

March 15, 1968

Mr. Albert C. Coltin  
Postmaster  
Newburyport, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Coltin:

I am writing on this occasion to ask if you can furnish me any word on the whereabouts of our mutual friend, Elliot Stone.

Following my visit to Newburyport in the fall of 1966, when I had the pleasure of meeting you, I have had a few letters from Elliot but the last communication was a rather pathetic card mailed just before Christmas from the hotel in Newburyport. I gathered at that time that his state of affairs was quite low. I have received no reply to my letter written to him at about Christmastime.

If, by any chance, you know of his whereabouts, perhaps you would be willing to deliver the enclosed letter. If not, and you have any ideas as to how I might inquire further, I would appreciate receiving them.

Obviously, in the case of any man in his sixties who has reached the precarious state of health in which I found Elliot a year ago, there is always the possibility that he may have passed away. However, he has demonstrated such a remarkable ability to hang on that I have expected a letter from him would show up at almost any time. I am planning to be in the Northeast again sometime in April and thought that I might try to see him personally if he can be located.

The letters which he has provided over the last 23 years, over 300 of them, provide a very insightful document concerning the general way of life of the homeless inebriate.

Any suggestions or information which you can provide will be deeply appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Straus  
Professor and Chairman

RS/mr  
Enclosure