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11/4/67

Sylvia: Am on p. 63. Your information on the FBI report referring to the undelivered parcel containing the open-ended brown paper bag is very interesting. As you know, there was an attempt either on November 20 ~~and~~ or 21st to deliver to Ruth's house a package for "the Oswalds" with postage due. At Jones Harris' request, I questioned Ruth on this in April, '65. As usual with Ruth, she neither confirmed nor denied, saying only "I can't remember." She offered a possibility: perhaps it had been a foreign magazine, but since most foreign magazines (by subscription at any rate) are professional in dealing with postage, I did not accept her explanation.

The FBI report makes the problem even more confusing. What "non-existent" Dallas address? Is the FBI saying that a package addressed, say, to Lee Oswald, 234 Apache Street, Dallas, Texas, found its way to Irving? How? Did every postal employee in downtown Dallas know automatically to send Lee Oswald's mail to Irving? Was he this much of a personage?

It is recognized of course that no one at the Irving address accepted the package. Since Ruth declined to remember, we don't know whether this was ~~from~~ deliberate (because neither Marina nor Ruth wanted to put up the cash) or accidental (because they were out when the postman came by). At any rate, the postman knew very well that he had attempted to deliver the package on either the 20th or 21st of November. How strange that the package with that damning name on it did not recall itself to him before it was just stumbled upon in the dead-letter section on December 4th.

Was there a postmark? Doesn't there have to be somekind of postmark, with or without postage? Have you asked Jones Harris if he knows any more about this? As I recall, the original statement on the package was somewhere in the volumes.

Isn't it the case when a package has postage due on it that the mailman leaves a notification in the customer's box?

What would have been the implications IF either Marina or Ruth had accepted the package, paid the postage due, and then given it to Oswald on the night of the 21st?

Am anxious to hear any more that you have on this. Back to book.  
Love, S.

I knew book was going to be accurate & scholarly - but am so pleased that it is so readable. The short chapter arrangement is an excellent idea. The commentary & sarcasm are in exactly right balance.