

OFFICE

OF THE

SOLICITOR

XX
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR THE

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT: CLAY BURTON VANCE, at

Paris, France.

(Case No. 32436-E)

Post Office Department

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

JAN 29 1916

Washington

January 29, 1916.

ORDER NO. 9420

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him that CLAY BURTON VANCE, at Paris, France, is engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, in violation of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890, said evidence being more fully set forth in the memorandum of the Solicitor for the Post Office Department of the date of January 29, 1916, and for the reasons set forth in said memorandum, and by authority vested in the Postmaster General by said act, and by the act of Congress entitled "An Act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1895, the Postmaster General hereby forbids you to certify any postal money order drawn to the order of said party, and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to return all letters and advices, whether registered or not, and other Mail matter which shall arrive at your office directed to the party named herein to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the Division of Dead Letters with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

ALL WHO WRITE TO HIM.

Thousands of people in all walks of life have been misled by this man's advice. He tells you what you are capable of, and how you can be successful. He mentions your friends and enemies and describes the good and bad periods in your life.

(Signed) A. S. Burleson,

Postmaster General.

Postmaster,
New York, N.Y.
To all Postmasters.

(Case No. 32436-E)

Post Office Department

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Washington

January 29, 1916.

In the Matter of Charges that

CLAY BURTON VANCE,
Paris, France,

is engaged in conducting a scheme
for obtaining money through the mails
by means of false and fraudulent pre-
tenses, representations and promises,
in violation of Sections 3929 and 4041
of the Revised Statutes, as amended.

: MEMORANDUM FOR THE
:
: POSTMASTER GENERAL,
:
: recommending the
: issuance of a fraud order.
:
:
:
:
:
:

This office is in receipt, through the Chief Inspector, of a report from Inspector Honvery, of the Washington Division, dated January 21, 1916, with which is submitted evidence showing that under the above name and from the address given, the scheme described below is being conducted:

In newspapers and periodicals in general circulation throughout the United States advertisements are published of the character of that quoted below:

ASK THIS MAN TO READ YOUR LIFE.
HIS WONDERFUL POWER TO READ HUMAN LIVES AT ANY DISTANCE AMAZES
ALL WHO WRITE TO HIM.
Thousands of people in all walks of life have been benefited by this man's advice. He tells you what you are capable of, and how you can be successful. He mentions your friends and enemies and describes the good and bad periods in your life.

His description as to past, present and future events will astonish and help you. All he wants is your name (written by yourself), your birth date and sex to guide him in his work. Money is not necessary. Mention the name of this paper and get a Trial Reading free. If you want to take advantage of this special offer and obtain a review of your life simply send your full name, address, the date, month and year of birth (all clearly written), state whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss, and also copy the following verse in your own handwriting:

"Your advice is useful,
So thousands say,
I wish success and happiness,
Will you show me the way?"

If you wish you may enclose 10 cents (stamps of your own country) to pay postage and clerical work. Send your letter to Clay Burton Vance, Suite 2868-A Palais-Royal, Paris, France. Do not enclose coins in your letter. Postage on letters to France is 5 cents.

To those who reply to such advertisements a letter printed in imitation of typewriting is sent, containing general statements as to the character of the addressee and statements to the effect that for a remittance of three dollars a "Complete Life Reading" will be furnished. If a remittance of three dollars is not received, follow-up letters are sent out by Vance in which the price of a "Complete Life Reading" is reduced gradually from three dollars to fifty cents. When a remittance is made for the "Complete Life Reading" the remitter is sent another form, printed in imitation of typewriting, which while longer than the Trial Reading, contains no more definite statements. In fact, neither the Trial Reading nor the Complete Life Reading contain any information which, assuming it to be true, could be of any considerable value to the purchasers. This despite the representations in the form first sent to the correspondent as follows:

This limited examination of your horoscope has indeed been interesting to me and I much regret my inability to go more fully into your indications. Perhaps my interest has been intensified because it comes from that side of the Atlantic which was my birth-place. Several matters of considerable importance and upon which immediate advice seems to be most urgent, have not even been mentioned as I prefer to thoroughly acquaint myself with the positions and influences of the planets governing your affairs before giving definite advice.

* * *

While you will find this short sketch reasonably accurate, it must be remembered that absolute accuracy and complete information can only be obtained by a careful study of the positions of all your planets at birth, and for the test reading but one planet has been considered. In the hastily prepared test reading it is not unusual to notice some indication, apparently of minor importance, which takes on a more serious aspect when fully investigated. On the other hand an occasional indication observed through the partial study of your horoscope may not be borne out upon making the extended study.

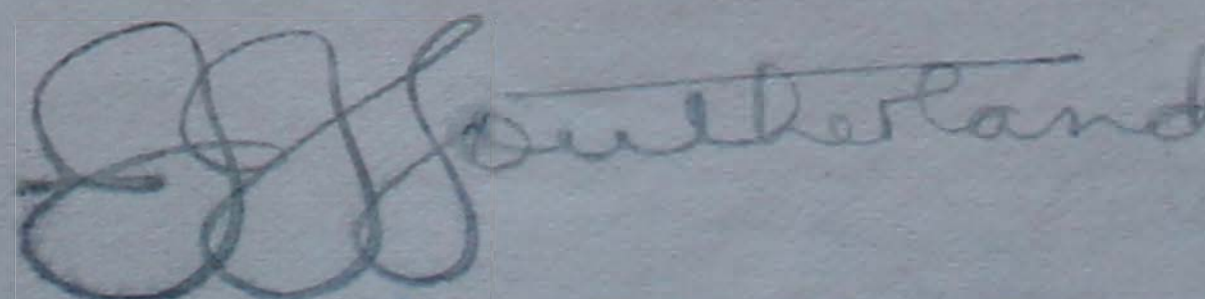
I will preserve the calculations thus far made for you, and should I find time this evening will, continue my studies as there is one section of your horoscope in particular that promises developments of more than usual significance. I can assure you that your Complete Life Reading will contain information which you would highly prize and I trust you will post your order immediately. To ensure a speedy response, I will make a material reduction in my fee if you will forward your order within 10 or 15 days from the date this communication reaches you. My usual fee for a Complete Life Reading is 25 Francs (\$5), but, believing you will find my work worthy of your endorsement and that you will give me favorable mention to your friends, I will quote you a special price of 15 Francs (\$3), but I would request that you keep the matter of terms in confidence.

I will prepare a Complete Life Reading for you with the same care that I would exercise in making up a reading for a member of my own family. I feel the responsibility which I assume when you practically place the moulding of your future in my hands, and I shall adhere to a strict logical line of reasoning when I point out to you the many turns, changes and incidents in your life; and advise you what to do and when and how to do it.

I feel a just sense of pride and comfort in the knowledge that I have brought happiness and success into the lives of so many. The fact that other astrologers admit the superiority of my method and come to me for advice and instruction is proof of the high state of perfection attained in scientific astrological work.

As a matter of fact, as the evidence shows, neither the Trial Reading nor the Complete Life Reading are prepared for the particular individual who purchases them. Vance does not cast the horoscope of anyone, and could not accurately do so from the data furnished to him, since it is requisite in order properly to cast the horoscope of an individual to know the exact time and place of his birth. The date of birth would be insufficient because of the fact that the sun may pass from one sign into another during the day. In truth, these readings are made up in twelve forms, one for each sign of the Zodiac, and each year is arbitrarily divided by the promoter of the scheme into twelve parts, each of which parts is assigned to one of these signs of the Zodiac. By this method two persons born on the same day of the year receive the same reading, regardless of the year of their birth. All that Vance does is to send to the remitter one of the forms already made up and printed, according to the sign of the Zodiac under which he alleges the purchaser was born. It will thus be seen that even assuming Astrology to be a real science and not a pseudo-science (as it is described by all modern astronomers of repute), the purchaser is not furnished that which he is led to expect to receive for his remittance.

I find that this is a scheme for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and therefore recommend that a fraud order be issued against the above-named party.



Acting Solicitor.

OFFICE
OF THE

The attention of all postmasters is invited to the fact that fraud orders have been issued against Kenneth Ayliffe, at London, England; Sr. E. de Oviedo and Sr. E. Oviedo, at San Jose and Puntarenas, Costa Rica, and Clay Burton Vance, at Paris, France. All mail matter addressed to these parties should be returned to the postmaster at the office at which originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of such matter it should be sent to the Division of Dead Letters with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped thereon. All postmasters should decline to issue any postal order in favor of the parties named.

The attention of all postmasters is invited to the fact that a fraud order has been issued against C. B. Vance, at No. 5, Groenedalstraat, The Hague, Holland. All mail matter addressed to this party should be returned to the postmaster at the office at which originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of such matter it should be sent to the Division of Dead Letters with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped thereon. All postmasters should decline to issue any postal money order in favor of the party named.

The attention of all postmasters is invited to the fact

that a fraud order has been issued against C. B. Vance, at No. 5,
May 27, 1916.
Groenedalstraat, The Hague, Holland. All mail matter addressed

to this party should be returned to the postmaster at the office

Chief Clerk,
Post Office Department.

I have to request that you have the attached notice of the
issuance of a fraud order against C. B. Vance, at No. 5 Groened-
alstraat, The Hague, Holland, inserted in the next Supplement to
the Postal Guide.

of Dead Letters with the words "Fraudulent; Mail to this address
returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped
Solicitor.

thereon. All postmasters should decline to issue any postal money

Enclosure.
in favor of the party named.

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington

May 24, 1916.

In the Matter of Charges that
CLAY BURTON VANCE,
at
Paris, France,
is engaged in conducting a scheme
for obtaining money through the
mails by means of false and fraud-
ulent pretenses, representations and
promises, in violation of Sections
3929 and 4041 of the Revised Statutes,
as amended.

MEMORANDUM for the
POSTMASTER GENERAL
Recommending the extension
of this order to include
C. B. VANCE,
No. 5 Groenedalstraat,
The Hague, Holland.

On January 29, 1916, a fraud order was issued against the above-named party at Paris, France, upon evidence satisfying the Postmaster General that he was engaged in conducting a scheme for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises. The scheme consisted in the obtaining of remittances of money for what were alleged to be astrological readings made up for the individual from a horoscope cast by Vance, but which in fact were mere form letters prepared in advance containing no information which could be of any value to the purchaser. This office is now in receipt of a report from Inspector Hon-very of the New York Division submitting evidence showing conclusively that this party has now removed to The Hague, Holland, and from that point is continuing the fraudulent business through the mails under the name and address C. B. Vance, 5 Groenedalstraat, The Hague, Holland.

I therefore recommend that the fraud order be extended to embrace this name and address.

W. H. Lamm
Solicitor.

Post Office Department

WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 9693

MAY 26 1916

May 24, 1916.

It having been made to appear to the Postmaster General, upon evidence satisfactory to him that C. B. VANCE, at No. 5 Groenedalstraat, The Hague, Holland, is engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, in violation of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to amend certain sections of the Revised Statutes relating to lotteries, and for other purposes," approved September 19, 1890, said evidence being more fully set forth in the memorandum of the Solicitor for the Post Office Department of the date of May 24, 1916, and for the reasons set forth in said memorandum, and by authority vested in the Postmaster General by said act, and by the Act of Congress entitled "An Act for the suppression of lottery traffic through international and interstate commerce and the postal service, subject to the jurisdiction and laws of the United States," approved March 2, 1895, the Postmaster General hereby forbids you to certify any postal money order drawn to the order of said party, and you are hereby directed to inform the remitter of any such postal money order that payment thereof has been forbidden, and that the amount thereof will be returned upon the presentation of the original order or a duplicate thereof applied for and obtained under the regulations of the Department.

And you are hereby instructed to return all letters and advices, whether registered or not, and other mail matter which shall arrive at your office directed to the party named herein to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, to be delivered to the senders thereof, with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters or matter. Provided, however, that where there is nothing to indicate who are the senders of letters not registered or other matter, you are directed in that case to send such letters and matter to the Division of Dead Letters with the words "Fraudulent: Mail to this address returned by order of Postmaster General" plainly written or stamped thereon, to be disposed of as other dead matter under the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(Signed) A. S. Burleson.

Postmaster General.

Postmaster,

New York, N.Y.
To all Postmasters.

(Case No. 32436-E - Supplemental)

Solicitor.