

Feb. 12, 1974

Dear Dr Wecht

Dr Lattimer had not responded to the questions I asked about the two death certificates for President Kennedy and the location of his back wound when I met him last night at the conclusion of his talk on the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations in the Einhorn Auditorium of Lenox Hill Hospital. When we spoke briefly after his talk he said he had not known about the issuance of a second certificate by Dr Burkley and although he agreed it was unusual he saw no significance in it and dismissed the matter as of little or no importance. Is it? Or do you have another opinion? Dr Lattimer said flatly he thought Dr Burkley was "wrong" in locating the back wound at "about the level of the third thoracic vertebra but did not comment further. Would you oblige me by relating this location to that given in the official autopsy report, to that reported by the 1968 review panel, and to that observed by you in your review of the autopsy photos and X-rays?

It would also be very helpful to me if you can send me certain material. I have read carefully three times your article in Forensic Science Gazette on the autopsy X-rays and photographs but do not have the diagrams which, a footnote reads, can be obtained from the author. Will you send them to me, please?

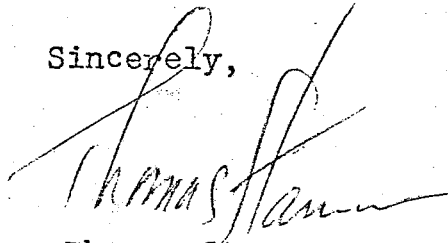
Dr Lattimer's Gazette article concluded with a bibliography which included his Observations Based on A Review of the Autopsy Photographs, X-Rays, and Related Materials of the Late President John F Kennedy and which I have read now read twice but not yet compared with his Gazetter's article. Although a bibliography was not appended to your Gazette article, I know you had written previously on the autopsy and believe you have had published a more detailed report of your inspection of the autopsy X-rays and photographs than appeared in your Gazette article. If I am correct I should very much like to have a copy of that report and your other writings on the autopsy.

Garrison's "A Heritage of Stone" contains excerpts from the revealing testimony of Colonel Pierre Finck, consultant on wounds to the non-forensic pathologists performing the autopsy on Kennedy at Bethesda Hospital in Washington the night of November 22, 1963, given in the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans in 1968. Do you have a copy of the transcript of all of Colonel Finck's testimony which I can have Xeroxed? Or, if you do not, can you suggest where I can obtain a copy?

I ask for these materials because I find myself becoming more deeply interested in the controversy over the autopsy which has been raging now for more than ten years. Certain ideas are beginning to crystallize in my mind but before I can work them out I need the materials I described. If you can send them to me I should be better able to discuss the very valid point you made in your letter to me, to wit: "The biggest problem with postulating a second shot to the head from the grassy knoll area is that we cannot explain what hap-

pened to that bullet, and why there was no apparent damage to the left side or left rear of JFK's skull."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thomas Stamm', written in dark ink.

Thomas Stamm

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