

for Weisberg

18 Aug 1969

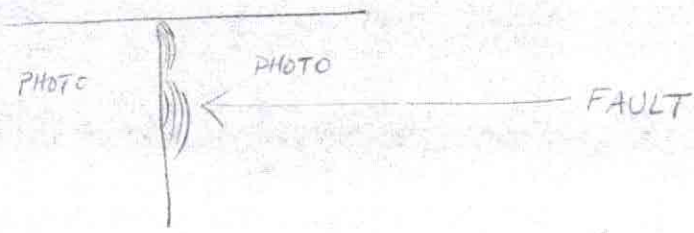
Dr. John Nichols
Kansas City, Kan.

Dear John:

In a recent letter to you I recently described a circumstance under which the right-hand photos in CEs 562 and 564 might after all ~~have been~~ be two separate pictures of the same area. This may get Frazier off the hook regarding the use of an antiquated process in the preparation of his exhibits (this is a separate problem from the question of ~~misidentification~~ ~~misidentification~~ of misidentification). Your good prints of the exhibits makes me again put forth the notion that the two right-hand photos were made from the same negative.

The proof is something that you will have to search in consultation with an expert in photography, for I am not very competent in such matters and can only give you a lead. If it can be proved that the photos were made from the same negative, then you can smash Frazier badly for using an antiquated method without explaining why.

Near the upper left hand corner of the photo in CE 562 ^{and CE 564} is a fault that looks like a bit of the figure "8"; like this:



(There is a similar fault in the middle of the right hand side of the photo in CE 564, but this area is not visible in the 562 photo, so does not come into consideration)

You should try to find out from a photo expert if that fault is the result of a defect in the negative or of a defect in the lenses (microscope or camera) through which the image passed.

If it is a fault of the lenses, then we are not advanced at all in our knowledge whether Frazier used the defunct method. The possibility that I mentioned in my previous letter might still apply.

But if it is a fault in the negative, then we have Frazier cold, for there will be no way of escaping the charge of having made both photos from the same negative.

The misidentification of the exhibits can easily be explained away as a simple and natural error (even though that excuse will not diminish your claim to the evidence). But what on earth excuse might he give for using a tedious and inadequate method when a simple and effective method was natural and more easily available?

I'll do some checking where I can. I urge you to do the same, for it could help your case even more than the knowledge of misidentification.

I'll write later and comment on the other things you sent.

P.S. THE FAULT DOES NOT APPEAR TO OCCUR ON THE OTHER PHOTOS THAT FRAZIER TOOK THROUGH A MICROSCOPE, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE.

Still,
Dick
Dick Bernabei

cc. Weisberg/Schoener



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

August 19, 1969

Harold Weisberg, Esq.,
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland.

Dear Harold:

Many thanks for your letter of August 15, which arrived yesterday.

About the "authorization for the autopsy" I recall you telling me in my Silver Springs Motel room that it was apparently misplaced in the files at the Archives but that you either had a copy or could put your finger the item in the Archives. I am not certain which of the latter you told me. I asked you for a copy but you told me you wanted to preserve it for your own surprise. I had intended to ask you for this at the very last before I publish and possibly at that time trade you some of my undisclosed items.

You have not provided me with a copy but only some oral details on it. Should I write to the archivist and request a copy and possibly include a Xerox of his previous letter telling me that he does not have it?

Further on CE 562 & 564 and Mr. Frazier's confusion. Prior to going to the archives I wrote that I wanted to examine these two exhibits. After registering I told Mr. Johnson that a few months previously I had purchased 8x10 glossy of these exhibits and upon arrival inspection of them revealed that someone had taken a picture of them as they are printed in the report on pages 252 & 253 of volume 17. I told him that the grid lines of the screen of the copper half-tone plate were quite obvious. ✓ Mr. Johnson protested and told me that this was not the case, but, instead, the prints sent to me were made from the same negative as the prints of the actual exhibits which were sitting on the table before us as about 12x14 photographs (or so) mounted on two-ply Bristol Board. A short discussion revealed that we were on a collision course so I asked him to take the mounted exhibits on the Bristol Boards and make negatives for me for which I paid and the negatives

I left them in Kansas City and could not show him,

and the negatives arrived about two weeks later. These negatives are not the ones from which the original exhibits were printed but are the ones our photographer made the prints I forwarded to you in which he attempted to bring the left hand sides (C7 & C38) to about the same magnification. I did not ask Mr. Johnson to show me the negatives from which the original exhibits were produced and he, of course, did not show them to me.

Of course, photographs are correctly supposed to be taken thru the comparison microscope onto a single negative and the line is optically produced by an arrangement of prisms or beam splitter. However this can be done by bringing (pasting) two separate negatives into apposition. If Dick says there were two negatives pasted together I would accept this until I have inspected the negative(s). Someone should confirm this in the Archives.

As to my unacceptable prints provided by the archives, I have taken these to our photographer and asked him to make duplicates by making a negative and then another set of prints which will be quite good. Will forward these when ready.

Enclosed is copy of letter to Paul about Xeroxing.

The new "Autopsy Manual" is a public document and you should be able to get it gratis or have a physician get it for you. I do not want to irritate the AFIP (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology) because I am applying for a consultant staff position. Believe it or not the Bethesda Navy Hospital has invited me for a lecture in January 1970 to be on closed circuit television!! My last letter from the adjutant to Surgeon General of the Navy was a complete non-sequitur. I just simply cannot locate the regulations setting forth details for preservation of X-ray film, photographs, and human tissues obtained at biopsy or autopsy.

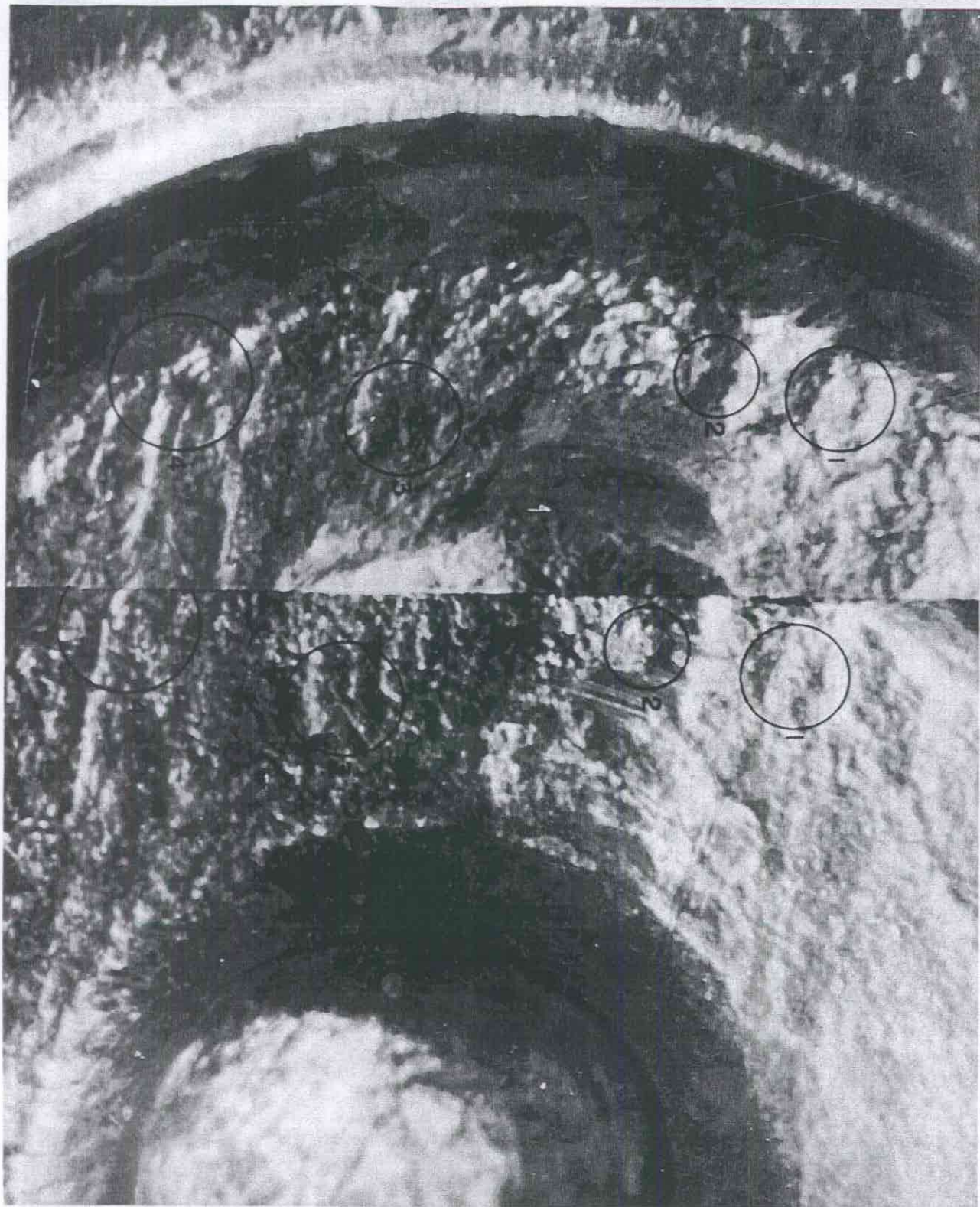
I go to Topeka August 20 for a half day with my lawyers. Just the instant they get a first draft of my brief ready I will forward it to you and Bud for your opinions.

Sincerely,

JN



Nichols to Weisberg August 19, 1969 page -2-



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J. Rothel
University of South Florida
Library Div, Tampa 33603

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CE 562



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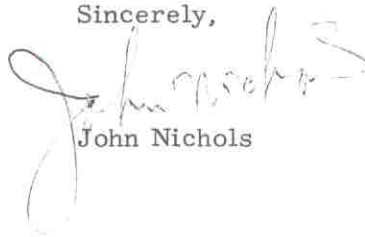
Harold Weisberg, Esq.,
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Harold:

Enclosed are two sets of CE 562 & 564. You can easily see from the clearer set the grid lines from the copper half-tone plate which convincingly reveal that the negative from which these were printed were made from the prints on pages 252 and 253 of volume 17. The Archives stamp is on the reverse side.

The other set are copies made by our photographer in which these features are less prominent but are still evident to any person who gives them a second glance. Please keep these two "duplicates" but return the "originals" at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



John Nichols