

The United States 1847 Issue Proof Panes of 100

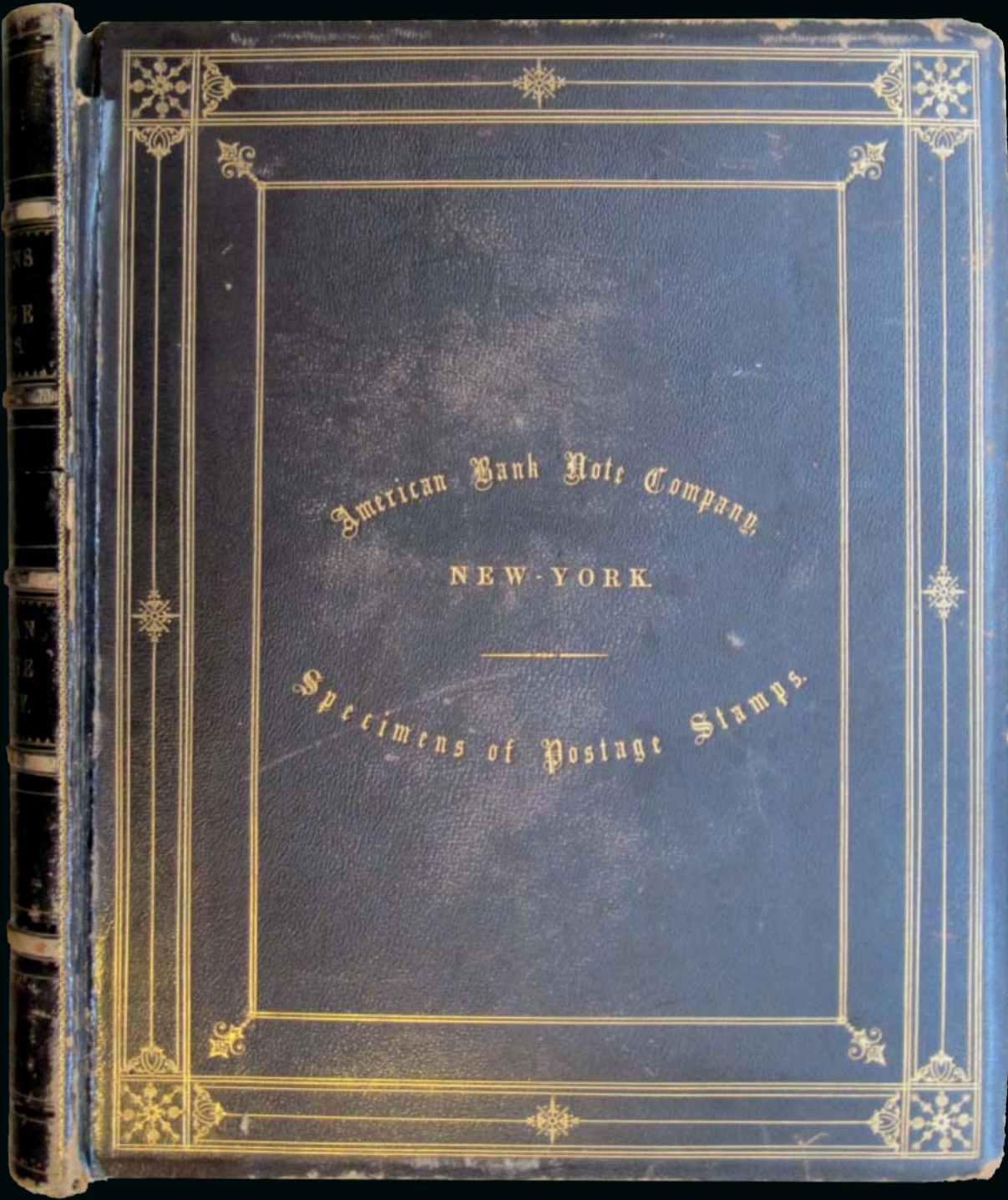
THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLES OF THE 1847 ISSUE



SALE 1047—TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013



Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.



American Bank Note Company,

NEW-YORK.

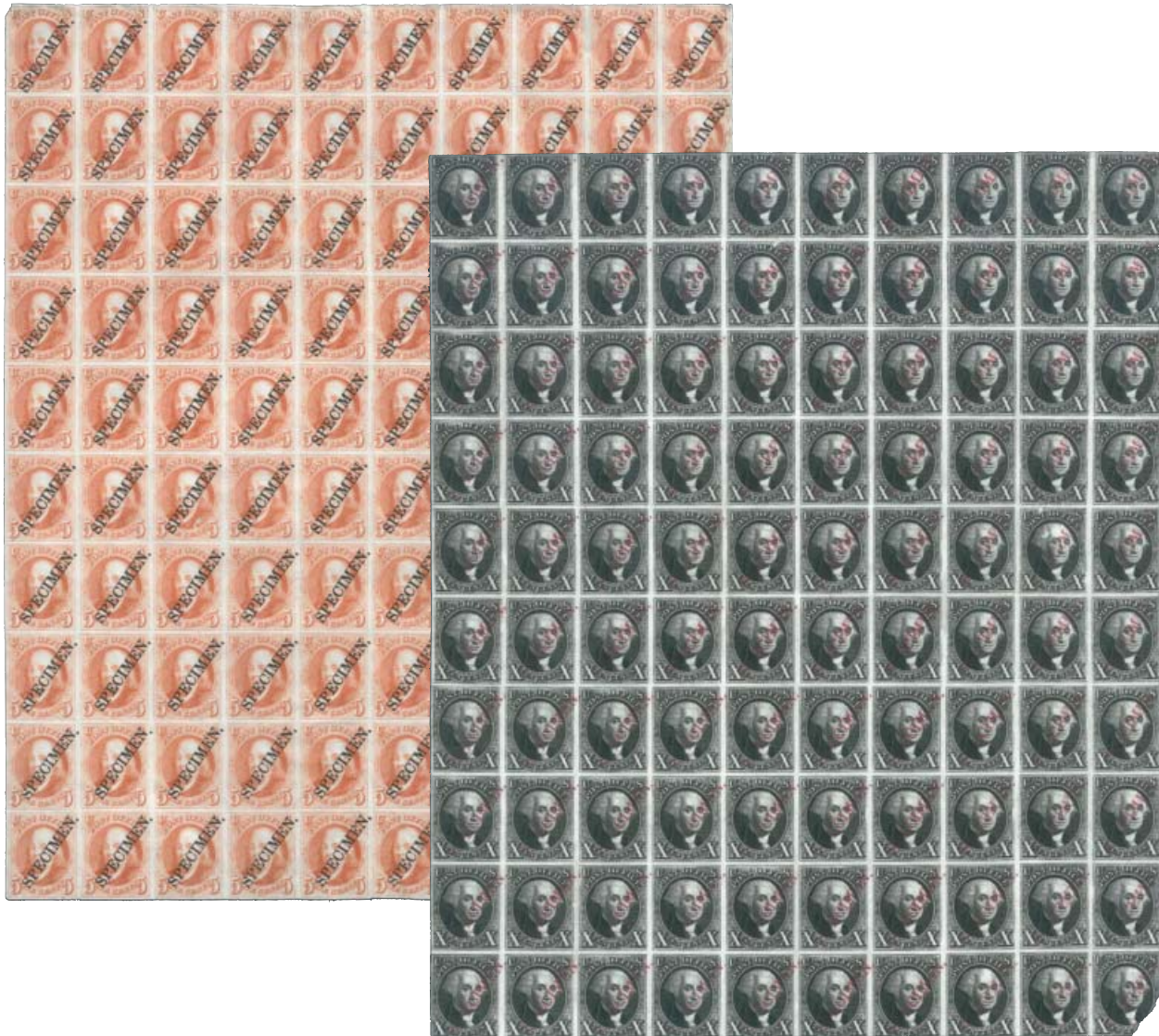
Specimens of Postage Stamps.

Sale 1047 (Lot 103)—Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 1:15 p.m.

The United States 1847 Issue Proof Panes

Live auction to be held at Siegel Auction Galleries,
60 East 56th Street (Park/Madison), 4th Floor, New York City

Sold subject to a 15% buyer's premium and
any applicable sales tax (or customs duty for non-U.S. buyers)



Pre-Sale Viewing—Monday, June 24, 10-4 and by appointment

Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

60 EAST 56TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Phone (212) 753-6421 • Fax (212) 753-6429 • E-mail: stamps@siegelauctions.com

Catalogues, internet bidding, resources, archives and the Siegel Encyclopedia at
siegelauctions.com



Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

60 EAST 56TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Phone (212) 753-6421 • Fax (212) 753-6429 • E-mail: stamps@siegelauctions.com

siegelauctions.com



Scott R. Trepel
President
strepel@siegelauctions.com



John P. Zuckerman
Senior Vice President
jzuckerman@siegelauctions.com



Corey Long
Vice President
clong@siegelauctions.com



Starr Tucker-Ortega
Accounts
stamps@siegelauctions.com



Laura Melvin
Bids and Inquiries
laura@siegelauctions.com



Charles F. Shreve
Siegel International
charles@siegelauctions.com



Chris Anderson
Siegel International
chris@siegelauctions.com



Andrew Titley
Siegel International
andrew@siegelauctions.com

Scott R. Trepel Principal Auctioneer (licensed by NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs, #795952)

Nathaniel Estes Catalogue and Digital Production

Information for Bidders

Bidding

The following means are available for placing bids:

- 1) Attending the Live Auction in Person:** All bidders must register for a paddle, and new bidders must provide references at least three business days in advance of the sale.
- 2) Live Internet Bidding:** Instructions for participating as a Live Internet Bidder are provided on the page opposite.
- 3) Phone Bidding:** Bidders can be connected to the sale by phone and bid through a member of staff. Requests for phone bidding are subject to approval (please contact our office at least 24 hours before the sale). A signed Bid Form is required.
- 4) Absentee Bids.** All bids received in advance of the sale, either by mail, fax, phone, e-mail or internet, are Absentee Bids, which instruct the auctioneer to bid up to a specific amount on one or more lots in the sale. Absentee Bids sent by phone, fax or e-mail should arrive at least one hour prior to the start of the sale session. Bids entered through Live Internet Bidding will be visible to the auctioneer during the sale. Written bids should be entered legibly on the Bid Form in the sale catalogue. E-mail and internet bids should be carefully typed and double-checked. All new bidders must provide references. We recommend calling or e-mailing to confirm that Absentee Bids sent by mail, fax or e-mail have been received and entered.

Pre-Sale Viewing

Subject to availability, certain lots (except group lots) can be sent to known clients for examination. Requests must be made no later than 7 days prior to the sale. Lots must be returned on the day received. Postage/insurance costs will be invoiced.

In addition to regular viewing, clients may view lots by appointment. Our staff will be pleased to answer questions or provide additional information about lots.

Expert Certification

Individual items offered without a PF or PSE certificate dated within the past five years may be purchased subject to independent certification of genuineness and our description. **Please refer to the Conditions of Sale and Grading Terms for policies governing certification.**

Shipping and Delivery

Procedures and charges for shipping lots are printed on the back of the Bid Form. **Bidders are responsible for all prescribed shipping charges and any applicable sales tax or customs duties.**

Price Realized

Prices realized are sent with each invoice. Bidders with e-mail will receive a Bid Results report after the sale. Session results are posted immediately to siegelauctions.com

Conditions of Sale (please read carefully before bidding)

The property described in this catalogue will be offered at public auction by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. ("Galleries") on behalf of various consignors and itself or affiliated companies. By bidding on any lot, whether directly or by or through an agent, in person, or by telephone, facsimile or any other means, the bidder acknowledges and agrees to all of the following Conditions of Sale.

1. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer shall be the buyer. The term "final bid" means the last bid acknowledged by the auctioneer, which is normally the highest bid offered. **The purchase price payable by the buyer will be the sum of the final bid and a commission of 15% of the final bid ("buyer's premium"), together with any sales tax, use tax or customs duties due on the sale.**

2. The auctioneer has the right to reject any bid, to advance the bidding at his discretion and, in the event of a dispute between bidders, to determine the successful bidder, to continue the bidding or to reoffer and resell the lot in dispute. The Galleries' record of the final sale shall be conclusive.

3. All bids are per numbered lot in the catalogue unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer at the time of sale. The right is reserved to group two or more lots, to withdraw any lot or lots from the sale, or to act on behalf of the seller. The Galleries will execute bidding instructions on behalf of clients, but will not be responsible for the failure to execute such bids or for any errors in the execution of such bids.

4. **Lots with numbers followed by the symbol ° are offered subject to a confidential minimum bid ("reserve"), below which the lot will not be sold. The absence of the symbol ° means that the lot is offered without a reserve. If there is no reserve, the auctioneer has sole discretion to establish a minimum opening bid and may refuse an offer of less than half of the published estimate. Any lot that does not reach its reserve or opening bid requested by the auctioneer will be announced as "passed" and excluded from the prices realized lists after the sale. The Galleries may have a direct or indirect ownership interest in any or all lots in the sale resulting from an advance of monies or goods-in-trade or a guarantee of minimum net proceeds made by the Galleries to the seller.**

5. Subject to the exclusions listed in 5(A), the Galleries will accept the return of lots which have been misidentified or which have obvious faults that were present when the lot was in the Galleries' custody, but not so noted in the lot description. **All disputed lots must be received by the Galleries intact with the original packing material within 5 days of delivery to the buyer but no later than 30 days from the sale date. (5A) EXCLUSIONS: The following lots may not be returned for any reason: lots containing 10 or more items; lots from buyers who registered for the pre-sale exhibition or received lots by postal viewing, thereby having had the opportunity to inspect them before the sale; any lot described with "faults," "defects" or a specific fault may not be returned because of any secondary fault. Photographed lots may not be returned because of centering, margins, short/nibbed perforations or other factors shown in the illustrations. Lots may not be returned for any of the following reasons: the color of the item does not match the color reproduction in the sale catalogue or website listing; the description contains inaccurate information about the quantity known or reported; or a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description.**

6. Successful bidders, unless they have established credit with the Galleries prior to the sale, must make payment in full before the lots will be delivered. Buyers not known to the Galleries must make payment in full within 3 days from the date of sale. **The Galleries retains the right to demand a cash deposit from anyone prior to bidder registration and/or to demand payment at the time the lot is knocked down to the highest bidder, for any reason whatsoever.** In the event that any buyer refuses or fails to make payment in cash for any lot at the time it is knocked down to him, the auctioneer reserves the right to reoffer the lot immediately for sale to the

highest bidder. **Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and Discover only) can be accepted as payment but will be subject to a 3% Convenience Fee, which will be added to the total of the entire invoice (including hammer price, buyer's premium, shipping and transit insurance charges and any applicable taxes).**

7. If the purchase price has not been paid within the time limit specified above, nor lots taken up within 7 days from the date of sale, the lots will be resold by whatever means deemed appropriate by the Galleries, and any loss incurred from resale will be charged to the defaulting buyer. Any account more than 30 days in arrears will be subject to a late payment charge of 1½% per month as long as the account remains in arrears. Any expenses incurred in securing payment from delinquent accounts will be charged to the defaulter. A fee of \$250.00 per check will be charged for each check returned for insufficient funds.

8. All lots are sold as genuine. **Any lot accompanied by a certificate issued by The Philatelic Foundation or by Professional Stamp Experts within 5 years of the sale date is sold "as is" and in accordance with the description on the certificate. Such lots may not be returned for any reason, including but not limited to a contrary certificate of opinion.** Buyers who wish to obtain a certificate for any item that does not have a P.F. or P.S.E. certificate (dated as above) may do so, provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the purchase price must be paid in full, (2) the item must be submitted to an acceptable expertizing committee with a properly executed application form within 21 days of the sale, (3) a copy of the application form must be given to the Galleries, (4) in the event that an adverse opinion is received, the Galleries retain the right to resubmit the item on the buyer's behalf for reconsideration, without time limit or other restrictions, (5) unless written notification to the contrary is received, items submitted for certification will be considered cleared 90 days from the date of sale, and (6) in the event any item is determined to be "not as described", the buyer will be refunded the purchase price and the certification fee up to \$600.00 unless otherwise agreed.

9. Until paid for in full, all lots remain the property of the Galleries on behalf of the seller.

10. Agents executing bids on behalf of clients will be held responsible for all purchases made on behalf of clients unless otherwise arranged prior to the sale.

11. The buyer assumes all risk for delivery of purchased lots and agrees to pay for prescribed shipping costs. Buyers outside the U.S. are responsible for all customs duties.

12. **The bidder consents that any action or proceeding against it may be commenced and maintained in any court within the State of New York or in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, that the courts of the State of New York and United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have jurisdiction with respect to the subject matter hereof and the person of the bidder. The bidder agrees not to assert any defense to any action or proceeding initiated by Galleries based upon improper venue or inconvenient forum. The bidder agrees that any action brought by the bidder shall be commenced and maintained only in a Federal Court in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York or the State Court in the county in which Galleries has its principal place of business in New York. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of New York.**

SCOTT R. TREPEL, Principal Auctioneer

Auctioneer's License No. 795952
N.Y.C. Department of Consumer Affairs
80 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10013
Telephone (212) 577-0111

Revised 3/2013



Lot 103 — 5c pane

Lot 103° to be offered on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 1:15 p.m.

THE UNITED STATES 1847 ISSUE PROOF PANES

5c Orange Trial Color Plate Proof on India, Black “SPECIMEN.” Overprint (1TC3).

Complete pane of 100 from the right pane in sheet of 200, Position 80R1 shows Type A double transfer (top frameline), Position 90R1 shows Type B double transfer (top and bottom framelines), Position 69R1 does not show “T” Crack, indicating a very early impression

Condition notes: hint of oxidation along right edge, small pieces missing from top left and bottom right corners, slight wrinkling, minor faults in edges and Position 53



Lot 103 — 10c pane

10c Black Plate Proof on India, Red “SPECIMEN.” Overprint (2P3). Complete pane of 100 from the left pane in sheet of 200, Positions 52L1 and 57L1 do not show the small plate flaws found on issued stamps (“stick pin in tie” and “harelip” varieties, respectively), indicating a very early impression

Condition notes: corner of Position 100 at bottom right is missing, some slight wrinkling and small flaws typical of India paper proofs

The only recorded panes of 100 of the 1847 Issue — the largest known multiples of the First General Issue of the United States **Estimate \$500,000-750,000**

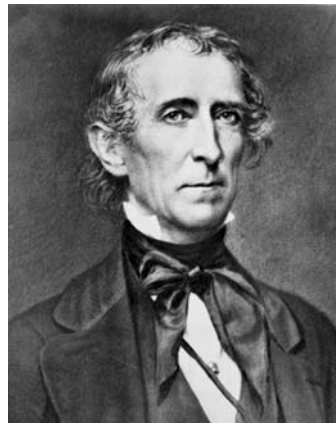


The gold-stamped tooled leather album produced by the American Bank Note Company, from which the 1847 Issue proof panes were removed

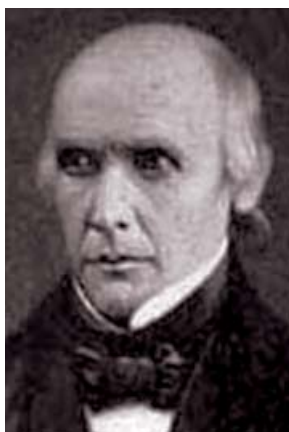
THE UNIQUE SET OF COMPLETE PANES OF THE UNITED STATES 1847 ISSUE PROOFS

THE STORY OF THE FIRST GENERAL ISSUE

One day before James K. Polk's inauguration as the nation's eleventh President, Congress passed the Post Office Reform Act of March 3, 1845, which greatly simplified and reduced postal rates, effective July 1, 1845. The Act was signed by President John Tyler on his last day in office, which left the task of implementing the reform measures in the hands of Polk's new Postmaster General, Cave Johnson (1793-1866). Johnson, a Democratic congressman from Tennessee since 1829, had been among the opponents of the Cheap Postage movement, arguing that such a drastic reduction in postage rates would financially cripple the postal system and increase the risk of privatization. Now, as Postmaster General in President Polk's cabinet, Johnson was responsible for making sure the nation's postal system provided the same level of service, despite the reduction of rates and the significant curtailment of franking privileges and transportation subsidies.



President John Tyler (1790-1862)



Cave Johnson (1793-1866)
Postmaster General
1845-1849

The profound changes in the nation's postal system effected by the 1845 Post Office Reform Act set the stage for the introduction of adhesive stamps to prepay postage. The concept had been successfully implemented by Great Britain in 1840 and proposed in Congress by Senator Daniel Webster in the same year, but authorization to issue stamps for use in the United States was withheld by Congress until March 3, 1847.

During the two-year period from 1845 to 1847, the only stamps available for postage were Postmasters' Provisionals, which were issued by individual postmasters and valid only at the issuing post office. The use of provisional stamps in New York City was carefully observed by Postmaster General Johnson and paved the way for the 1847 General Issue.

The 1847 Issue — the first stamps authorized by Congress for general use — demonstrated the public's acceptance of adhesive stamps on a national scale. They also helped to encourage the prepayment of postage, rather than sending mail collect on delivery, a practice that brought greater efficiency and economy to the postal system. Even now, 166 years after the 1847 Issue was placed on sale, affixing a stamp to an envelope is the most convenient and practical way to send a letter by mail.

The proof panes of 100 offered in this sale represent the largest recorded multiples of the 1847 Issue in any form. They are quite likely the earliest extant impressions from the plates that produced the first United States General Issue.

Exploring the Causes of Postal Reform

The postal historian's mantra is that, before the electronic age, the letter-mail system was society's only means to achieve inter-connectedness. For this reason, the subject of the postal system is really a study in communications and mass media.

The greater appreciation of letter communication has spurred a more comprehensive and integrated analysis of the various factors affecting postal systems. Researchers such as Dr. Richard R. John and Kelly B. Olds have incorporated traditional postal history into their study of communications, resulting in a fresh analysis of data and new insights into dynamic periods of postal development. This scholarly activity has helped the 19th century Postal Reform movement emerge as a separate area of concentrated study, reflecting the multiple influences of social, political, geographic, economic and technological factors.

The 1847 Issue stamps are of the utmost importance to philatelists, admired for their status as the nation's first issue, but they are just one practical element in the history of the Postal Reform movement. To better appreciate the stamps, it is useful to follow the steps of Postal Reform, from its roots in religious and political activism, through the rise of competitive enterprises that precipitated legislative change, and finally to the creation of a system that was cheaper and easier to use and manage.

Religion and Politics

The roots of American Postal Reform are found in religious and political movements of the early 19th century. The Second Great Awakening, starting in the United States around 1800, brought a strong sense of community and purpose among Christians. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was chartered in 1812 and immediately began a series of missionary journeys to convert non-Christian populations. Church groups were strong advocates of social reform, including the abolition of slavery and the promotion of peace, suffrage, temperance, Sabbatarianism and charity for the poor. The Christian missionaries believed that the Gospel of Christ and their social causes could be better propagated through written communication. Therefore, education in reading and writing became a primary function of traveling missionaries, and cheap postage to encourage letter writing and strengthen the ties among Christians was eventually promoted as one of their causes.



Reverend Joshua Leavitt (1794-1873)
Advocate for Cheap Postage

The relationship between religion, social activism and postal reform is embodied by the Reverend Joshua Leavitt (1794-1873). On the virtues of reduced postage rates, Reverend Leavitt wrote:

The usefulness of cheap postage, in aiding the various enterprises of benevolence and reform, should not be lost sight of, in this recital... Cheap postage, by making these efforts direct and personal, carrying their message from an individual to an individual, will open a new surface to the influence of truth; will awaken to activity new and deeper issues of sensibility; and, by combining as well as arousing, by union as well as action, will reduplicate, to a thousand fold, the benevolent and moral energies thus produced.

Changes in the American political landscape worked in tandem with Christian social activism to move the country toward postal reform. By the 1820's voting rights were extended to almost all white men, regardless of land ownership. With the rise of Jacksonian Democracy and the Second Party system came a tremendous increase in voter participation (the popular vote more than doubled from 1828 to 1840). There was a corresponding increase in the volume of letters, printed circulars and newspapers intended to inform and influence the voting public.



Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879)
The Father of Postal Reform

Sir Rowland Hill's Uniform Penny Post

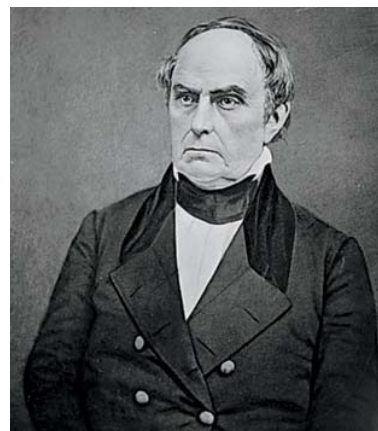
While religion and politics were shaping the American public's desire and need for postal reform, events across the Atlantic provided the test case upon which proponents (and opponents) would make their case.

Rowland Hill (who was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1860) first became interested in the British postal system in the mid-1830's. In 1837 he circulated his famous treatise, *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability*, and gained the attention of the British government, not all of which was positive. In 1839 Hill's recommendations were put into effect. By February 1840 the basic letter rate was reduced to one penny (two cents) and franking privileges were curtailed. Lettersheets (the "Mulready") and adhesive stamps (the Penny Black and Two-Pence Blue) were issued in May 1840 and met with immediate success (the stamps more so than the lettersheets, which were rejected for aesthetic reasons). The increase in mail volume and postage revenues completely vindicated Hill's reforms. The British Uniform Penny Post became the shining example of the Postal Reform movement.

In June 1840 the spirit of Great Britain's postal reforms inspired the veteran senator and soon-to-be Secretary of State, Daniel Webster (1782-1852), to propose a resolution to reduce postage rates and to effect "the use of stamps, or stamped covers." Webster showed his colleagues examples of Great Britain's new issues, and a facsimile of the Mulready lettersheet and Penny Black was published in the *Resolutions*. However, Webster's resolution never gained traction.



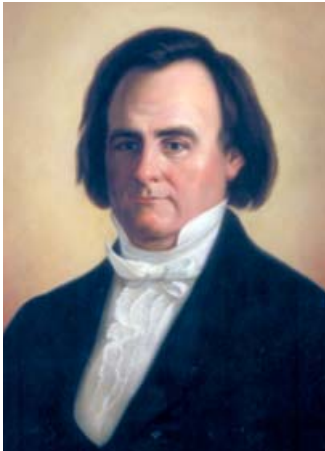
This facsimile Mulready lettersheet and Penny Black was published in the the *Resolutions* of the 26th Congress, in which Daniel Webster introduced a bill to reform postage rates



Senator Daniel Webster
(1782-1852)

The Rise of the Independent Mails

Private express companies began to exert increasing competitive pressure on the Post Office Department in the 1830's, especially as railroad and steamboat routes provided fast and inexpensive transportation, allowing the expresses to charge a fraction of government postage rates. The Post Office 1836-39 Southern Express Mail was launched by Postmaster General Amos Kendall to improve communication speed between major commercial centers and to undermine the influence of northern newspaper publishers. The 1842 Express Mail between Boston, New York and Albany was Postmaster General Charles A. Wickliffe's direct response to the carriage of mail by private expresses on railroad and steamboat routes.



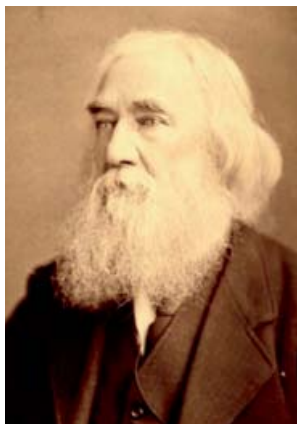
Charles A. Wickliffe (1788-1869)
Postmaster General 1841-1845

Postal officials knew that the more flexible schedules and cheaper rates offered by private expresses were siphoning off letter-mail business, especially along the lucrative northeast routes. Wickliffe attempted to suppress private transmission of mail by investigating and prosecuting express companies for violating the Post Office's constitutional monopoly of postal roads, but in November 1843 the courts ruled in favor of the defendant, Adams & Company, on the basis that the postal laws did not specifically forbid transport of mail by passengers on railroad trains and steamboats (the outmoded language referred only to foot messengers and horse riders). This decision paved the way for the emergence of the "Independents" in late 1843 and early 1844.

The earliest and largest of the Independent Mail operations, which openly advertised letter-mail service in competition with the government post office, was Hale & Company. The firm was founded by James W. Hale (1801-1892), an experienced expressman who had offered a variety of mail-forwarding services before starting his letter express in December 1843. Hale quickly emerged as the leader, with a vast network of offices and agents, and a reported 60% share of the Independent Mails.

The other major Independent Mail operator was the American Letter Mail Company, founded in January 1844 by Lysander Spooner (1808-1887), a vocal Cheap Postage advocate and one of Postmaster General Wickliffe's chief antagonists. In defense of his mail-carrying service, Spooner published *The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mails*.

The Independent Mail companies carried mail until the Act of March 3, 1845, banned letter-mail services on inter-city postal routes, including steamboat and railroad lines. The last day of the Independent Mails was June 30, 1845, but their impact on the system was everlasting.



Lysander Spooner (1808-1887)
Cheap Postage advocate and founder
of the American Letter Mail Co.—
the "20 for a Dollar" adhesive stamp
issued by Spooner in 1844

High Costs of Carrying the Mail

In 1845 there were 14,183 post offices and an estimated 143,940 miles of postal routes. More than three-quarters of non-military federal employees worked for the Post Office Department.

A thorough analysis of Post Office income and expenses is provided by Kelly B. Olds in “The Challenge to the U.S. Postal Monopoly, 1839-1851” (*The Cato Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 1, available at www.cato.org). Olds’ basic premise is that there were two fundamental reasons for the high cost of postal service:

First, high sorting costs and the obligation to run fixed routes at fixed times carrying non-optimal loads raised the cost of all formal mail services. The greatest expense of regularity came in rural regions where a sulky or horseman was often dispatched with a handful of letters. [A “sulky” is a horse-drawn two-wheel cart with a seat for the driver]

[Second] postage served as a tax... Six groups gained financially from the Post Office: (1) coach contractors, (2) rail and steamboat companies, (3) postmasters, (4) publishers of printed matter, (5) officials with the franking privilege, and (6) rural voters.

In round numbers, the Post Office Department’s net revenue for 1845 — the year rates were reduced on July 1 — was \$2.9 million against expenses of \$4.3 million, producing a net deficit of \$1.4 million (*Report of the Postmaster General*, 1845).

Transportation costs made up more than two-thirds of the Post Office budget. Olds estimates that in 1845 coach contractors received prices that were 90% above market, and that the railroad and steamboat companies charged *one thousand percent* over market for comparable transportation based on weight and distance. The overcharging was even more egregious before the Act of 1845 specified that contracts should be awarded to the lowest bidder for what “may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty and security of such transportation” (those three requirements were shortened to three stars, and the routes became known as “Star Routes”).

The cost of distributing the enormous volume of printed matter and free-franked mail was subsidized by letter-mail postage. The relationship between newspapers and letter mail in 1843 is summarized by Olds:

Letters that weighed about one-eighth the average newspaper weight cost up to 16 times as much to mail. In 1843, more than twice as many newspapers were sent through the mails as were letters, and those were almost 97 percent of the paying mail by weight (Post Office Department, 1844). Newspapers, however, paid less than 15 percent of the total postage (\$536,547 out of \$4,249,333).

Before July 1845, higher postage rates placed much of the burden of the operating loss on Post Office patrons who mailed regular letters. Therefore, the inflated postage charges, apart from covering the cost of servicing rural routes (arguably an obligation of democratic society), contributed to subsidizing 1) over-market prices charged by contractors for their services, 2) the loss of revenue due to abuse of the franking privilege, and 3) the politically-motivated policy of carrying newspapers and printed matter at heavily discounted rates. When postage rates were reduced in 1845, the operating losses had to be covered by the treasury, effectively creating a taxpayer subsidy of powerful interest groups. One of the principal purposes of the Act of 1845 was to introduce measures to bring revenue and expenses in line.

Reduced Rates and Simplified Postage (But No Stamps)

The Act of March 3, 1845 (28th Congress, 2nd Session), is titled “An Act to reduce the rates of postage, to limit use and correct the abuse of the franking privilege, and for the prevention of frauds on the revenues of the Post Office Department.” The new rates are stated in Chapter 43, Section 1:

For every single letter, in manuscript, or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs, conveyed in the mail, for any distance under 300 miles, five cents; and for any distance over 300 miles, ten cents: and for a double letter there shall be charged double these rates; and for a treble letter, treble these rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple these rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage.

In simple terms, the Act created two letter rates: 5c per half ounce for distances up to 300 miles (and 5c for each additional half ounce); and 10c per half ounce for any distance over 300 miles within the United States. By comparison, the old rates were based on five distance parameters and multiplied by the number of pages in a letter.

The under-300 and over-300 miles distance provision was considered essential, because of the country’s size and the costs of transporting mail. The 5c under-300 miles rate would pay to send a half-ounce letter from New York City to the major East Coast cities of Boston, Philadelphia or Baltimore (but not between Boston and Philadelphia or Baltimore). The distance between post offices was calculated by postal route, not “as the crow flies.” For this reason, a letter might require the higher over-300 miles rate, even though the origin and destination were less than 300 miles apart. For example, someone in New York City sending a letter to Rochester in upstate New York — 250 miles by direct line — had to pay the 10c over-300 miles rate, because the standard railroad maps listed the distance by rail as 413 miles.

The original Senate bill (S. 46, December 19, 1844) and subsequent versions debated in the House and Senate contained different rate calculations, including multi-tiered distance parameters and rate progressions per sheet of paper or quarter-ounce weight increments. The bill was amended on January 16, 1845, to set the distance limit to 100 miles. Finally, on March 1, 1845, the Senate voted 37 to 7 in favor of changing the distance limit to 300 miles. (The various bills and Senate reports can be found on-line at memory.loc.gov).

Unlike the British Uniform Penny Post system, the U.S. Post Office Reform Act did not create an incentive to prepay postage. In other words, the 1845 rates for prepaid and collect mail were the same. Mail was marked “Paid” at the post office of origin if prepaid, or simply rated for postage to be collected from the addressee. The old problems arising from unpaid mail were not remedied by the 1845 reforms, and the introduction of a prepayment incentive (or non-payment penalty) was delayed until 1851.

The absence of a prepayment incentive and reliance on a distance calculation were relatively minor shortfalls compared to the Act’s most glaring omission — the absence of language authorizing the Postmaster General to issue *postage stamps*. This was really an inexplicable failure on the part of Congress to embrace one of the essential elements of Great Britain’s postal reforms.

George Plitt, who was sent to Great Britain and Europe in 1839 to survey and report on the British postal system, recommended adopting postage stamps in his 1840 report to Postmaster General Kendall. Senator Webster stood before Congress in June 1840 with British stamps in hand, proposing that the Post Office issue its own stamps as part of a postal reform measure. Stamps had been issued by the government carrier department in New York City since 1842 and by private local posts in the intervening years. Several of the rival Independent Mail firms issued stamps in 1844 and 1845, which were enthusiastically used by patrons. Yet, despite the proven success of postage stamps in the private and public sectors over a five-year period, Congress did not have the vision to authorize stamps in 1845.

Ironically, an earlier version of the Senate bill authorized the Postmaster General to issue “free stamps or envelopes” to members of Congress and territorial delegates as a substitute for the franking privilege. This provision was dropped in a Senate vote on January 30, 1845, and on February 6 the terms were changed to “franks or free envelopes.” Ultimately, the Act modified the franking procedure and dropped any reference to stamps, except for this enigmatic anti-counterfeiting provision in Chapter 69, Section 5:

That if any person or persons shall forge or counterfeit, or shall utter or use knowingly, any counterfeit stamp of the Post Office Department of the United States issued by authority of this act, or by any other act of Congress, within the United States, or the post office stamp of any foreign Government, he shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof in any court having jurisdiction of the same, shall undergo a confinement at hard labor for any length of time not less than two years, nor more than ten, at the discretion of the court.

This part of the Act of 1845 relates to foreign mails. The anti-counterfeiting provision hints at the possibility adhesive stamps were contemplated, but it is difficult to reconcile that interpretation with the omission of language authorizing stamps from any other act of Congress until 1847.

Indeed, Congress would eventually authorize postage stamps for general use, but in 1845 it would be left to the postmasters to innovate.

Postmasters Fill the Void

The eleven post offices that issued provisional stamps range from the major (New York City) to the minor (Boscawen). New York, Baltimore and New Haven issued provisionals around the same time in 1845. The smaller offices followed. It is surprising that postmasters in other large cities — for example, George Lehman in Philadelphia and Nathaniel Greene in Boston — did not choose to issue provisional stamps.

Among the benefits attributed to postage stamps was that they allowed customers to prepay postage on a letter and drop it into a mail box at any hour. This convenience was emphasized in some of the announcements; for example, the St. Louis newspapers carried notices that explained:

They are so prepared that they may be stuck upon a letter like a wafer and will prove a great convenience to merchants and all those having many letters to send post paid, as it saves all trouble of paying at the post-office.

The First General Issue

The Act of March 3, 1847 (29th Congress, 2nd Session) authorized the Postmaster General to issue stamps (Chapter 63, Section 11):

That, to facilitate the transportation of letters in the mail, the Postmaster-General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of the payment of the postage chargeable on such letter; which said stamps the Postmaster-General may deliver to any deputy postmaster who may apply for the same, the deputy postmaster paying or becoming accountable for the amount of the stamps so received by him; and if any of said stamps shall not be used, but be returned to the General Post-Office, the amount so returned shall be credited to such deputy postmaster; and such deputy postmaster may sell or dispose of any stamps so received by him, to any person who may wish to use the same; but it shall not be lawful for any deputy postmaster to prepare, use, or dispose of any postage stamps not authorized by and received from the Postmaster-General...

Designs for 5c Franklin and 10c Washington stamps were submitted on March 20, 1847, by the New York firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson to the Assistant Postmaster General. The letters accompanying the hand-drawn essays were recently reproduced in an article by Thomas Lera ("In the National Postal Museum: Cave Johnson, Postmaster General 1845-1849", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May-June 2011). They are also available at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum website (www.arago.si.edu).



The 5c and 10c 1847 Issue was engraved and printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson

The RWH&E March 20th letter indicates that, at an earlier point of the design process, Postmaster General Cave Johnson had suggested the 5c stamp should portray fellow Tennessean and Democrat, the late President Andrew Jackson, who had died two years earlier in June 1845. When RWH&E sent the essays, they wrote:

In accordance with your [Assistant PMG's] suggestion, we have substituted the Head of Franklin for that of Gen. Jackson, which our Mr. Rawdon was requested to use by the Postmaster General; should the P.M.G. still desire the Head of Jackson, it can be used.

The portraits of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington used for the 5c Brown and 10c Black designs, respectively, can be traced to existing works of art. The Franklin portrait is based on a painting by Joseph S. Duplessis, which depicts the elder statesman in a fur-collar coat. The engraving is believed to have been made by Asher B. Durand from a miniature now located in the Museum of Art in Philadelphia. The Washington vignette is based on the iconic image painted by Gilbert Stuart and copied many times. Both master dies used by RWH&E were probably acquired from Durand, Perkins & Co. after that firm was dissolved in 1831. Detailed information concerning the printing contract and design origins, compiled by Clarence Brazer and Dr. Julian Blanchard, can be found in *The Essay-Proof Journal* No. 14 (April 1947) and subsequently repeated in other publications.

Once the designs were approved, RWH&E made the dies and two steel plates of 200 subjects each, arranged in side-by-side panes of 100. The proof panes offered in this sale were pulled from these plates of 200—the 5c from the right pane, and the 10c from the left. These very early impressions do not show certain small plate flaws that appear on the issued stamps from the first printing; therefore, they must pre-date the first regular production run.

The first supplies of 600,000 5c and 200,000 10c stamps were delivered to the Third Assistant Postmaster General John Marron in New York City on June 29, 1847. On July 1 Marron turned over 60,000 5c and 20,000 10c stamps to the New York City post office, and they were placed on sale that day. Over the two-year period the 1847 Issue was valid, approximately 4.4 million 5c and 1.05 million 10c stamps were printed in five printings. Of these, approximately 3.7 million 5c and 892,000 10c stamps were issued. The remainders on hand in 1851 were destroyed.

The Complete Panes of 1847 Issue Plate Proofs

When they were discovered, the 5c and 10c proof panes of 100 offered in this sale were bound into a presentation album prepared by the American Bank Note Company, the successor firm to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. The gold-stamped and tooled leather album (shown on page 6) was part of the American Bank Note Company archives, which were liquidated in a series of sales during the 1980's and 1990's.

When offered for sale in 1997, each proof pane was masked by 100 individual stamp-size die proofs that were pasted over the 100 positions in the complete pane. Fortunately, the adhesive used to affix the covering proofs to the panes (and the panes to the album page) was easily dissolved and left no permanent mark or residue. The complete panes, sharply printed on India paper, were unveiled to the philatelic community for the first time in history in 1998. Both panes have the “SPECIMEN” overprint found on most examples of the 1847 plate proofs (black on the 5c and red on the 10c). This overprint is also found on RWH&E proofs of the Canada 1851 Issue.

Surviving multiples of the issued 1847 stamps are extremely rare, because the issue was withdrawn and demonetized, and the public was allowed to exchange the old issue for the new 1851 Issue stamps, thereby reducing the supply of unused stamps for future collectors. The largest 5c multiple is reported to be a block of 30, followed by the more widely known block of 16. The largest unused 10c multiple is a block of six, and the largest used multiple is the block of 14 (from the C. H. Bandholtz find) in the Hirzel collection at the Swiss PTT Museum. Plate proofs are also very rare in large multiples. After the panes of 100, the largest proof multiples are two blocks of 16 of the 5c (in Black and Brown) and a block of 16 of the 10c Black, all overprinted “SPECIMEN.”

The discovery of these remarkable “hidden” artifacts was described by well-known 1847 expert Wade Saadi as “the most amazing news of the century” for the 1847 Issue. Frank Mandel, another expert in the issue, said he was “truly astonished.”

Since their discovery, the 1847 proof panes have been the subject of several philatelic articles. In fact, the 5c pane made it possible to assign plate positions to the unused block of 16 (William H. Gross, “Plating the 5¢ 1847 Block of 16”, *Chronicle* 210). High-resolution images have been made available through the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. In recognition of their unique status, the 1847 proof panes were exhibited in the Court of Honor display at the Washington D.C. 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition.

Live Internet Bidding at Siegel Auctions

BIDDING FROM YOUR COMPUTER LETS YOU BE PART OF THE LIVE AUCTION FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!

There's **NO SUBSTITUTE** for following the auction in real time.
Live Internet Bidding lets you bid and buy as though you were right there in the saleroom.
And it's easy.

This step-by-step guide will instruct you how to register, set your browser and use the bidding interface.

Start by following the simple steps to become a registered Live Internet Bidder.
Once you've been approved for bidding, you can listen to the auction and place bids with the click of a mouse.

Registering with STAMP AUCTION NETWORK & SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES

Live Internet Bidding is managed by Stamp Auction Network (SAN).
To bid, you must be registered and approved by *both* SAN and Siegel.
To decide what you need to do, choose the description below that best fits you.



I've already registered with SAN and have been approved by Siegel for internet bidding.

Live Internet Bidding works by allowing registered bidders to observe and place bids.

Live Internet Bidding will work with any browser on both PC and Mac operating systems.

Before bidding by internet for the first time, we recommend finding a sale in progress and listening to the public broadcast or logging in as a registered bidder. This will help you develop a feel for the sale tempo and bidding interface.

I'm a Siegel client, but I'm not registered with SAN.

Go to stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel and click on "Register" at the top. Check the box for Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (under "R") and submit the form, indicating you are a Siegel client. Once registered at SAN, you're ready for internet bidding.

I've bid through SAN before, but this is the first time I've bid in a Siegel sale.

Then you just need to be approved by Siegel. Go to stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel and click on "Update Registration" at the top. Your SAN account information will be sent to us for approval (you might be asked for other trade references). Once approved by Siegel for bidding, you're ready for internet bidding.

I've never bid with Siegel, nor registered with SAN.

Go to stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel and click on "Register" at the top. Check the box for Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (please, no family members or credit card companies as references). Once registered at SAN and approved by Siegel for bidding, you're ready for internet bidding.

Log on to the auction at stampauctionnetwork.com/siegel.

You can also log on at siegelauctions.com

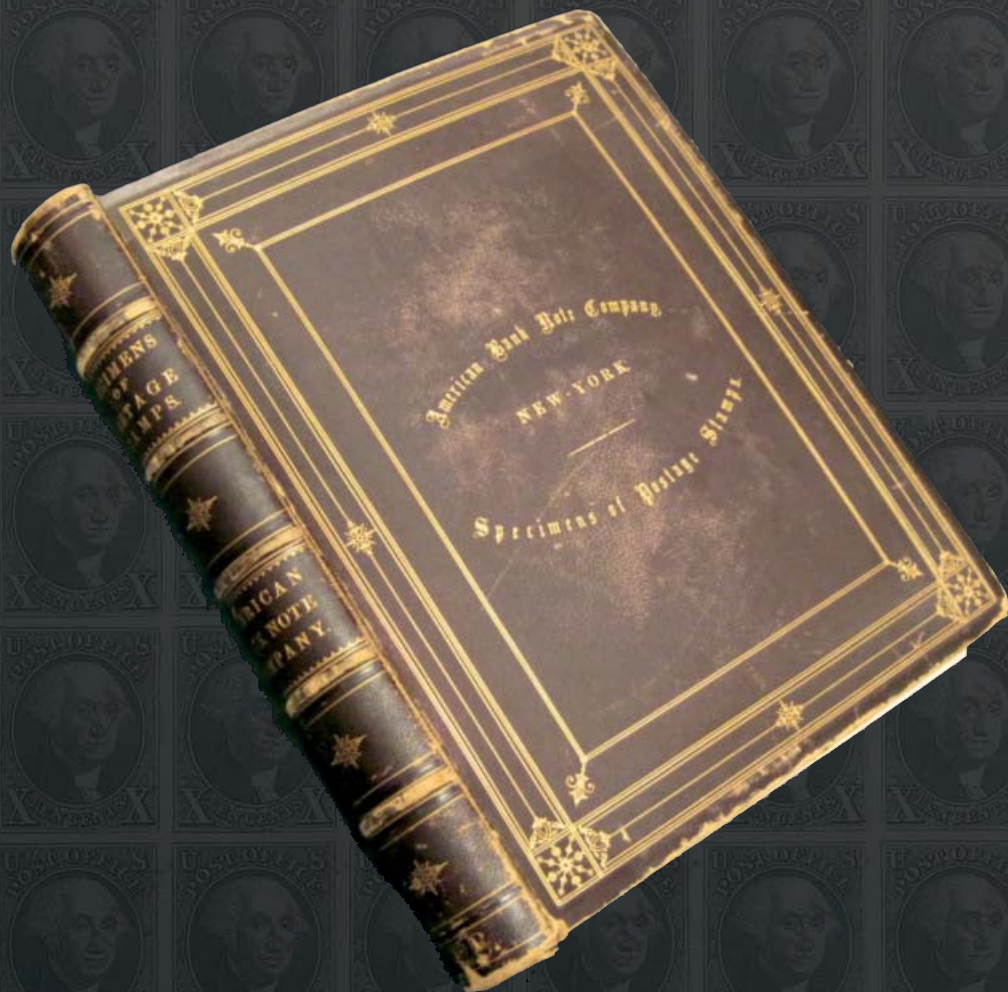
When you're logged on as a Live Internet Bidder, the bidding interface shows a photo and description of the lot, the current bid (and your bidding status), options for placing competitive bids and buttons with bid increments.

- After you click on a bid amount, the auctioneer is immediately notified of your bid.
- Retracting a bid is usually not acceptable, so please bid carefully.
- If you bid and then decide to stop, the "Pass" button will tell the auctioneer you are no longer bidding.
- You can send messages to the auctioneer (for example, a request for extension).
- You can track prior realizations from the bidding screen.



"System Down" or "Lost Connection" events do occasionally happen.

If you have any problems with Live Internet Bidding please call **212-753-6421** for immediate assistance.



ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

60 EAST 56TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

PHONE (212) 753-6421 FAX (212) 753-6429 E-MAIL: STAMPS@SIEGELAUCTIONS.COM

WWW.SIEGELAUCTIONS.COM