votre loisir; il ne vous faut pas vous presser.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre parfaite
considération.

(Translation)

391, Strand, London, W. C., July 24, 1895.

Mr. S. Singer,

Dear Sir,

We duly received your est. of 22 inst. with the stamps. Enclosed we send check for eight pounds, settling account to date.

In our opinion, you have very well repaired the Hawaii's first issue.
Herewith a few more stamps which repair at your leisure, no hurry.

Yours faithfully,

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M.S. Singer,

Cher Monsieur Singer,

Ci-inclus nous vous envoyons quelques timbres pour être réparés.

Nous confions spécialement à vos meilleurs soins les deux "Lady McLeod" non-oblitérés. L'un est un peu endommagé à deux angles, et l'autre du côté gauche.

Ces timbres-nouveaux sont bien précieux; veuillez les réparer de votre mieux.

Dans un autre couvert vous trouverez deux portions de deux de ces timbres. Pouvez-vous les combiner pour en faire un timbre, en dépoignant ce qui manque.

Dans un autre couvert il y a sept bons timbres de Trinidad. Nous voudrions bien, savoir tous ces timbres à votre convenance, mais aussi-tôt que possible.

Agreez, cher Monsieur Singer, l'assurance de notre parfaite considération.

(Translation)

My dear Mr. Singer,

Sept. 3, 1895.

Enclosed a few stamps to be repaired.

We trust to your best care the two "Lady McLeod" unused, one is a little damaged at both corners and the other on the left side.

These unused stamps are most precious ones, kindly do your very best.

Under separate cover you will find two parts of these stamps. Can you combine so as to make one of the two and painting what is missing.

Under still another cover, there are seven good stamps of Trinidad. We would like to have all of these back at your convenience, but as soon as possible.

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Monsieur S. Singer. 19: II: 95:
 Cher Monsieur Singer,

Ci-inclus nous vous remet
 -tois 9 timbres pour être réparés.

Le Ceylon, 8d. est fêlé en haut; vous pouvez le
 séparer du papier en le trempant dans l'eau et
 le réparer de votre mieux..

Le 10d. Anglais, est excessivement rare, mais sa
 piqure est defectueuse. Pourrez-vous le réparer
 au moyen d'un autre 10d. timbre ou du moyen de
 plusieurs, s'il est nécessaire, pour en obtenir la
 nuance exacte et la piqure exacte. Je vous prie
 de prendre bien soin de ce timbre, parcequ'il est
 du rare numero de planche 2.

Apparemment le Canada et le Transvaal ne sont
 collés à un autre timbre, et on leur a attaché un
 petit morceau. Nous croyons que vous pourriez facile-
 ment peindre la portion qui manque.

Les autres timbres sont ordinaires.

Si vous pouvez réparer quelques-uns de vos tim-
 bres cette semaine, voudriez-vous les donner à M.
 Astruc, ou les prendre vous-même à la Bourse, où
 M. Phillips sera probablement, comme il partira
 pour Paris samedi prochain.

Yours faithfully,
 Stanley Gibbons Limited

Mr. S. Singer. (Translation) 19: 11: 95.
 My dear Mr. Singer,
 Enclosed 9 stamps to be repaired.
 The Ceylon 8d. is cracked on top, you may remove it from the paper by dipping in water and repairing the best you can.
 The 10d. British is extremely rare, but its perforation is deficient. Can you repair it with another 10d. or several, if necessary, to obtain the correct shade and the proper perforation. Take good care of this stamp, as it belongs to the rare number of plate 2.
 Apparently, the Canada and the Transvaal stuck to another stamp and a small piece has been torn off. We think, you can easily paint the part which is missing.
 The other stamps are ordinary ones.
 If you can repair some of these stamps this week, will you give them to Mr. Astruc or take them yourself to the Exchange, Sunday, where Mr. Phillips probably will be, as he is leaving for Paris next Saturday.
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34. 0.

Dear Sir:-

We have your favor of the 2nd, with stamp returned for which we are much obliged. Herewith we send you six more stamps which we shall be glad to have receive your attention in due course.

(Translation)

S. Singer, Esq. 2-877 C. R. 3, 1, 96,

C.R.

Solde à votre crédit 19. 0.
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L1. 2. 0.

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Monsieur B. Singer. C.R. 15:1:96:

Cher Monsieur Singer,

Nous avons le plaisir de vous remettre ci-inclus quelques timbres pour être traités comme ordinairement.

Vous nous obligeriez beaucoup en donnant votre attention spéciale au timbre 1d. Cap, wood-block neuf et au Canada, 12d. et en nous renvoyant ces deux pièces aussitôt que possible sans attendre que les autres timbres soient prêts, parce que nous en avons besoin tout particulièrement. Veuillez avoir le plus grand soin à réparer le 12d. Canada et à faire votre mieux.

Les quatre timbres dans une enveloppe ne sont pas grand chose et sont en mauvais état, si vous les trouvez difficiles à réparer, ne vous dérangez pas.

Bien cordialement.

(Translation)

My dear Mr. Singer,

15: 1: 96.

We beg to enclose herewith a few stamps to be treated as usual.

We shall feel much obliged if you can give your special attention to the 1d. Cape Wood-block, error, unused, and to the Canada 12d. and return these two as soon as possible, without awaiting the rest, as we need these most particularly. Kindly take good care of the Canada 12d. and do your best.

The four stamps in an envelope are not much and are in bad shape, if you think it is too difficult to repair, do not bother.

Yours faithfully,

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801, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 123

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Monsieur S. Singer. 2/877-
le 20 Janvier. 1896.

C R E D I T .

Solde en votre faveur - - - - - £2: 2: 0:
Réparation de deux timbres' - - - - - 3: 0: 0:
£5: 2: 0:

D E B I T .

Remise de 100fcs - - - - - 4: 0: 0:
Solde en votre faveur - - - - - £1: 2: 0:

Cher Monsieur Singer,
Nous vous remercions

bien des deux timbres, que vous avez très bien réparés.

Ci-joint nous vous remettons 100fcs-£4:

et votre compte est à présent comme ci-dessus.

Bien cordialement,

Mr. S. Singer. (Translation) 2.877. January 20, 1896.

CREDIT.

Balance in your favor £2. 2. 0
Repairing of 2 stamps 3. 0. 0
£5. 2. 0

DEBIT.

By remittance of 100 francs 4. 0. 0
Balance in your favor £1. 2. 0

Dear Mr. Singer,
Thanks for the two stamps which have been well repaired.
Enclosed please find 100 francs, 4 pounds. Your account runs as above.
Yours faithfully, STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

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90, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 179
Awarded Gold Medal, Paris, 1882. Chicago, 1893.

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M.S. Singer, le 23 Janvier, 1896.

Cher Monsieur,

Nous avons le plaisir de vous remettre ci-inclus un timbre, pour la réparation duquel nous vous prions d'employer toute votre habileté et de le soigner bien. Il est un rare "Id. Wood block error"; l'un de ses coins est déchiré, aussi le timbre est endommagé au bord.

Veuillez faire de votre mieux, comme ordinairement, et ayez la bonté de nous le renvoyer aussitôt que possible.

Bien cordialement.

(Translation)

Mr. S. Singer,

London, January 23, 1896.

Dear Sir—We take pleasure in sending you herewith a stamp, for the repairing of which kindly use all your science and treat it well. It is a rare "Id. Wood block error," one of its corners is torn and the stamp is also damaged at the edge.

Do your best as usual and kindly return as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

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89, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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M.S.Singer. 2/877. 27:1:96: C.R.

C R E D I T

Solde en votre faveur - - - - - £1: 2: 0:
 Réparation du Cap erreur - - - - - -I: 0: 0:
 Timbres Anglais - - - - - - - :12: 6:
 £2:14: 6:

Cher Monsieur,

Nous vous remercions bien de votre estimée du 24 ct. avec le Cap erreur.

Ci-inclus 7 timbres rares, un des timbres de Virgin Islands, petit épique, doit être réparé; l'autre a une tache; pourrez-vous l'ôter; mais, veuillez avoir soin de ne pas faire du mal au timbre, parcequ'il est rare.

British Columbia; à tous les deux manquent les marges du côté; il faut avoir la jauge exacte.

Au New South Wales manque un peu de marge, si possible, à gauche et en haut; dans ce cas n'ôtez pas la gomme originale, qu'il est très important à garder.

Bien amicalement,

Mr. S. Singer. (Translation) 2-877. 27:1:96: C.R.

C R E D I T .

Balance in your favor	L1. 2. 0.
Repairing of Cape error	1. 0. 0.
British stamps	12. 6.
	<hr/>
	L2. 14. 6.

Dear Sir—Many thanks for your est. of 24 inst. with Cape error. Herewith 7 stamps, rare ones, one of the Virgin Islands small perforation must be repaired, the other has a spot, can you remove it, but do not damage the stamp, it is a rare stamp.

British Columbia, to both are missing the edges on the side, you must get the correct gauge.

To the New-South Wales is missing some margin, if possible on the left and on top, in such a case, do not remove the original gum which it is most important to preserve.

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Monsieur S. Singer. 2/877. C.R. I: 2: 96:
 C R E D I T .
 Solde en votre faveur - - - - - 22: 14: 6:
 Réparations des timbres - - - - - 2: 0: 0:
 24: 14: 6:
 D E B I T .
 100 francs, ci-inclus, - - - - - 4: 0: 0:
 Solde en votre faveur, - - - - - 14: 6:

Cher Monsieur,
 Nous avons dûment reçu votre estimée et nous vous remercions bien des timbres. Ci-inclus nous avons le plaisir de vous remettre encore 7 timbres et un billet de banque français, de 100frs.
 Bien cordialement,

Mr. S. Singer. (Translation) 2-877 C. R. 1: 2: 96.
 CREDIT.

Balance in your favor £2. 14. 6.
 Repairing of Stamps 2. 0. 0.
 £4. 14. 6.

DEBIT.
 100 Francs..... 4. 0. 0.

Balance in your favor £0. 14. 6.

Dear Sir—We have duly received your esteemed, accept our best thanks. Enclosed we take pleasure in sending once more 7 stamps and a French Banknote of 100 Francs.
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Monsieur S. Singer.

le 5 Mai. 1896. C.R.

Cher Monsieur,

Veuillez avoir la bonté de réparer très soigneusement le timbre de la Nouvelle Zélande ci-inclus; ce timbre est une rareté avec la petite pique.

Peut-être pourrez-vous aussi perfectionner le timbre de St Vincent ci-inclus.

Vous pourrez bien entendu enlever le timbre de la Nouvelle Zélande du papier sur lequel il se trouve.

Bien cordialement,

(Translation)

Mr. S. Singer.

May 5, 1896. C. R.

Dear Sir,

Kindly repair very carefully the enclosed New Zealand stamp, this is a rarity with the small perforation.

Perhaps you will be able to improve the stamp of St. Vincent enclosed.

You may, of course, remove the New Zealand stamp from the paper where it is.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

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In my correspondence or other communications please refer to this name.

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An Illustrated Philatelic Magazine. 2/- per Annum, post-free.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Awarded Gold Medals, Paris, 1889; Chicago, 1894.

TERMS.—New Cash. Correspondence in English, French, Italian, Spanish, and German. Insufficiently or unpaid letters are invariably refused. All accounts must be completed on receipt, unless we are advised of same within seven days of date of receipt. A List of all returns should be sent to prevent errors. Full Address with every communication with stamp design.

All Stamps sold warranted genuine originals. WE DO NOT SELL REPRINTS. No greater stock existing. The largest and most important Philatelic Publishers in the world. Special attention given to the sale and purchase of rare Stamps. Send for illustrated prospectus, 18 pages, gratis and post-free.

Monsieur S.Singer. C.R. 2--877: 10 4 Juin.1896...

C R E D I T

Solde en votre faveur - - - - - - - - - - - £1: 8: 4:

Réparation de timbres - - - - - - - - - - - ~~1: 0: 4:~~

Cher Monsieur,

plus

£2: 8: 8:
2
4. 8. 8

Nous vous remercions bien des timbres réparés.

Nous vous remettons ci-inclus 2 timbres, Canada et Cap, bleu foncé.

Il faudra du plus grand soin à la réparation du Canada, il a beaucoup de valeur et est en mauvais état.

Bien cordialement,

Mr. S. Singer. C. R. (Translation) 2-877: June 4, 1896.

C R E D I T.

Balance in your favor.....	L1. 8. 4.
Repairing of stamps.....	1. 0. 4.
	<u>L2. 8. 8.</u>
plus	L2
	<u>L4. 8. 8.</u>

Dear Sir—Accept our best thanks for stamps repaired. Herewith 2 stamps Canada, and Cape, dark blue. The best care must be used for the Canada, it has a great value and is in bad shape.
Yours faithfully,
STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED, Stamp Importers, Philatelic Publishers, &c.,

In any correspondence on this subject please refer to the date.

Office of "The Monthly Journal."
An Illustrated Philatelic Magazine. 2/- per Annum, post-free.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Awarded Gold Medals, Paris, 1892; Chicago, 1893.

TERMS.—Nett Cash. Correspondence in English, French, Italian, Spanish, and German. Insufficiently or unpaid letters are invariably refused. All accounts must be accepted as correct, unless we are advised of same within seven days of date of receipt. A List of all returns should be sent to prevent errors. Full Address with every communication will much oblige.
All Stamps sold warranted genuine originals. WE DO NOT SELL REPRINTS.
Special attention given to the sale and purchase of rare Stamps. No greater stock existing. The largest and most important Philatelic Publishers in the world. Send for illustrated prospectus, 18 pages, gratis and post-free.

Monsieur S. Singer.

2 Juin. 1896....

Cher Monsieur,

Nous vous remettons ci-joint une pièce de 13 cents de Hawaii, première émission. À laquelle nous vous demandons de donner une attention tout particulière, comme le timbre est une rareté de première ordre. Cette pièce-ci a été bien endommagée. Nous vous prions de la réparer. Nous serons bien contents si vous réussissez à en enlever la tache brun.

Bien cordialement.

*Yours faithfully,
Stanley Gibbons Limited*

(Translation)

My dear Mr. Singer,

June 21, 1896.

We enclose herewith a piece of the Hawaii 13 cents, first issue, to which we call your special attention, as this stamp is a rarity of the first order. This has been badly damaged. Kindly repair. We would be most happy if you can remove the brown spot.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

MEMORANDUM.

1896.

From STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited, 391, Strand, LONDON, W.C.

Monsieur S. Singer.

2:877.

le 25 Juin. 96.

C R E D I T .

Soldes en votre faveur	-	-	-	-	-	-8:8:
Réparation; Hawaii.	-	-	-	-	-	<u>-£2:0:0:</u>
						£2:8:8:

Cher Monsieur,

Nous avons dûment reçu votre lettre honorée avec le timbre réparé. Vous l'avez réparé très soigneusement et nous en sommes très contents. Nous vous en créditions, comme ci-dessus.

Bien cordialement,

Stanley Gibbons Limited

(Translation)

MEMORANDUM.

From STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Mr. S. Singer.

2.877.

June 25, 1896.

CREDIT.

Balance in your favor.....	8.	8.
Repairing : Hawaii.....	2.	0. 0.
		<u>L2. 8 8.</u>

Dear Sir,

We have duly received your est. with the repaired stamp. You repaired it very carefully and we are well satisfied. We credit you as above.

STANLEY GIBBONS, Limited.

We are rather far, I think, from the *twenty stamps* spoken of by the firm of Stanley Gibbons, and I believe that this is called, in any language of the world, being caught in a fine trap of lying. Mr. C. J. Phillips takes his customers, and the Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal, its readers, for sheer fools, when they want the latter to believe that the firm of Stanley Gibbons paid \$10 or \$20 for the repairing of one stamp, simply to afterward have the pleasure of having the stamp marked and sold as repaired. The truth is that it may have sold these stamps as being in perfect condition and at high prices to customers trusting in its honesty, and this, without any risk, since the stamps were repaired, as the firm itself states, "in the most splendid manner."

Just see how much trouble the firm of Stanley Gibbons takes to recommend me in its letters, to take particular pains for such or such a stamp, to pay good attention to not perforate $12\frac{1}{2}$, but exactly 12, because perforation 12 is a much rarer one. See the enthusiasm with which it thanks me for the artistic work which has been performed and tell me, reader, what is your impression.

Dealers who have sold such great rarities as : the first Hawaiians, the first Guyanas, the 12 pence black of Canada, the Wood Blocks errors of Cape of Good Hope, the 60 Crazie and the 3 lire of Tuscany, etc., etc., usually recall to whom these rarities were sold by them. Well, I am willing to wager the fortune of Rockefeller against one dime that the buffoons of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, who remember perfectly well having made me repair 20 stamps in ten years, will be suddenly struck with amnesia and will not be able to name a single one of the customers to whom they have sold some of those stamps as repaired ones. But I will

Nous sommes loin, je pense, de la vingtaine de timbres qu'avoue la maison Stanley Gibbons et je crois que cela s'appelle, dans toutes les langues du monde, être pris en flagrant délit de mensonge. M. C. J. Phillips prend ses clients, et le "Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal" ses lecteurs pour des imbéciles, quand ils veulent leur faire croire que la maison Stanley Gibbons a payé dix ou vingt dollars pour la réparation de chaque timbre, rien que pour avoir le plaisir ensuite de les marquer et de les vendre comme réparés. La vérité est qu'elle a pu les vendre comme en parfait état et à de très gros prix à des clients confiants en son honnêteté, et cela sans rien risquer, car les timbres étaient toujours réparés. comme elle le dit elle-même, "d'une manière tout à fait splendide."

Voyez quel mal se donne la maison Stanley Gibbons pour me recommander dans ses lettres de particulièrement bien soigner tel ou tel timbre, de bien faire attention à ne pas denteler $12\frac{1}{2}$, mais bien 12, parce que dentelé 12 est bien plus rare. voyez l'enthousiasme avec lequel elle me remercie du travail artistique accompli et dites-moi, cher lecteur, quelle impression vous en emportez.

Des marchands qui ont vendu de grandes raretés, telles que : les premiers Hawaï, les premiers Guyane, les 12 pence noir du Canada, les Wood Blocks, erreurs du Cap, les 60 crazie et les 3 lire de Toscane, etc., etc., se rappellent presque toujours à qui ils les ont vendus. Eh bien, je vous parie la fortune de Rockefeller contre une pièce de cinquante centimes que les polichinelles de la maison Stanley Gibbons qui se rappellent si bien m'avoir fait réparer vingt timbres en dix ans, vont être subitement frappés d'amnésie et ne vont pas pouvoir citer un seul de leurs clients à qui ils ont vendu de ces timbres comme réparés. Mais j'ai déjà presque pitié d'eux et

even now take pity on them and will give them a chance of making me lose my bet, it is to name as the purchasers of those stamps collectors who have had the very bad taste of dying since.

I offer to collectors who have purchased fine rarities from the firm of Stanley Gibbons, to appraise them free of charge and, if afterward, they wish to keep their confidence in the firm, that will be the most curious psychological problem to which can be applied the sharpness of a contemporaneous philosopher.

What can be said after the proofs which I have just given? That the firm of Stanley Gibbons does not consider my reputation as being first class; well, if that of the firm of Stanley Gibbons is a first-class one, I am willing to content myself with a reputation of any class, provided it is not the first-class one.

That I have degenerated since I do not any more repair stamps for the firm of Stanley Gibbons? If, by this, they mean to say that I did not make a fortune in stamps, they may be right. If, in spite of my art, my work, my technical knowledge, I have not made a fortune, it is because I wanted to remain an honest man and not deceive anybody by selling repaired stamps as irreproachable ones, as the firm of Stanley Gibbons most probably did it.

During the fifteen years that I was settled at my store, 58 rue de Chateaudun, in Paris, I worked openly before the customers who called on me and many philatelists from America, who were at the time in Paris, and who came to me, saw me repairing stamps, but I always sold them as such. I always considered my art as very useful to philately. I never hid myself to do my work, I was, and I am, on the contrary, very proud of it. I have saved thousands and thousands of very

je veux leur fournir un moyen de me faire perdre mon pari : c'est de citer, comme acheteurs de ces timbres, les collectionneurs qui ont eu le mauvais goût de mourir.

J'offre aux collectionneurs qui ont acheté de grandes raretés à la maison Stanley Gibbons de les leur expertiser gratuitement et si, après, ils veulent lui conserver leur confiance, cela sera un curieux problème psychologique, auquel il ne sera pas mal de voir s'appliquer la perspicacité d'un philosophe contemporain.

Que me reste-t-il encore à dire après les preuves que je viens de vous fournir? Que la maison Stanley Gibbons considère ma réputation comme n'étant pas de première classe; eh bien, si celle de la maison Stanley Gibbons est, elle, de première classe, je me contenterai très volontiers d'une réputation de n'importe quelle classe, pourvu que ce ne soit pas de la première.

Que j'ai dégénéré depuis que je ne répare plus de timbres pour la maison Stanley Gibbons? Si, par là, elle veut dire que je n'ai pas fait fortune dans les timbres, elle pourrait avoir raison; si, malgré mon art, malgré mon travail, malgré mes connaissances techniques, je n'ai pas fait fortune, c'est que je voulais rester honnête et ne tromper personne en vendant des timbres réparés comme irréprochables, ainsi que probablement l'a fait la maison Stanley-Gibbons.

Pendant les quinze ans que j'ai été établi dans mon magasin, 58, rue de Chateaudun, à Paris, j'ai travaillé ouvertement devant les clients qui venaient chez moi, et beaucoup de philatélistes d'Amérique, qui étaient à cette époque à Paris et qui sont venus chez moi, m'ont vu réparer des timbres, mais toujours je les vendais comme tels. J'ai toujours considéré mon art comme très utile à la philatélie. Je ne m'en cachais pas, j'en étais et j'en suis, au contraire, très fier.

rare stamps which, but for me, would have been the prey of a complete destruction. These stamps, once repaired, by me, are and will be, for a long time to come, the jewels of some large collections and will still be the joy of collectors a long time after it has been forgotten that a firm by the name of Stanley Gibbons has ever been in existence.

I do not wish to end this without a word about the stamp-catalogue of the firm of Stanley Gibbons. This work is really a monument of ignorance or bad faith. Instead of enlightening the collector, it seems to be composed with the idea of deceiving him. Compare its prices with those of reliable ones, such as Scott, Champion, Senf and others, and you will see for yourself that the prices quoted by the Stanley Gibbons' firm have no reference whatever to the true value of the stamps; this value is always exaggerated in regard to stamps that the firm has in stock and can be supplied readily, while the price is ridiculously low for stamps really rare and which it cannot supply you with. It would carry me too far to pick up all the voluntary errors of the Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, but I want however to give you a few very characteristic examples of this.

Inverted Centres of the 15 cents, 24 cents and 30 cents, U. S. 1869, are catalogued:

SCOTT		CHAMPION		KOHL	
15 cents.....	200 dollars	15 cents.....	Fcs. 1000	15 cents.....	Rmks. 500
24 do.	200 do.	24 do.	1200	24 do.	600
30 do.	600 do.	30 do.	3000	30 do.	2500
and in Stanley Gibbons :				et dans Stanley Gibbons :	
	15 cents.....		120 dollars.		
	24 do.		130 do.		
	30 do.		550 do.		

Well, from my last trip in Europe, I brought a 15 cents, inverted center, which I offered to different collectors for \$125. They found this too high, because in Stanley Gibbons, the

J'ai sauvé des milliers et des milliers de timbres très rares qui, sans moi, auraient été irrémédiablement voués à une destruction complète. Ces timbres, par moi réparés, sont et seront encore pendant longtemps des bijoux de grandes collections et feront encore la joie de collectionneurs longtemps après qu'on aura oublié qu'une maison Stanley Gibbons a existé.

Je ne veux pas finir sans dire aussi un mot du catalogue de la maison Stanley Gibbons. Cet ouvrage est un véritable monument d'ignorance ou de mauvaise foi. Au lieu de renseigner le collectionneur, il est fait exprès pour l'induire en erreur. Comparez les prix de ce catalogue avec ceux des catalogues sérieux, p. ex. Scott, Champion, Kohl, Senf et autres, et vous verrez que les prix que donne la maison Stanley Gibbons n'ont aucun rapport avec la valeur véritable des timbres, ces prix sont toujours exagérés pour les timbres que la maison a en stock et qu'elle peut fournir, et toujours dérisoires pour les timbres véritablement rares qu'elle ne fournit jamais. Il me mènerait trop loin de vouloir relever toutes les erreurs volontaires du catalogue Stanley Gibbons, mais je veux tout de même vous donner quelques exemples tout à fait caractéristiques.

Les centres renversés des 15, 24 et 30 cents U. S. 1869, sont catalogués :

Lors de mon dernier voyage en Europe, j'ai rapporté un 15 cents centre renversé que j'ai offert à différents collectionneurs pour 125 dollars. Ils ont trouvé ce prix trop élevé, parce

same is catalogued at \$120, and they all refused to purchase at that price. Finally, I sold it to a well known dealer, and the stamp brought recently at auction sale \$141. Thus, collectors who would have been glad to possess this stamp, refused, on the authority of Stanley Gibbons, who catalogued it at \$120 only, to purchase and, therefore, missed a fine opportunity. Well, let them call on Stanley Gibbons, and they will see whether they can get the stamp in good condition at catalogued price.

In 1896, a few hundred thousand stamps of Nova Scotia, 1860 issue, were found that had been suppressed in 1868 and replaced by Canadian stamps. It is the firm of Stanley Gibbons which purchased these stamps withdrawn from circulation at a ridiculous price. These stamps which until then were rather rare, because it was not known that such a large stock existed, should have become as common as the "Seebecks," of which however there is not such a large quantity and which sell for 25 or 30 cents the series. But it is the firm of Stanley Gibbons which is holding them and then it is different. First, it commenced by creating quite arbitrarily, two series, one on white paper, and the other on yellowish paper, (This shade of paper simply comes from the gum which is more or less yellow or brown and which, time helping, has worked on the paper,) and then it catalogued these stamps at the following prices:

	YELLOWISH PAPER	WHITE PAPER
1 cent black.....	\$0.62	\$1.00
2 cents lilac.....	4.35	0.62
5 cents blue.....	4.35	4.35
8½ cents green.....	1.50	3.75
10 cents vermilion....	5.00	1.50
12½ cents black.....	2.00	3.75

which brings the series on yellowish paper to \$17.82 and that on white

que ce timbre, dans Stanley Gibbons, n'est marqué que 120 dollars et ont refusé de l'acheter à ce prix. Finalement, je l'ai vendu à un marchand bien connu et ce même timbre a rapporté à une récente vente publique 141 dollars. Ainsi, des collectionneurs qui auraient bien voulu avoir ce timbre ont, sur la foi de Stanley Gibbons qui ne le catalogue que 120 dollars, refusé de l'acheter et ainsi manqué une belle occasion. Eh bien, qu'ils aillent chez Stanley Gibbons et ils verront s'ils auront le timbre en bon état au prix du catalogue.

En 1896 on retrouva quelques centaines de mille timbres de la Nouvelle-Ecosse, émission 1860, qui furent supprimés en 1868 et remplacés par les timbres du Canada. C'est la maison Stanley Gibbons qui se rendait acquéreur de ces timbres démonétisés à un prix dérisoire. Ces timbres qui, jusque-là, étaient assez rares, parce qu'on ne connaissait pas l'existence d'un stock aussi considérable, auraient dû devenir aussi communs que les "Seebeck's," dont il n'y a pourtant pas une aussi grande quantité et qu'on vend 1 fr. 25 ou 1 fr. 50 la série. Mais c'est la maison Stanley Gibbons qui les détient, et alors c'est différent. D'abord, elle a commencé par créer, tout à fait arbitrairement, deux séries, une sur papier blanc, l'autre sur papier jaunâtre (cette nuance de papier ne provient que de la gomme, qui est plus ou moins jaune ou brune et qui, avec le temps, a agi sur le papier); ensuite, elle s'est mise à cataloguer ces timbres aux prix suivants :

	PAPIER JAUNATRE	PAPIER BLANC
1 cent noir.....	\$0.62	\$1.00
2 cents lilas.....	4.35	0.62
5 cents bleu.....	4.35	4.35
8½ cents vert.....	1.50	3.75
10 cents vermillon....	5.00	1.50
12½ cents noir.....	2.00	3.75

ce qui met la série sur papier jaunâtre à \$17.82, et celle sur papier blanc à

paper to \$14.97, while other dealers, who are tributary of the firm of Stanley Gibbons for these stamps, catalogued them, for instance, Scott \$11.40, Champion, Fcs. 35, or \$7 for any series and probably make thus a profit.

I ask you, dear reader, to tell me how you explain that the firm of Stanley Gibbons, which has an enormous stock of these stamps, sells them much higher than those who are obliged to buy them from that firm. Oh! I know well enough that some people will reply that the firm of Stanley Gibbons, having invested a certain capital seeks to get the greatest possible profit, that all this is trade and that it has a perfect right to do so. I am willing to admit all this, but I think that a commercial house which so impudently imposes such contributions on its customers, selling them some goods withdrawn from circulation with a profit of over 2,000%, when for a long time it has realized on its investment the capital and a big profit, should keep modestly in its place and not, under the slightest pretext, make such a display of its commercial honesty. If, with these Nova Scotia stamps, collectors wish also to buy of Stanley Gibbons the 5 and 10 rubles of Russia of 1906, which it prices at \$2.50, when they can secure the same stamps anywhere else for 25 cents a piece, and many others in the same proportion, I am perfectly willing and have nothing to say.

I could mention hundreds of these examples.

So, no matter how you turn around in the Stanley Gibbons' business, you find everywhere the most arrant bad faith joined with the utmost spirit of speculation.

It is well that such dealings of a firm which claims to be the champion of philatelic honesty should

\$14.97, ce pendant que les autres marchands, qui sont tributaires pour ces timbres de la maison Stanley Gibbons, les cataloguent, p. e., Scott \$11.40, Champion 35 fr. ou 7 dollars, pour n'importe quelle série, et probablement y trouvent encore leur profit.

Je vous prie, cher lecteur, de me dire comment vous vous expliquez que la maison Stanley Gibbons, qui a un stock énorme de ces timbres, les vend beaucoup plus cher que ceux qui sont obligés de s'approvisionner chez eux? Oh! je sais bien qu'il y a des personnes qui me répondront que cela c'est du commerce; que la maison Stanley Gibbons ayant investi un certain capital, cherche à avoir le plus grand profit possible et qu'elle est dans son droit. Je veux bien admettre cette thèse, mais je trouve qu'une maison de commerce qui met si impudemment à contribution ses clients en leur vendant une marchandise démonétisée avec un bénéfice de plus de 2000%, quand, depuis longtemps déjà, elle a réalisé capital et gros profits, devrait se tenir modestement à sa place et ne pas faire, à tout propos, étalage de son honnêteté commerciale.— Si, avec ces timbres de la Nouvelle Ecosse, les collectionneurs veulent encore acheter à la maison Stanley Gibbons le 5 et le 10 roubles de Russie de 1906, qu'elle cote à raison de \$2.50 chaque, — quand ils peuvent se les procurer partout ailleurs pour 25 sous pièce, — et bien d'autres choses dans les mêmes proportions, moi, je le veux bien, et je n'ai rien à y voir.

Je pourrais vous citer des centaines de pareils exemples.

Ainsi, de quelque côté que vous retourniez la maison Stanley Gibbons, vous y trouverez la plus insigne mauvaise foi unie à la spéculation la plus éhontée.

Il était bon que ces agissements d'une maison, qui se prétend le champion de l'honnêteté philatèlique, fus-

come to light, this being done in the true interest of philately. It is for the reader to profit thereby.

I can promise you, dear reader, a few moments of sweet laugh, should the firm of Stanley Gibbons resolve to reply to the facts I have just related and proven. Then, you will see Messrs. C. J. Phillips, E. B. Power and other leaders of the Stanley Gibbons' firm play on words, torture sentences, in order to try to give their lies the appearance of the truth. But I charitably warn them that if, when and if they answer, they do not make use of the same process that I did myself, i. e., if with the defense they put up, they do not reproduce the wording of my accusations as I did, in regard to their own indictment, the case—as they say in the language of Courts—shall be heard and the firm of Stanley Gibbons will be sentenced. The firm may then pour on me all the invectives it may please, the far-seeing philatelists will then know that the philatelic calumniator is really the firm of Stanley Gibbons and not I.

To clinch the matter, I have retained Mr. Maximus A. Lesser (former Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City and well known in philatelic circles) to institute in my behalf, in the Supreme Court, an action for libel against Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and am satisfied that the outcome will both vindicate me and demonstrate to them that, in this country at least, they cannot pursue their high-handed methods without paying the penalty for such transgressions.

New York, July, 1908.

sent dévoilés, et cela dans l'intérêt véritable de la philatélie. Au lecteur d'en tirer profit.

Je vous promets, cher lecteur, que vous aurez quelques instants de douce hilarité si la maison Stanley Gibbons s'avise de répondre aux faits que je viens de vous narrer et de vous prouver. Alors, vous verrez comment Messieurs C. J. Phillips, E. B. Power et les autres leaders de la maison Stanley Gibbons se mettront à jongler avec les mots, à torturer les phrases pour essayer de donner à leurs mensonges un semblant de vérité. Mais je les préviens charitablement que si, en me répondant, ils n'usent pas du même procédé que moi, c'est-à-dire si, avec leur défense, ils ne reproduisent pas mes accusations, comme je l'ai fait, la cause, comme on dit au Palais, sera entendue et la maison Stanley Gibbons sera jugée. Elle pourra déverser sur moi toutes les invectives qu'elle voudra, les philatelistes sont désormais fixés sur ce point que le calomniateur de la philatélie est la maison Stanley Gibbons et non pas moi.

Et, pour bien le prouver, je viens de m'assurer le concours de M^e Maxime Lesser, (ancien Avocat-Conseil de la Ville, et bien connu dans les milieux philatéliques,) et de le prier d'instituer, en mon nom, devant la Cour Suprême, une action en diffamation contre Stanley Gibbons, Limited. Je suis convaincu que l'issue me justifiera complètement et leur démontrera que, dans ce pays, tout au moins, ils ne peuvent pas poursuivre leurs manœuvres de grands chemins, sans s'exposer à la répression pénale prévue par la loi pour de tels agissements.

New-York, Juillet 1908.

S. SINGER.

128 East 23d Street.

