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Love Letters 'Not Nixon's'

Washington

The "Richard Nixon love letters" are forgeries, says the chief postal inspector.

"A handwriting analysis has determined that the letters were not written by Mr. Nixon or any of the other individuals who were known to possess copies of them," Chief Inspector C. Neil Benson said in a letter to Mr. Nixon's lawyer.

Last June 3, New York literary agent Scott Meredith said he had an unauthenticated set of love letters supposedly written by Mr. Nixon to an unnamed woman during the last days of his presidency.

Meredith said four handwriting experts had verified that the letters, written on legal pads, were in Mr. Nixon's hand. A Nixon aide, Colonel Jack Brennan, then called the letters a "sordid hoax."

Benson said the letters apparently originated in Washington and passed through the hands of individuals in Detroit and Los Angeles before coming to Meredith's attention.

"The Inspection Service was able to trace the letters back as far as a Washington salesman, now deceased, who apparently knew the letters were a hoax but who did not himself write them," Benson wrote to Herbert J. Miller, Nixon's lawyer.

Associated Press