



UNITED STATES STAMP MULTIPLES

The William H. Gross Collection

Charles F. Shreve and Tracy L. Carey
In association with

Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

SALE 1200 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 - THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

UNITED STATES STAMP
MULTIPLES
The William H. Gross Collection

Offered by
CHARLES F. SHREVE AND TRACY L. CAREY
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SALE 1200

SALE DATES AND LOCATION

Session One (lots 1-109)—Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Session Two (lots 110-306)—Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Sale to be held at

The Collectors Club of New York

22 East 35th Street (between Park and Madison Avenues)

Please call 212-753-6421 to reserve seats in the saleroom

Lots will be available for viewing at our offices by appointment only

All lots sold subject to an 18% buyer's premium and
applicable sales tax or customs duty

Please carefully read the Conditions of Sale before bidding

Offered by

CHARLES F. SHREVE AND TRACY L. CAREY

In association with

Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

6 WEST 48TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036

PHONE 212-753-6421 FAX 212-753-6429 EMAIL: STAMPS@SIEGELAUCTIONS.COM

siegelauctions.com



Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

6 WEST 48TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036
 PHONE 212-753-6421 FAX 212-753-6429 EMAIL: STAMPS@SIEGELAUCTIONS.COM
 siegelauctions.com



Scott R. Trepel
 President
 strepel
 @siegelauctions.com



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



Corey Long
 Senior Vice President
 clong
 @siegelauctions.com

Siegel International
 Dallas (214) 754-5991



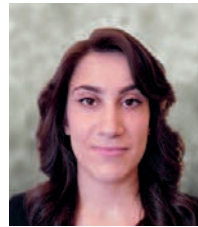
Charles F. Shreve
 Director, Siegel International
 charles@siegelauctions.com



Daphne Aitken
 Accounts
 daphne
 @siegelauctions.com



Helen Stewart
 VP, Operations
 helen
 @siegelauctions.com



Jocelyn Weibel
 Digital Production
 jocelyn
 @siegelauctions.com



Andrew Titley
 International Specialist
 andrew
 @siegelauctions.com



Chris Anderson
 International Specialist
 chris
 @siegelauctions.com

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

Special Information for Bidders in the Gross Sale

Bidding

The following means are available for placing bids:

- 1) **New Bidders:** All bidders must register. **New bidders must provide references at least FIVE business days in advance of the sale in order to bid in this 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 72 hours before the sale. A signed Bidder Registration is required for phone bidding.**
- 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 email should arrive no later than 12:30 p.m. on each sale day.** 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. Email 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 email have been received and entered.

Pre-Sale Viewing

Lots in the Gross sale may be viewed at our offices by appointment only. Please call 212-753-6421 to make an appointment.

Expert Certification

Lots with a PF or PSE certificate dated on or after January 1, 2014, are sold subject to the opinion on the certificate and all such sales will be considered final. Lots with certificates dated prior to January 1, 2014, 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.**

Any fault in an item is described in the Condition Notes section of each lot entry.

Shipping and Insurance

Buyers who request shipment of lots will be responsible for Siegel's insurance costs and all costs of shipping necessary to satisfy all security requirements.

Sales Tax and Customs Duty

Buyers are responsible for any applicable state sales tax, compensating use tax or customs duty assessed at any time.

Live Internet Bidding at Siegel Auctions

REGISTERED BIDDERS MAY BID IN THIS SALE USING LIVE INTERNET BIDDING

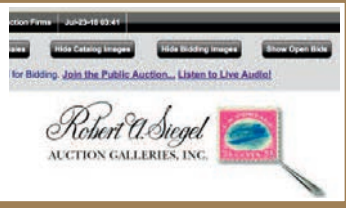
This step-by-step guide will instruct you how to register, set your browser and use the bidding interface.

Start by following the simple steps to become a registered Live Internet Bidder.

Once you have 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

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 (under "R") and submit the form with your trade references (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.

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.


Log on to the auction at stampauctionnetwork.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.

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.'s Sale 1185
Closing on June 27, 2016. [Listen to the Auction.](#)
Contact us by Phone at (212) 753-6421. [Contact us Via eMAIL.](#)

Lot and Description



United States
Inverted Jenny Postage 15 and 6
Lot 91. 24c Carmine Rose & Blue, Center Inverted (C3a). Position 15, the fifth stamp from the left in the second row of the sheet, original gum, deep rich colors, tiny thin spot just below the plane, faint traces of purple ink above the bottom left "2" (Image)

\$ 450,000.00
Sold for \$ 270,000.00
Your Bid \$ 0.00

Bidding

Bid 280000
Bid 290000
Bid 300000
Bid 310000
Bid 320000
Bid 330000

[Send a Message to the Auctioneer](#)

"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.

Conditions of Sale for the Gross Collection

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

THE PROPERTY IN THIS CATALOGUE WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC AUCTION BY ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC. ("GALLERIES") ON BEHALF OF WILLIAM H. GROSS. BY BIDDING ON ANY LOT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A THIRD PARTY, IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, FACSIMILE, INTERNET OR BY 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 18% 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, 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, subject to the Galleries' sole judgment, 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, or may not be returned for the reasons stated: (i) lots containing 5 or more items; (ii) 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; (iii) any lot described with "faults," "defects" or a specific fault may not be returned because of any secondary fault; (iv) photographed lots may not be returned because of centering, margins, short/nibbed perforations or other factors shown in the photos; (v) the color of the item does not match the color photo in the sale catalogue or website listing; (vi) the description contains inaccurate information about the quantity known or reported; or (vii) a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description or on an accompanying certificate.

6. Successful bidders, unless they have established credit with the Galleries prior to the sale, must make full payment in cleared funds 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, 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% non-refundable 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). The buyer waives the right to dispute all credit card charges.**

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 may be resold by whatever means deemed appropriate by the Galleries, and any loss incurred from resale will be charged to the defaulting buyer,

and/or the Galleries may seek any other remedy prescribed by law to enforce payment. **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 will be charged for a 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 with a date on or after January 1, 2014, 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 or change in grade.** Buyers may request a certificate for a lot containing not more than one item, which does not have a P.F. or P.S.E. certificate (dated prior to January 1, 2013), provided that the following conditions are met: (i) the purchase price must be paid in full, (ii) if submitted by the buyer, the lot must be submitted to an acceptable expertizing service with a properly executed application form within 21 days of the sale, (iii) a copy of the application form must be given to the Galleries, (iv) the Galleries retains the right to resubmit the item for reconsideration, without time limit or other restrictions, for the purpose of obtaining a satisfactory opinion, (v) lots submitted for certification will be considered cleared 90 days from the date of sale, whether or not a certificate has been issued, unless the Galleries issues written approval of a further extension of return privileges, and (vi) in the event the lot is determined to be misidentified or misdescribed, pursuant to 5 and 5(A) of these Conditions, the Galleries will issue a refund to the buyer for the full purchase price and actual certification fees, but the reimbursement for certificate fees (and related costs) shall not exceed 10% of the hammer price of the lot. **Changes to a grade by the same certification service or a different grade from another certification service are not grounds for returning a lot.**

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 may also 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 all costs to ship lots by the most secure method. Buyers who receive lots in the U.S. are obligated to pay whatever sales tax or compensating use tax might be due, at any time, and 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. The bidder agrees not to use a public conflict resolution service and not to use any form of social media to publish comments or information about the Galleries and its employees which might harm the Galleries' reputation or business. These Conditions of Sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of New York, and shall constitute an agreement that shall be binding on the parties, and their respective heirs, administrators, distributees, successors and assignees.**

SCOTT R. TREPEL, Principal Auctioneer (NYC License No. 795952)
N.Y.C. Department of Consumer Affairs
80 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10013
Telephone (212) 577-0111

Revised 5/2019 Gross

Grades and Abbreviations Used in Descriptions

Grades and Centering

Our descriptions contain detailed information and observations about each item’s condition. We have also assigned grades to stamps and covers, which reflect our subjective assessment. For stamps, the margin width, centering and gum are described and graded according to generally-accepted standards (an approximate correlation to numeric grades is provided at right). Although we believe our grades are accurate, they are not always exactly aligned with third-party grading terms or standards for all issues. **A lot may not be returned because a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description. Information from the P.S.E. Stamp Market Quarterly and P.S.E. Population ReportSM is the most current available, but lots may not be returned due to errors or changes in statistics or data.**

Extremely Fine Gem (90-100): The term “Gem” describes condition that is the finest possible for the issue. This term is equivalent to “Superb” used by grading services.







Extremely Fine (80-90): Exceptionally large/wide margins or near perfect centering.

Very Fine (70-85): Normal-size margins for the issue and well-centered with the design a bit closer to one side. “Very Fine and choice” applies to stamps that have desirable traits such as rich color, sharp impression, freshness or clarity of cancel.

Fine (60-70): Smaller than usual margins or noticeably off center. Pre-1890 issues may have the design touched in places.

Very Good (below 60): Attractive appearance, but margins or perforations cut into the design.

Guide to Gum Condition

Gum Categories:	MINT N.H.		ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)			NO GUM
						
	Mint Never Hinged <i>Free from any disturbance</i>	Lightly Hinged <i>Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area</i>	Hinge Mark or Remnant <i>Prominent hinged spot with part or all of the hinge remaining</i>	Part o.g. <i>Approximately half or more of the gum intact</i>	Small part o.g. <i>Approximately less than half of the gum intact</i>	No gum <i>Only if issued with gum</i>
Catalogue Symbol:	★ ★	★	★	★	★	(★)
PRE-1890 ISSUES	<i>Pre-1890 stamps in these categories trade at a premium over Scott value</i>			Scott Value for “O.G.”		Scott “No Gum” Values thru No. 218
1890-1935 ISSUES	Scott “Never Hinged” Values for Nos. 219-771	Scott Value for “O.G.” (Actual value will be affected by the degree of hinging)		Disturbed Original Gum: Gum showing noticeable effects of humidity, climate or hinging over more than half of the gum. The significance of gum disturbance in valuing a stamp in any of the Original Gum categories depends on the degree of disturbance, the rarity and normal gum condition of the issue and other variables affecting quality. For example, stamps issued in tropical climates are expected to have some gum disturbance due to humidity, and such condition is not considered a negative factor in pricing.		
1935 TO DATE	Scott Value for “Unused”					

Multiples

Multiples have survived as significant artifacts of philatelic history and should be collected on the basis of their overall appearance. Blocks of issues prior to 1890 that have original gum may show irregular gum distribution, crackles, hinge removal disturbance and some brownish gum spots, all of which are characteristic of hand-applied gum and the effects of climate and handling. Blocks and plate blocks should be expected to have some perforation separations and/or reinforcements, especially in the selvage. **These flaws exist in virtually all scarce multiples and are not always described in detail. They are not grounds for return.**

Catalogue Values and Estimates

Unless otherwise noted, the currently available *Scott Catalogue* values are quoted in dollars with a decimal point. Other catalogues are often used for foreign countries or specialized areas and are referred to by their common name: *Stanley Gibbons* (SG), *Dietz*, *American Air Mail Catalogue* (AAMC), *Michel*, *Zumstein*, *Facit*, etc. Estimates are indicated with an “E.” and reflect our conservative valuation in dollars. Reserves will never exceed the low end of the estimate range; they will sometimes exceed Scott Catalogue value for stamps in Extremely Fine condition.

Because of certain pricing inconsistencies in the *Scott Catalogue*—for example, blocks that have no gum, the absence of premiums for Mint N.H. items, etc.—we cannot guarantee the accuracy of values quoted for multiples, specialized items and collection lots. We generally try to be conservative, but buyers may not return a lot because of a discrepancy in catalogue value due to Scott pricing inconsistencies.

Symbols and Abbreviations (see chart above for gum symbols)

▣	Block	E	Essay	pmk.	Postmark	No.	Scott Catalogue Number
⊠	Cover	P	Proof	cds	Circular Datestamp	hs	Handstamp
FC	Fancy Cancel	TC	Trial Color Proof	var.	Variety	ms.	Manuscript



William H. Gross

William H. Gross co-founded the investment giant PIMCO in 1971 and served as managing director and chief investment officer until 2014. During his time at PIMCO he received numerous awards, including Morningstar Fixed Income Manager of the Decade for 2000 to 2009 and Fixed Income Manager of the Year for 1998, 2000 and 2007. Mr. Gross became the first portfolio manager inducted to the Fixed Income Analysts Society's Hall of Fame in 1996 and received the Bond Market Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2000. In 2011 *Institutional Investor* magazine awarded him the Money Management Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2014 Mr. Gross joined Janus Henderson Investors as the Portfolio Manager of the Global

Unconstrained Bond and Total Return strategies and as a member of the global macro fixed income leadership team. He is also author of the books *Everything You've Heard About Investing is Wrong* and *Bill Gross on Investing*.

Just recently Mr. Gross announced his retirement and said he was going to focus on the William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation, a \$390 million charity that donated more than \$21.4 million to various causes in 2018. When announcing his retirement, Mr. Gross commented, "I look forward to continuing to work with my son Jeff and daughter Jennifer in identifying and supporting worthy and important causes that are creating better lives locally and around the world."

As with previous auctions of stamps from Mr. Gross's magnificent collections, the proceeds of his May 8-9 "Multiples" auction will benefit charitable organizations, through the William, Jeff and Jennifer Family Foundation.

The William H. Gross Collection

Few would dispute the claim that the various stamp collections formed by William H. Gross have reached legendary status, and that his collections combined rank amongst the most valuable and historically important philatelic collections ever formed.

Hard as it may be to imagine, Mr. Gross started stamp collecting like many of us. He began by visiting a local stamp store and browsing the selection of attractive, but certainly not valuable, United States and worldwide stamps. He was curious about stamp collecting at a beginner's level.

His early interests were primarily focused on United States stamps, although he went on to form collections of certain other worldwide countries. As most collectors do, he set a fun and challenging goal, trying to collect a single example of every United States stamp. But, unlike most of us, he possessed the good financial fortune to reach such a lofty goal. He also had the perseverance and desire to succeed. And, by taking advantage of the special moments in time when the last of the few stamps he needed became available, he reached his goal, becoming one of only two collectors ever to form a complete collection of 19th and early 20th century United States stamps. At this point, his collection is more complete than the last complete collection, formed by Robert Zoellner, because he owns the stamps that have been added to the catalogue since then.

As he was filling in the last empty spaces in his stamp album, Mr. Gross found that while he loved his single stamps, he was impressed by the complexity of the great collections of the past, formed by such giants as Caspary, Lilly and Ishikawa. While perusing auction catalogues of the great "name" sales, he noticed that in addition to the single stamps, these fabulous collections were augmented with a fantastic array of multiples. Some were described as the largest or finest known. Some were imprint and plate number multiples from key positions in the sheet. All of these blocks appealed to his intellect and curiosity, and the hunt was on.

As Mr. Gross's philatelic advisors, we became equally enthused about helping him build his collection in a way that would lead to greatness. Working together, we envisioned a collection with an example of every United States stamp, followed by a multiple of each issue if they existed—preferably the largest recorded multiple and a plate number multiple—and, to complete the picture, finish with a cover showing an extraordinary use of the stamp.

In building his "dream" collection, Mr. Gross astutely recognized the significance of a buying opportunity, whether it was offered at auction or privately. If it helped to advance his goal, he seized the opportunity. As experienced collectors know, such opportunities come along very infrequently—some happen only once in a lifetime.

Mr. Gross was making great strides during the 1990s and early 2000s. One day, he read about an upcoming stamp exhibition to be held in 2006 in Washington, D.C., the "international" in which collectors exhibited their prized collections. He said to us, "I want to show my collection in Washington." Our response was, "you simply can't just say you want to exhibit your collection and they accept it. There is a process to be followed, whereby you exhibit your

collection at local and national shows, gain experience as an exhibitor, earn certain minimum award levels, and then hope to be accepted for the 'big' show. In addition, there are arcane and quite arbitrary rules you have to follow to satisfy the judges at the show." His response? "I don't have to know these rules...you do!" And from there Bill Gross's exhibiting career began.

From the start the Gross exhibit caused quite a stir in the exhibiting world. As fellow exhibitors are well aware, it is certainly never enough to just spend money and put the items on pages to win accolades and high-level awards. The material needs to be astutely presented and described. Working with Mr. Gross, we were able to create his magnificent exhibit of "United States Classics, 1847-1869."

The goal to have a single example of every stamp, along with a multiple, plate number multiple and cover, was stymied by the lack of plate number multiples of the classic issues. If there is one thing judges hate, it is a hole in an exhibit. Judges like to point out such omissions and ask "why doesn't he have the such-and-such block of the such-and-such issue?" Frankly, in the beginning of Mr. Gross's exhibiting journey, there were several glaring omissions, particularly in classic plate number multiples. Why? The simple fact is there are very few early classic stamps for which a plate number multiple exists. At that time, almost all were locked up in the remarkable collection formed by John "Jack" C. Chapin, a gentleman and patriot whose biography appears on page 111 of this catalogue.

As with most things in life, timing is everything. In 2002 Jack Chapin offered his collection for sale through a sealed bidding process arranged by his dealer representative, Andrew Levitt. Mr. Gross relied on us to bring to his attention anything of interest that came up for sale, whether publicly or privately. The Chapin collection contained almost all of the great plate number multiples that were the last pieces of the puzzle for his exhibit. Knowing that so many important pieces would find a home in Mr. Gross's collection, we were able to submit the winning bid for the entire Chapin collection, and many items from the collection formed the pillars of the exhibit.

Four years later, at the end of the long, arduous road to Washington 2006, Bill Gross's spectacular exhibit won the Grand Prix National. There is no doubt that the multiples, including items gleaned from the 1993 Ishikawa sale, 1998 Zoellner sale and the 2002 private acquisition of the Chapin collection, helped put his exhibit "over the top" for the Grand Prix against an array of outstanding competitors. Many of these stellar items are presented in this fantastic auction of "United States Stamp Multiples—The William H. Gross Collection." We hope our clients derive as much joy in owning them as Mr. Gross did.

CHARLES F. SHREVE

TRACY L. CAREY

Philatelic Entropy

The ultimate purpose of life, mind, and human striving: to deploy energy and information to fight back the tide of entropy and carve out refuges of beneficial order.

STEVEN PINKER

As we all were taught and many of us have forgotten, entropy is the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which says that all matter in the universe moves towards disorder unless affected by outside forces. It explains why two bodies close together, one very hot and one very cold, will seek a state of equilibrium and ultimately lose their temperature. In observing the passage of time, we depend on entropy. Eggs do not unscramble themselves after being broken, and iron does not turn from rust to a dense black beam. If they did, time itself would seem to be reversed.

So, what is philatelic entropy?

To create a physics analogy, the printing and sale of a sheet of stamps is the starting point (we are thinking at the stamp level, not the atomic). From that moment forward, the sheet will become neither bigger nor more ordered, only smaller and more disordered. Historically—at least during the first 75 years from the beginning of all stamp creation in 1840—the odds were the sheet would be divided into single stamps, used on letters, cancelled and tossed out. Those stamps would be defying the familiar patterns of entropy if they removed their cancels, reassembled themselves into their original places in the sheet, mended all of their scissors-cuts or torn perforations, grew back their gum, and became a perfect mint sheet again.

The entropy of stamp sheets has occurred for functional and philatelic reasons. In order to redeem their stored postage value, buyers of stamps had to affix them to mail. The act of cutting or tearing apart a sheet was, for most stamp issues, the first big force of nature pushing them toward entropy. The small percentage of stamps lucky enough to survive being ripped, licked and stuck on letters (please forgive the poetic license) might have lived long enough to find their way into the hands of stamp collectors or dealers. At that point, the second force pushing the sheet toward philatelic entropy would take over—the demand for profit.

From the 1880s through World War II, stamp collecting grew tremendously in popularity, fueled by stories of riches gained through the discovery of rarities in family papers and bibles, and demographically supported by a growing interest in hobbies built on taxonomic study—beetles, butterflies, coins and stamps, to name a few. It certainly helped that a British monarch and an extremely popular president both collected stamps and advocated the hobby (King George V and Franklin D. Roosevelt).

The business of stamps was built on albums, and printed albums were designed for most collectors with spaces for a single example of each stamp. A stamp dealer who needed to meet the demand from many collectors looking for single stamps could not afford to keep sheets or even blocks intact. Even the more advanced dealers catering to block collectors could usually make more selling three blocks to three collectors instead of one block, three times the size, to one collector. So, when a large multiple or sheet of a stamp left the safety of its hiding place and entered the philatelic market, the likeliest outcome was a push toward entropy.

As time passed and collecting tastes changed, a greater appreciation of sheets and blocks developed. Multiples populated the magnificent collections formed by collectors in the years leading up to the end of World War II—names such as Worthington, Hind, Sinkler, Gibson, Colonel Green, Newbury, Ward, Caspary and Waterhouse. These collectors and their interest in multiples influenced the next generation of philatelic titans, such as Phillips (the Weills' principal client), Rust, Lilly and Hirzel. In the Phillips and Lilly collections alone, there was an enormous trove of multiples. When the Lilly and Phillips collections both came on the market in very close proximity (1967-68 and 1968, respectively), the market was inundated with rare blocks.

The Weills bought the entire Phillips collection in 1968 for \$4.07 million, and they carefully controlled the market. Throughout the 1970s, the Weills ensured the health of the block market with capital to hold inventory and liquidity to hold up prices. The brothers divided some multiples to make it easier to find buyers and maximize profits (always at the request of an unnamed collector, of course). They released duplicates over time and supported prices. During this period the Weills were the source of material that allowed collectors to build their block holdings—Bechtel, Chapin, Klein, Grunin, Kobacker, Wunderlich and Ishikawa—and many Rarities of the World sales were filled with treasure sent north from the Weills of New Orleans.

With the exception of a few blocks divided to enhance their appearance or to sell as smaller units, most remained intact through the 1970s. Then, as the “gem” singles market was expanded in the 1980s, and old-time block collections came on the market, a large and devastating round of blockbusting occurred. With careful cuts from a razor, imperforate stamps were harvested from multiples to provide “superb, large margined” singles. Perforated blocks were folded back and forth along the perforations several times to ensure that separation left even perf teeth on each side of the row. From these blocks came the “Jumbo” and “Mint Never-Hinged” gems, even before numerical grading. Multiples of certain issues, such as 1861-66, 1868 Grills, Large Bank Notes and early commemoratives, were ravaged. The arbitrage was impossible to resist. Just as companies in the 80s were worth more broken up and sold in pieces, four singles brought double or triple what the whole block cost, even more.

Returning to the theme of entropy, what survives today is destined to become more disordered. However, as this catalogue shows, we can use digital photography to look back into the past and see what many of these multiples looked like closer to their original state. It is the Hubble effect—with Photoshop. Seeing the pieces put together again helps us appreciate how remarkable these multiples really are, and if we can appreciate them more, perhaps we can slow the entropy, for a little while at least.

SCOTT R. TREPEL
PRESIDENT
ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES



Session One—Lots 1-109
Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Sale to be held at
The Collectors Club of New York
22 East 35th Street
(between Park and Madison Avenues)



**Providence, Rhode Island
Postmaster's Provisional**

LOT 1° ★★田

**A scarce intact sheet of the
Providence, Rhode Island,
postmaster's provisional in
pristine Mint Never-Hinged
condition**

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

Providence, Rhode Island, 5¢ & 10¢ Gray Black, Se-Tenant (10X2a), complete sheet of twelve, **Mint N.H.**, full selvage showing edge of plate and extra layout lines at right, crisp impression

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1991)

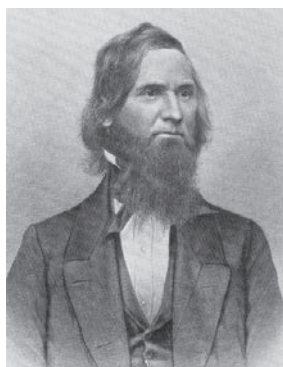
CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,500.00 as hinged

Welcome B. Sayles (1812-1862)
Providence Postmaster



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Providence Postmaster's Provisional Issue

On August 24, 1846, the Providence, Rhode Island, postmaster, Welcome B. Sayles (1812-1862), published a handbill announcing the availability of the new stamps. On the same day, Monday, August 24, this announcement was published in the *Providence Daily Journal*, and the stamps were placed on sale at the post office.

Sayles ordered an engraved copper plate from a local engraver named George W. Babcock. The plate was originally intended to comprise sixteen subjects, arranged four by four, including twelve 5¢ and four 10¢ denominations. The total face value of a sheet printed from the plate in this original format would have been one dollar. After the layout lines were etched into the copper surface, the decision was made to reduce the number of subjects to twelve, comprising eleven 5¢ denominations and one 10¢ subject at the top right of the printed sheet. The finished plate and order for printing was given to Henry A. Hidden & Company, a large commercial printer of bank notes. The assistant postmaster, Robert H. Barton, applied gum to the backs of the sheets from two bundles (200 sheets). Two more bundles were subsequently gummed in a similar manner. Thus, 400 of the 500 sheets were gummed at the post office, and the remaining 100 sheets were left ungummed. The ungummed remainder sheets were found and gummed years later, but that gum is thick, brown and lumpy. The original gum, as seen on the sheet offered here, is evenly applied and light in color. ■

1847 First Federal Issue

LOT 2° ★田

A spectacular original-gum, sheet-margin block of the 5¢ 1847 Issue in the Dark Brown shade from the First Printing

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000



DESCRIPTION

5¢ Dark Brown (1a), Positions 82-83/92-93R1, block of four from the two bottom rows of the right pane with **large bottom sheet margin**, original gum, lightly hinged, ample to large margins all around, huge margin at left, intense dark shade and sharp impression on deeply blued paper—all characteristics of stamps from the First Printing

PROVENANCE

As block of five:

William West, Ward sale, 4/26-30/1943, lot 5, to Robert A. Siegel

As block of four:

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1976 Rarities of the World, 3/31/1976, Sale 489, lot 13

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1989 Rarities of the World, 4/15/1989, Sale 708, lot 44

Jonathan W. Rose

Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 902, lot 1002, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

Friedl Expert Committee (1980)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine appearance; vertical and horizontal creases between stamps mostly in the margins, small scissors-cut in margin at right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$55,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The First Federal Postage Stamps

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.

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 was withheld by Congress until March 3, 1847.

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. ■



LOT 3° ★★/★

This remarkable strip of eight with original gum is the largest recorded multiple of the 1847 5¢ Orange Brown shade

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Orange Brown (1b), horizontal strip of eight—nearly a complete row—original gum, **stamps 2, 4, 5 and 7 are Mint N.H.**, others lightly hinged, bright shade, clear impression from reworked plate, large margins at top and sides, mostly clear at bottom except just touching on two stamps

PROVENANCE

Discovered shortly before its first auction appearance in 1970

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1970 Rarities of the World, 3/24/1970, Sale 371, lot 22, described as “From a new Original Find”

Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/19/1976, Sale 500, lot 21

Richard Wolfers, 10/31/1984 sale, lot 272

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 3, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Malcolm L. Brown census (*Chronicle* 171, August 1996, page 156), where described as “Positions 91-98L (?)”

Jonathan W. Rose, *Classic United States Imperforate Stamps*, page 9

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1976)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; couple gum toned spots (one shows faintly on face), slight horizontal crease, vertical creases mostly between stamps, slightly oxidized color far left and right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$80,000.00 as singles (multiples of Orange Brown are unpriced)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

5¢ 1847 Shades

The 5¢ 1847 Issue printings and the myriad colors they produced have vexed specialists attempting to classify them, as far back as the early 20th century when Dr. Carroll Chase described shade varieties in words, without the benefit of full-color publishing. In more recent times, Calvet M. Hahn and Wade Saadi have tried to describe the shades and illustrate them with color images. They have also attempted, with mixed results, to attribute shades (and impressions) to specific deliveries and/or printings.

The 5¢ stamps in a distinct orange hue are assigned Scott numbers 1b (Orange Brown), 1c (Red Orange) and 1d (Brown Orange). Philatelists have been left to decide which listed shade applies to a stamp at hand. Complicating matters, there is no clear consensus on the spectrum range for each shade, which results in great differences between two stamps presented or certified as the same Scott number.

The strip offered here is an unequivocal Orange Brown. It is a brightly tinted shade, and the impression is pronounced, but the lines of engraving show wear and fuzziness, which is most evident in the lines of the oval background surrounding Franklin’s portrait and in the fine lines along the outside portions of the rectangular design within the framelines. The overall impression indicates that this was probably a late printing, circa 1850-51, made from the cleaned and reworked plate, a process used by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson to improve the quality of prints made from the well-worn plate after years of use.

The 1847 Issue is much scarcer in unused condition than other issues, because the stamps were demonetized in 1851. They could be exchanged for the new issue, but once the exchange period ended, the stamps would have no postage value. Considering the purchasing power of five or ten cents in 1851, it is not surprising that the stamps were either used or exchanged, rather than left for future generations of collectors. Multiples of any of the orange-hue stamps are very rare, and multiples larger than a unit of three of any 5¢ shade are also rare. This is the largest unused multiple of the Orange Brown, Scott 1b. ■

LOT 4° ★

A superb pair of the 10¢ 1847 with original gum and large margins—the finest unused 10¢ 1847 multiple in the Caspary and Lilly collections

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000



DESCRIPTION

10¢ Black (2), Positions 17-18R1 showing **misaligned entries** on plate, horizontal pair, large to huge margins including frameline of above right adjoining stamp, original gum, lightly hinged, crisp shade and sharp impression

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 125, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7/1968, Sale 327, lot 3, to Weill (for A. T. Seymour)

A. T. Seymour, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/23/1970, Sale 373, lot 6

Michael Lea, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 1/11/1978, Sale 10, lot 42

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1968)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; right stamp has faint wrinkle that does not appear dark in watermark fluid and dries with barest flash of white

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$80,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Rarity of Unused 1847 Multiples

In anticipation of the new July 1851 rates and stamps, Postmaster General Nathan K. Hall announced on June 11 that the 5¢ and 10¢ postage stamps of 1847 would no longer be accepted as legal postage after June 30, 1851.

Postmaster Hall's demonetization order established a three-month redemption period—from July 1 to September 30, 1851—and instructed the public to present the stamps "to the Postmaster of whom they were purchased, or to the nearest Postmaster who has been authorized to sell postage stamps." Hall specified that only postmasters who had previously received stamps for sale directly from the Post Office Department were authorized to "pay cash for all genuine postage stamps" (Thomas J. Alexander, "Demonetization of the 1847 Issue," *Chronicle* 174, May 1997).

The procedure for redeeming unused 1847 stamps was cumbersome for the public and for postmasters. In the months following June 30, 1851, there was a degree of tolerance for use of the old stamps, as evidenced by dozens of covers with 1847 stamps used in the post-demonetization period. However, as time passed, the floating supply of old stamps dwindled, and it undoubtedly became more difficult to slip the 1847 stamps into the mails. Furthermore, paying the 3¢ domestic rate with a 5¢ 1847 stamp wasted 2¢. The USPS census of covers with 1847 stamps shows a steep decline by the end of 1852.

Considering the purchasing power of five or ten cents in 1851, it is not surprising that the stamps were either used or exchanged, rather than left for future generations of collectors. Consequently, unused multiples of the 1847 Issue are extremely rare. The superb original-gum pair offered here was the largest and finest 10¢ 1847 unused multiple in the Alfred Caspary collection; it was the first of three pairs offered in the Caspary sale. ■



Alfred H. Caspary (1877-1955)

LOT 5°

The famous Emerson-Newbury corner-margin strip of the 10¢ 1847—a magnificent gem and one of the finest First Issue multiples in existence

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000



DESCRIPTION

10¢ Black (2), Positions 1-3L1, horizontal strip of three from the top left corner of the sheet with huge margins all around including a generous portion of the **top sheet margin**, each stamp with red grid cancel applied by the United States mail agent in Panama

PROVENANCE

On cover: Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (sold privately in 1928 through Perry)

On cover: Henry C. Gibson, Sr. (listed in Ward inventory, sold to Emerson, who removed the strip from the cover)

Off cover: Robert S. Emerson, Daniel F. Kelleher, 11/16/1946, Sale 438, lot 376, to Newbury

Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 6, 10/23-24/1963, Sale 255, lot 78

Ryohei Ishikawa, pictured in first book of 1980 Grand Prix exhibit

Wade Saadi (1847 collection sold privately to William H. Gross)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Stanley B. Ashbrook, *Special Service*, #11, pp. 69-71

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1982) “genuine cancelled in Panama”

The Philatelic Foundation (1991) “genuine with red grid cancellations which were used in Panama”

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine



Robert S. Emerson
(1876-1937)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

1847 Stamps Used Outside the United States

United States Post Office Department records of 1847 stamps distributed to post offices indicate that 25 sheets of 10¢ 1847s (2,500 stamps) were sent on June 22, 1850, to A. B. Corwine, the official U.S. mail agent in Panama City. Corwine received the stamps on July 16. Another 25 sheets (2,500 stamps) were sent to Corwine on January 17, 1851, and received March 21. No 5¢ 1847s were ever sent to Panama, since the standard rate was 30¢ per half-ounce.

Corwine served as the American commissioner in Panama until Lincoln removed him from office. He was an instrumental figure in the so-called 1856 Watermelon War, when inebriated Americans in transit antagonized a local seller of watermelons by refusing to pay, leading to riots—the vendor pulled a knife, the antagonist pulled a gun, a struggle ensued, and a bystander was shot. Corwine's report of the incident was instrumental in the following short American occupation of the Isthmus, as well as payment of compensation and justification for future military actions to maintain the neutrality of Panama.

The 10¢ strip offered here was originally found used on a letter from Lima, Peru, addressed to Tepic, Mexico, and sent via the U.S. mail agent at Panama and via Mazatlan. The stamps and letter never touched United States territory during this journey, but the 30¢ postage paid for official U.S. mail transport from Panama.

According to Ashbrook's account, when the cover was discovered, it was “a bit ragged.” After it was owned by Representative Ernest Ackerman and Henry Gibson, the next owner, Judge Robert Emerson, removed the strip and placed it in his “Deluxe Collection of the 1847 Issue.” At the 1946 sale of this portion of Emerson's collection, it was acquired by Saul Newbury for a staggering price of \$2,900. In the October 1963 Newbury sale (Part 6) held by Siegel, the strip realized \$3,500, one of the four highest prices in the auction, including the famous 1¢ 1851 Type I Newbury cover, which sold for \$12,000, and the 15¢ Z Grill discovery stamp, which sold for \$11,500.

Following the Newbury sale, the strip was eventually acquired by Ryohei Ishikawa and shown in his 1847-1869 exhibit that garnered an International Grand Prix at WIPA 1981 (Vienna). Ishikawa sold the strip privately, and it next appeared in the Wade Saadi 1847 collection, which was acquired intact by Mr. Gross. ■

LOT 6° 田

One of two used blocks of the 10¢ 1847 Issue in private hands—of the two, only this block has handstamped cancellations

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000



DESCRIPTION

10¢ Black (2), Positions 13-14/23-24R1, block of four, blue grid cancels, full top and bottom margins, cut diagonally at sides with margins ranging from large to slightly in at upper left and lower right

PROVENANCE

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 32
 Clarence H. Eagle, J.C. Morgenthau sale, 4/4-10/1923, lot 503, to Doane
 Robert S. Emerson, Daniel F. Kelleher, 11/16/1946, Sale 438, lot 312
 “Sierra Madre” collection, D. F. Kelleher, 3/5/1991, Sale 588, lot 3071
 Wade Saadi (1847 collection sold privately to William H. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1996)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; top left stamp with small tear (at top), bottom right stamp with small tear (at bottom), small thin spots in top pair

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$75,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Rarity of Used 10¢ 1847 Blocks

The block offered here is one of two used blocks of the 10¢ 1847 Issue in private hands, and it is the only privately held block with handstamped cancellations, as opposed to pen cancels.

There are five recorded used 10¢ 1847 blocks:

- 1 Block of 14, Positions 1-10/11-14L1, pen “X” cancels, from the Bandholtz find (along with a strip of ten that was on the same cover), **unavailable to collectors**, ex Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications
- 2 Block of 4, red cancels (reduced from block of 6 with ink added to disguise identity), **unavailable to collectors**, ex Miller, now in The New York Public Library collection (at the National Postal Museum)
- 3 Block of 4, violet/red pen cancel, **unavailable to collectors**, ex Knight, now in the John Hay Library, Brown University
- 4 Block of 4, Positions 13-14/23-24R1, blue grid cancels, ex Worthington, Eagle, Emerson, “Sierra Madre”, Saadi, the block **offered in this sale**
- 5 Block of 4, lightened pen cancels, currently in the Gross collection

This block was featured prominently in the collections formed by Worthington, Eagle and Emerson prior to World War II. It disappeared for more than four decades after the 1946 sale of Emerson’s “Deluxe Collection of 1847s,” until it resurfaced in the 1991 Kelleher sale of the “Sierra Madre” collection, from which Wade Saadi acquired the block. The Saadi 1847 collection was sold privately to Mr. Gross. ■

1875 Reproductions of 1847 Issue

LOT 7° ★

The 1875 Reproductions of the First Federal Issue
in matching vertical pairs

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Red Brown, 10¢ Black Reproductions (3, 4), vertical pairs, the 10¢ Positions 40/50 from bottom right corner of sheet of 50 with enormous **corner sheet margins**, both pairs with full to large margins, rich colors and impressions, bright and fresh

PROVENANCE

10¢ pair: ex Norcross collection

Both pairs: John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

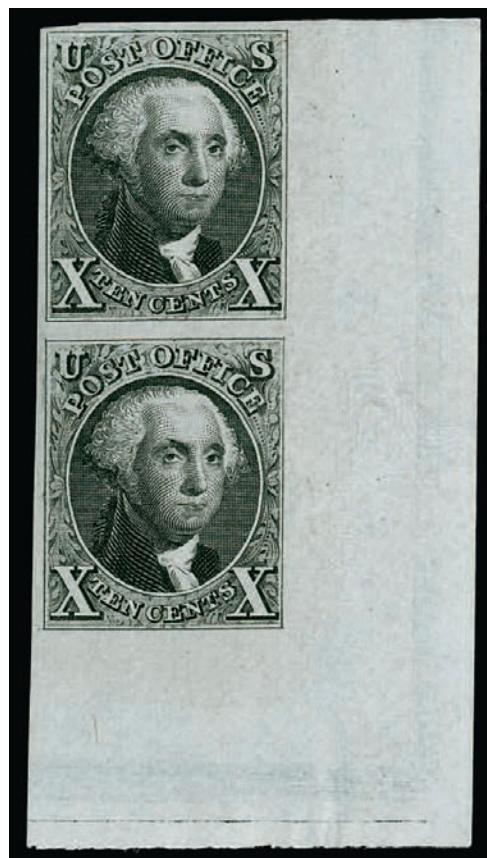
The Philatelic Foundation (1960) for each pair

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,450.00





LOT 8° ★田

**A spectacular set of blocks of six of the
1875 Reproductions of the First Federal Issue**

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Red Brown, 10¢ Black Reproductions (3, 4), vertical blocks of six from same Positions 23-24/33-34/43-44, each with large even margins, rich colors, sharp impressions

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1978 Rarities of the World, 4/11/1978, Sale 528, lot 34, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; 5¢ middle pair with horizontal crease

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$22,450.00 as blocks of four and pairs



1851-56 Imperforate Issue



LOT 9°

1¢ 1851 Type Ib pair cancelled in green

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type Ib (5A), Positions 8-9R1E, mostly ample to full margins, bright Plate 1 Early shade and sharp impression, cancelled by at least three strikes of olive green circular datestamp (we can see "Mar 24" date and a few letters, but not enough to identify the town)

PROVENANCE

Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 4, 5/16-17/1962, Sale 251, lot 54, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1962)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; slightly toned on back, pinhole between stamps toward top, a few specks of red wax, faint vertical crease at left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$18,000.00 for Position 8R1E and 9R1E as singles without premium for pair or green cancellation

LOT 10°

1¢ 1851 Type II-Ib combination pair

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II-Ib (7-5A), Positions 2-3R1E, horizontal pair with Type II at left and Type Ib at right, large margins all around, grid cancels, beautiful bright Plate 1 Early shade and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)—this pair sold by Shreves Philatelic Galleries "Lake Shore" collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/7/2004, Sale 888, lot 9, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1976)

CONDITION NOTES

Type Ib (at right) Extremely Fine; Type II (at left) Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$12,000.00 as Type Ib-II combination pair





LOT 11°

A sound strip of three of the 1¢ 1851 Imperforate Type Ia—the largest size multiple recorded

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type Ia (6), Positions 95-97L4, horizontal strip of three, full to clear margins with all of the bottom ornamentation showing (the key characteristics of Type Ia), gorgeous deep rich Plate 4 shade and proof-like impression, neatly cancelled by two pen lines, Position 97L4 at right shows the Curl on Shoulder plate variety

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1971)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine



Scott 6, 1¢ Type Ia, has complete ornaments at bottom

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1¢ Type Ia Comes Only from Bottom of Plate 4

The 1¢ 1851 stamp, with a bust of Franklin based on Caffieri's sculpture, was one of the workhorses of postage stamps issued during the decade it was current. To print enough 1¢ stamps to meet demand, twelve steel plates were made—one was never used (Plate 6), and the first plate was reworked to add life to it (thus, the Early and Late states).

The 1¢ Franklin stamps printed from Plate 4 were issued in April, May and briefly in June 1857, shortly before perforations were introduced into the stamp production process.

Two 1¢ types listed as major Scott Catalogue numbers were produced exclusively from Plate 4—Type Ia (6 or 19) and Type Ic (6b or 19b). Type Ia shows the complete ornamentation at bottom, including the plumes at bottom left and right. That makes it instantly recognizable among imperforate 1¢ 1851 stamps (Type Ic is nearly complete).

Plate 4 stamps were issued both imperforate and perforated, but the relatively smaller production of imperforate stamps explains the great rarity of imperforate versions of Types Ia and Ic from Plate 4. Type Ia stamps were furnished by only 18 of the 200 positions on Plate 4 (the remaining two bottom-row positions are sub-type Ic). Therefore, statistically, Type Ia positions represent 9% of all Plate 4 production, either imperforate or perforated, and only 1.8% of all imperforate stamp production from all plates.

Frank S. Levi, Jr., recorded seven used strips of three of the imperforate 1¢ in which all stamps are Type Ia (see *Bakers' U.S. Classics*, page 188). There is no larger multiple of Type Ia positions. ■



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Earliest Plate Number Blocks

Plate number strips and blocks have been popular with collectors for many years, but the presence of an imprint or plate number on a stamp or multiple issued prior to 1888 is unusual. The simple reason is classic issues rarely survived in sheets or multiples with intact imprints.

When Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Company made the first plates used to print the 1851 Issue stamps, they did not bother to add imprints or plate numbers until 1852. Very few plate number blocks of the 1851 Issue exist, and only two full plate blocks (of eight or twelve stamps) are recorded for the 1¢ Type II, and they both come from Plate 2. The plate block offered here is the finer of the two (the other has ink spots).

For the first 129 years of its existence, this block was part of a full pane of 100, which was owned in succession by Arthur Hind, Mortimer L. Neinken and Ryohei Ishikawa. Soon after the 1980 Ishikawa 1¢ 1851-57 sale, the pane was cut into smaller blocks, including the Position 99R2 block that was resold to Ishikawa (see lot 15 in this Gross sale) and the plate block offered here. Many philatelists then and now regard the decimation of the Plate 2 pane as a wanton act of vandalism. ■

LOT 12° (★)田

The finer of only two imprint and plate number blocks of eight of the 1¢ 1851 Imperforate from Plate 2

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II (7), Positions 38-40/48-50/58-60/68-70R2, unused block of twelve (no gum) from the right pane of Plate 2 with **“Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati”** imprint and **“No. 2.”** plate number at right, Positions 48R, 49R and 58R are significant **double transfer** varieties, full to large margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

As part of pane of 100:

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 119, to Klein

Mortimer L. Neinken (sold privately to Ishikawa)

Ryohei Ishikawa, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 6/24/1980, Sale 46, lot 106

As plate block of 12:

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1988 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1988, Sale 692, lot 57, to Wampler

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 3, to Mr. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Stanley B. Ashbrook, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857*, 1938 edition, Vol. 1, page 208 and fig. 18-V, page 209

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 4, note on page 6: “(4) The cutting-up in 1980 of the only known pane of the 1 cent blue, Type II, of 1851 (Scott 7), which had been in the Hind, Neinken and Ishikawa collections”

Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*, page 188, fig. 13-T (page 189) and detail in fig. 13-V (page 192)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; some faults, including creases, thins, light toning at center and small tear in sheet margin at upper right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Plate block of eight listed at \$37,500.00



LOT 13°

Superb 1¢ 1851 strip of three
with Plate 2 imprint and number

ESTIMATE \$1,500-2,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II (7), Positions 58-60R2, horizontal strip of three from the right pane of Plate 2 with “**(Toppan, Carpen)ter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE EN(GRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati)**” portion of imprint and full “**No. 2.**” plate number at right, mostly large to huge margins showing parts of adjoining stamps at top, lightly cancelled by neat pen strokes

PROVENANCE

Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 4, 5/16-17/1962, Sale 251, lot 202

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1982)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

LOT 14° ★

Magnificent corner-margin pair
of 1¢ 1851 Imperforate with the
striking Plate 2 “Big Flaw”

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000



DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II (7), Positions 1-2L2, horizontal pair from the top left corner of left pane of Plate 2 with **major plate crack** appearing as a lightning bolt through right stamp, original gum, deep shade and fine impression, large to huge margins showing parts of adjoining stamps at bottom

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 205

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1957)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine appearance; slight vertical crease in left stamp, tiny thins in selvage



Lot 15



Detail of 99R2
(bottom center)

LOT 15° (★)田

One of four available blocks of the 1¢ 1851 Imperforate containing Position 99R2, the Type III with the widest breaks in the outer lines at top and bottom

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Types II and III, Position 99R2 (7, 8), Positions 78-80/88-90/98-100R2, unused block of nine (no gum) containing **Type III, Position 99R2**, others Type II, huge margins to just touched at top, including parts of adjoining stamps at left and **bottom right corner sheet margins**, Position 89R2 with pronounced **double transfer**, rich color and an early impression with Position 100R2 showing complete bottom line (thus Type II, not IIIa)

PROVENANCE

As part of pane of 100:

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 119, to Klein Mortimer L. Neinken (sold privately to Ishikawa)

Ryohei Ishikawa, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 6/24/1980, Sale 46, lot 106

As block of 9:

Ryohei Ishikawa (bought after pane was divided), Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 91, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Stanley B. Ashbrook, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857*, 1938 edition, Vol. 1, page 208 and fig. 18-V, page 209

Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*, page 188, fig. 13-T (page 189) and detail in fig. 13-V (page 192)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine appearance; small internal tear in Positions 78-79 in top row, slight thins in bottom three stamps, light stains on back of sheet margin at bottom do not show through



Arthur Hind



Mortimer L. Neinken



Ryohei Ishikawa

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1¢ 1851 Imperforate Type III Position 99R2

Plate 2 was made in late 1855, and produced 198 stamps that are Type II, one position that is Type III (99R) and one that can be either Type II or Type IIIA (100R), depending on plate wear. The creation of the Type III (99R2) and the 89R2 major double transfer is a story of human error.

To lay out the plate, the siderographer used a tool to make tiny dots in the plate that served to guide him in rocking in entries from the transfer roll. Positions 79 and 89 were transferred perfectly using their guide dots. However, the guide dot to the southeast of Position 88R2, which was used to align the single B Relief for Position 99R2, was placed far out of line. The misplaced dot caused the siderographer to transfer the 99R entry far out of alignment and rock the adjoining A Relief on the transfer roll into the bottom part of Position 89 (and in the margin below this position).

The first 99R entry was erased and re-entered, but the parts of the A Relief transferred into the bottom of Position 89R remained. When the fresh entry was made in Position 99R, a full transfer of the design was not possible without running into the error in Position 89R. The position was therefore short transferred at top, and apparently also at bottom, creating the finest example of Type III found on any plate (see pages 183-184 of Neinken book).

There are five recorded imperforate blocks with 99R2:

- 1 Block of 18, Positions 82-90/92-100R2, corner margins, original gum, creases, ex Newbury (Siegel Sale 251, lot 526), **unavailable to collectors**, ex Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications
- 2 Block of 9, Positions 78-80/88-90/98-100R2, corner margins, no gum, small faults, cut from the ex-Hind pane of 100, **offered in this sale**
- 3 Block of 6, Positions 79-80/89-90/99-100R2, corner margins, original gum, creased, Siegel Sale 1037, lot 1406, currently in the Eubanks collection
- 4 Block of 4, Positions 88-89/98-99R2, original gum, faults including tear in 99R2, Siegel Sale 788, lot 55
- 5 Block of 4, Positions 89-90/99-100R2, corner margins, original gum, creased, probably cut from the Duveen block of 8, ex Hind, Ward, Siegel Sale 660, lot 25

A sixth block, ex Hessel and Klein, was reduced to a pair after the 1988 Klein sale. The perforated block is unique.

For the first 129 years of its existence, this block was part of a full pane of 100, which was owned in succession by Arthur Hind, Mortimer L. Neinken and Ryohei Ishikawa. Soon after the 1980 Ishikawa 1¢ 1851-57 sale, the pane was cut into smaller blocks, including the plate block offered as lot 12 in this sale and this 99R2 block that was resold to Ishikawa. Many philatelists then and now regard the decimation of the Plate 2 pane as a wanton act of vandalism. ■

LOT 16° (★)田

An attractive and rare imprint and plate number block of the 1¢ 1851 Imperforate from Plate 1 Late

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000



Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS, Phila. New York, Boston
No. 1

Detail of imprint

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type IV (9), Positions 31-33/41-43/51-53L1L, unused block of nine (no gum) from the left pane of Plate 1 Late with “**Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Bosto(n & Cincinnati)**” nearly complete imprint and “**No. 1**” plate number at left, five of the seven recut varieties are represented (lacking only once at bottom, and twice at bottom), Positions 31 and 41 are **double transfer** varieties, ample margins to slightly in, rich color

PROVENANCE

Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 4, 5/16-17/1962, Sale 251, lot 529

John A. Fox sale, 3/11/1964, lot 170

Siegel Auction Galleries, 6/22/1967, Sale 319, lot 82

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 8

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine appearance; faint horizontal crease at top, Position 33L thin spot, 43L tiny tear—very minor faults for a plate block of this era



Saul Newbury (1870-1950)

LOT 17° (★)

1¢ 1851 Imperforate plate number strip from Plate I Late

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type IV (9), Positions 50/60/70/80/90R1L, unused strip of five (no gum) from the right pane of Plate I Late with “**Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Bost(on & Cincinnati)**” nearly complete imprint and “**No. 1**” plate number at left, full to large margins

PROVENANCE

Frank A. Hollowbush, Part 2, John A. Fox sale, 1/4-5/1966, lot 637
Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/29/1976, Sale 484, lot 166
Leonard Sheriff, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/11-12/1985, Sale 655, lot 78
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 5

CONDITION NOTES

Stamps Very Fine or similar appearance; light diagonal crease, some thins mainly in sheet margin, paper erosion in margin but not the stamps



LOT 18° ★田

A superb original-gum block of the 3¢ Orange Brown

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Orange Brown, Type II (10A), block of four, original gum, lightly hinged, rich “copperish” shade, large margins to ample for this narrowly spaced plate

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 329, to Cole (for Lilly)
Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 11, to Robinson (for Klein)
Walter C. Klein, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 55
Siegel Auction Galleries, 1995 Rarities of the World, 6/5/1995, Sale 767, lot 53, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; bottom left stamp has slight crease (ending in tiny break) and small toned speck

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$20,000.00





LOT 19° ★

A magnificent 3¢ 1851 Orange Brown imprint pair

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Orange Brown, Type II (10A), Positions 50/60R5E, vertical pair with 13.5mm sheet margin at right showing “(Toppan, Carpen)ter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Bos(ton & Cincinnati)” portion of imprint and **no plate number, which was not present on Plate 5 Early**, other margins large to just barely touching frameline, original gum, rich color and excellent impression

PROVENANCE

Stanley M. Piller, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/25/1993, Sale 748, lot 71
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Thomas J. Alexander, “3¢ 1851, Plate 5 Early,” *Chronicle* 104, page 256 (illustrated)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2000)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; small scissors cut in bottom stamp at upper left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,500.00 for normal pair without imprint

LOT 20° (★)田

The only recorded 3¢ 1851 plate block from Plate 4

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Orange Red, Type I (11), Positions 39-40/49-50/59-60/69-70R4, unused block of eight (no gum) from right pane of Plate 4 with “Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati” imprint and “No. 4” plate number at right, full to ample margins, light shade

PROVENANCE

As block of 16: John N. Luff

As block of 8: Siegel Auction Galleries, 8/9/1966, Sale 304, lot 146

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 28

Stanley M. Piller, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/25/1993, Sale 748, lot 71, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 27

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; two horizontal creases ending in closed tears in margin, which has been slightly reduced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,500.00



LOT 21° ★田

3¢ 1851 plate block of 16 from Plate 3

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Dull Red, Type II (11A), Positions 37-40/47-50/57-60/67-70R3, block of 16 from right pane of Plate 3 with “**Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 3.**” plate number at right, original gum, large margins to just clear

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/28/1965, Sale 286, lot 16, to Chapin John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 21 (illustrated on page 23)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1965)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; mostly minor faults including tears

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,500.00 for plate block of eight and two blocks of four



LOT 22° (★)田

One of two 3¢ 1851 plate blocks from Plate 2 Late

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose Red, Type II (11A), Positions 31-32/41-42/51-52/61-62L2L, block of eight (no gum) from left pane of Plate 2 Late with “**Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 2.**” plate number at left, mostly full to large margins except slightly in at top right

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1974 Rarities of the World, 3/27/1974, Sale 448, lot 33 Stanley M. Piller, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/25/1993, Sale 748, lot 80, to Chapin John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 17

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine appearance; one stamp slightly creased, thins in bottom pair and one with small tear

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,500.00

LOT 23° (★)

The largest recorded multiple
of the 10¢ Type I Imperforate

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000



DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Type I (13), Positions 96-100R1, unused horizontal strip of five (no gum) from the bottom right corner of the sheet with full to large margins at top and bottom, which show the full shells at bottom (the distinguishing characteristic of Type I), Position 100R with **double transfer** variety, slightly in at ends, rich color and sharp impression

PROVENANCE

Discovered as part of a group of six strips of five 10¢ 1855 stamps adhering to an 1857 letter, found by Alexander Drysdale Gage and first reported in *Stamps* 8/30/1941

Probably sold to Philip G. Rust soon after discovery

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1987 Rarities, 5/2/1987, Sale 679, lot 108

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1989 Rarities, 4/15/1989, Sale 708, lot 85

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1992 Rarities, 10/3/1992, Sale 745, lot 364

Traded by Michael Perlman to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Stamps 8/30/1941 article reporting discovery

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; right stamp has small tear at bottom

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

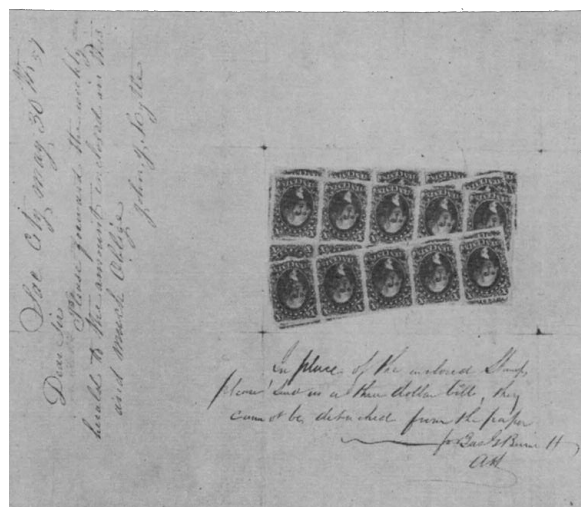
\$42,500.00 as five singles without gum (a pair valued at \$42,500.00)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Stuck Together in 1857

The 10¢ Type I strip offered here—the largest multiple of Scott 13—was found in 1941 in a group of six strips of five, \$3 face value, cut from the same sheet and included in a letter mailed on May 30, 1857, from Sacramento to an eastern publisher to pay for a subscription. When the publisher received them, the stamps had become stuck down, so he wrote a note on the letter and returned it with the unusable stamps, asking the sender to replace them with currency. About 84 years after these events, the letter with the stamps still attached was found by Alexander D. Gage (1905-1986), of Pasadena, a stamp dealer and partner in Higgins & Gage. The stamps were plated by Stanley B. Ashbrook, and the discovery was reported in the 8/30/1941 *Stamps* magazine.

Following their discovery, at least three were eventually acquired by Philip G. Rust, a chemical engineer by training and the husband of Eleanor Francis du Pont, a fifth generation heiress to the family fortune. On his farm in Georgia, Rust quietly formed a spectacular collection of classic U.S. stamps and covers, buying in sales throughout the 1940s, 50s and 60s. It is believed that he consigned three strips (61-65R, 76-80R and 96-100R) to the 1987 Rarities of the World sale. The Type I strip remained intact and was eventually sold again in the 1992 Rarities of the World sale, where it was acquired by Michael Perlman. Prior to the Washington 2006 exhibition, Mr. Gross traded a cover for the strip, so it could be shown among other largest known multiples. ■



1857 letter as discovered with six 10¢ strips stuck together



Digital reconstruction of six strips in their positions in sheet



LOT 24° ★

The 10¢ 1855 Type II Imperforate in a dazzling interpane sheet-margin pair

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Type II (14), Positions 9-10L1, horizontal pair from the top right of the left pane of Plate 1, **huge sheet margin at top and interpane margin at right showing the full centerline**, large margins all around, original gum with slight disturbance, beautiful rich color and sharp impression

PROVENANCE

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2320

Michael Lea, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 1/11/1978, Sale 10, lot 42

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1985 Rarities of the World, 4/20/1985, Sale 645, lot 77

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1983)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; horizontal crease in top margin

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$11,000.00 as an ordinary pair

Lot 25



Type IV

Type IV



74L recut at top



76L recut at bottom

Detail of Type IV stamps in strip

LOT 25° ★

This original-gum strip of eight is the largest recorded unused multiple of the 10¢ 1855 Imperforate and the most outstanding unused multiple containing Type IV

ESTIMATE \$40,000-50,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Types II and IV (14, 16), Positions 71-78L1, horizontal strip of eight from the left pane of Plate 1, comprising six Type II and two Type IV—Positions 74L recut at top and 76L recut at bottom—large part original gum, three large margins including parts of adjoining stamps at top and an enormous 19mm **left sheet margin**, rich color, fresh and bright

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 508, to Weill

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1969 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1969, Sale 350, lot 36

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2353

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 171, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. I, fig. 235, page 157

ANPHILEX 1971 "Aristocrats of Philately"

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine appearance; two vertical scissors-cuts between the sheet margin and left stamp and between Positions 73 and 74 (third and fourth stamps from left), light vertical bend/crease between Positions 76 and 77 (sixth and seventh stamps from left)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$107,000.00 as two Type II-IV combination pairs and two Type II pairs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Rare 10¢ 1855 Type IV Recuts

The 10¢ Green Imperforate was issued in mid-1855, the second denomination of its kind after the 1847 Issue. The need for 10¢ stamps was revived in 1855 when Congress created a new prepaid "over 3,000 miles" rate for letters to and from the West Coast. They also gave the postmaster general discretionary power to require prepayment by stamps.

The 10¢ stamps were printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. from steel plates of 200 subjects, divided into panes of 100. 10¢ Type IV stamps are defined by recut outer curved lines at the top or bottom of the design, or both in one position (64L). Recutting was done on only seven scattered positions in the left pane and one position in the right pane. Therefore, only 4% of the stamps from Plate 1 are Type IV. The strip of eight offered here, containing two Type IV positions with a recut line at top (74L) and at bottom (76L), is the largest unused multiple of the 10¢ 1855 Issue and the largest unused multiple with Type IV stamps.

This strip was one of the featured items in the 1956 sale of the Alfred H. Caspary collection, where it sold to the Weills for \$3,100. While many outstanding items bought by the Weills in the Caspary sales went directly to Benjamin D. Phillips, their closely guarded client, this strip is not listed in the Phillips inventory. However, after the Weills acquired the entire Phillips collection in 1968 for \$4.07 million, they began consigning items to auctions. This strip appeared in the 1969 Rarities of the World sale, along with several other pieces from the Phillips collection, so perhaps it was part of the collection at one point, but not listed in the inventory.



Louis Grunin accepting the Grand Prix National award at INTERPHIL 1976

After the Rarities sale, the strip next appeared in Louis Grunin's 1847-1869 exhibit, which won the Grand Prix National at INTERPHIL in 1976. Following the sale of Grunin's 1847-1869 off-cover material in 1976, the strip was acquired by Ryohei Ishikawa for his own 1847-1869 exhibit, which earned him three Grand Prix awards in exhibitions from 1981 to 1987. At the 1993 sale of Ishikawa's collection, Mr. Gross captured the 10¢ 1855 strip for his own collection. ■

LOT 26°

Extremely rare 10¢ 1855 Type I-IV combination pair

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Types IV/I (16/13), Positions 86/96L1, vertical pair from the only two positions on the plate of 200 subjects with Types IV and I adjoining one another, Position 86 top line recut and recut curved lines over both “X” ovals, Position 96 from bottom row with full shells at bottom, full margins, rich color, clear strike of St. Louis circular datestamp

PROVENANCE

Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 1, 5/17-18/1961, Sale 240, lot 233

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2364

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. I, fig. 242, p. 161

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00



LOT 27° ★田

Superb 12¢ 1851 block on Part India paper

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black, Part India Paper (17 variety), Positions 64-65/74-75L1, block of four, large part original gum with slight disturbance, full margins all around, proof-like impression on bright paper with fibrous surface

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1992 Rarities of the World, 10/3/1992, Sale 745, lot 385

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2019)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$45,000.00 for block on normal paper

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 3¢ and 12¢ 1851 Issue are both found on Part India paper, which is a hand-made silky paper that varies in thickness within the same sheet. The Neinken 12¢ 1851-57 book (pp. 61-64) quotes from earlier publications by Ashbrook, Chase and Jaeger, which describe the look and feel of Part India stamps as “undoubtedly from the very first impressions from the Twelve Cent plate. The engravings are very sharp and resemble die proofs or plate proofs on India. The shades of both these items are of the earliest known, the distinctive grayish.” This block from Positions 64-65/74-75L1 was joined with the block of nine on Part India paper from Positions 61-63/71-73/81-83L1, which was cut up after it was last sold (Siegel Sale 989, lot 61, 2005 P.F. certificate). ■





1857-60 Perforated Issue

LOT 28° ★

One of two unused examples of the 1¢ Blue from Plate 12 with a full plate number

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000



Detail of imprint and plate number

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Types II/I/II (20/18/20), Positions 31/41/51L12, B/C/B Reliefs, vertical strip of three (top stamp partly separated and rejoined) from the left pane of Plate 12 with “TOPPAN CARPENTER & CO. PHILADELPHIA” **Second Type** imprint and “No. 12.P.” plate number in selvage at left, original gum, centered to left, bright color

PROVENANCE

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/29/1976, Sale 484, lot 224

Ryohei Ishikawa, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 9/23/1980, Sale 48, lot 312 (illustrated on front cover of sale catalogue)

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 29

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; top left stamp with small tear (at top), bottom right stamp with small tear (at bottom), small thin spots in top pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

1¢ Franklin Printings from Plates 11 and 12

For 1¢ Plates 11 and 12, the style and placement of the imprint was altered from previous 1¢ plates. The Second Type imprint with negative lettering and “Toppan Carpenter & Co.” name was first used in June 1860 on the 12¢ Plate 3, followed shortly after by its use on the 30¢ and 90¢ plates made during the summer of 1860 (see lot 47). Its next use was on the 1¢ Plate 11, probably toward the end of 1860. Casilear’s name, which appeared in the imprint on earlier plates, even after he had retired, was omitted from the new Second Type imprint. The use of this imprint and the reversion to a 3-subject transfer roll (and absence of significant relief trimming) have led specialists to theorize that Plates 11 and 12 were made by different Toppan Carpenter employees than the ones who made the earlier plates.

Imprint examples of 1¢ stamps from Plate 11 or 12 with plate number intact are extremely rare. We are aware of three unused examples and two used examples (one on cover) with the imprint and part or all of the “No. 12” plate number. Only one other unused example with the full number is recorded: a vertical pair from the Neinken and Wagshal collections (Siegel Sale 1006, lot 1493). The strip offered here was considered significant enough to use as the catalogue cover illustration for the 1980 Ishikawa sale. ■

LOT 29° ★田

One of two known bottom-margin blocks of four of the 1¢ 1857 Perforated from Plate 4—this block contains the rare Types Ia and Ic in combination with Type IIIa above

ESTIMATE \$40,000-50,000



Detail of ornamentation on Type Ia (at left) and Type Ic (at right)

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Types IIIa-IIIa/Ia-Ic (22-22/19-19b), Positions 85-86/95-96R4, E/F Reliefs, block of four from bottom two rows of right pane of Plate 4 with large sheet selvage, original gum, intense Plate 4 dark shade and proof-like impression, well-centered with bottom row of perfs into the design but the Type Ia-Ic characteristic plumes show in the selvage

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 585, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 20, to Weill

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 210, to Floyd

William S. Floyd, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 10/23-24/2001, lot 63, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Tracy W. Simpson, "1851-'60 Blocks in the Lilly Sale," *Chronicle* 59 August 1968

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; tiny toned spots on bottom right stamp, negligible corner crease in selvage tab at bottom right (not noted on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$100,000.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Fascinating Plate 4

1¢ Type Ia (and Ic) stamps were produced from the 20 bottom-row positions on Plate 4. After perforations were introduced in mid-1857, sheets on hand printed from Plates 1 Late and 2 were fed through the new perforating machine, but the narrow spaces between stamps caused perforations to cut into the designs. Plate 4 was produced in late 1856 or early 1857 when the introduction of perforations was anticipated; thus, it was entered from a new 6-relief transfer roll, and the spaces between stamps were enlarged to allow for perforations. Some Plate 4 sheets were issued in imperforate form (April to June 1857), while the greater portion was issued perforated beginning in July 1857, along with perforated sheets from Plates 1L and 2.

Plate 4's most distinctive feature is that the top row positions (1-10L and 1-10R) were entered with the designs complete at top (Type II), and the bottom row positions (91-100L and 91-100R) were entered with designs complete or nearly complete at bottom (Types Ia and Ic). Although the plate layout provided sufficient space for perforations, the height of the top-row and bottom-row designs was larger than others in the sheet, which resulted in perforations cutting into either the top or bottom rows, depending on which direction the sheet was fed into the perforator—this block shows the bottom impinged by the perforations.

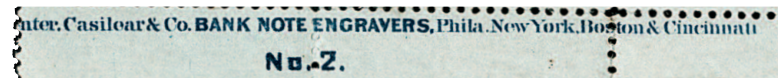
Plate 4 was in use for a short period of time, and large multiples (imperforate or perforated) are rare. The complete left pane of perforated Plate 4 stamps remains intact. We are aware of just one other block with bottom-row stamps (Type Ia, Positions 81-82/91-92L4), but its condition is far inferior to the wonderful quality of the block offered here, which has graced the important collections formed by Caspary, Lilly, Ishikawa and Floyd. ■



LOT 30° ★田

The only recorded imprint and plate number block of the 1¢ 1857 Perforated from Plate 2

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000



Detail of imprint and plate number

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II (20), Positions 41-42/51-52/61-62L2, block of six from the left pane of Plate 2 with “**(Toppa, Carpe)nter, Casilear & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 2.**” plate number at left, original gum, centered to right, brilliant color and fine impression

PROVENANCE

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lot 41

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1964 Rarities of the World, 2/27/1964, Sale 267, lot 34

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/29/1976, Sale 484, lot 235, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*, page 191 (noted in text)

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 31 (illustrated on page 7)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1976)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; a few gum toned spots around perfs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Scarcity of Plate 2 Stamps with Perforations

The 1¢ Plate 2 was made before perforating was considered; therefore, the spaces between the stamps were insufficient to accommodate perforations. The majority of 1¢ stamps from Plate 2 were issued imperforate from December 1855 through June 1857. Perforated 1¢ stamps were issued beginning in July 1857, and Plate 2 (along with Plate 4) was used until replaced by new plates in late 1857.

Plate 2 multiples with original gum are far rarer perforated than in imperforate form. The converse is true for multiples from Plate 4. Although Type II perforated blocks with original gum are abundant from 1861 printings (Plates 11-12), Type II perforated blocks from Plate 2 are exceedingly rare. In our opinion, the Scott Catalogue undervalues Plate 2 perforated stamps, perhaps reflecting a market skewed by the availability of Type IIs from other plates.

Only one block with the Plate 2 imprint and number is recorded in the Chapin census—it is the block offered here, listed as number 31 and illustrated on page 7. One unused vertical strip of three with the imprint and plate number (41/51/61L2) is illustrated in the Neinken book on page 192 and was sold in Siegel Sale 697 (lot 283). These are the only two unused Plate 2 imprint and plate number examples.

The earliest appearance of this block we have found is in the 1940 Klein sale of the Wharton Sinkler collection. It reappeared in the 1964 Rarities of the World sale and was eventually acquired by Rudolph G. Wunderlich, whose collection of 1851-57s was sold by the Siegel firm in 1976. Jack Chapin was the buyer in that sale. In 2002 the Chapin collection was acquired intact by the Shreves in a sealed bidding process organized by Andrew Levitt, and then the collection was sold to Mr. Gross. ■



Lot 31

LOT 31° ★田

The largest known 1¢ 1857 Perforated block from Plate 2—a spectacular multiple and one of the most important blocks of the classic period

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type II (20), Positions 52-57/62-67/72-77/82-87/92-97R2, block of 30 from right pane of Plate 2, early impression, several **double transfers** including Position 93R pronounced shift in bust, original gum, lightly hinged, intense shade and rich color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 598, to Weill

A.T. Seymour, Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/25-26/1969, Sale 362, lot 202

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 98, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine overall condition; top left stamp has large nick into design, second horizontal row faintly creased, some separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$41,400.00 as blocks and pairs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

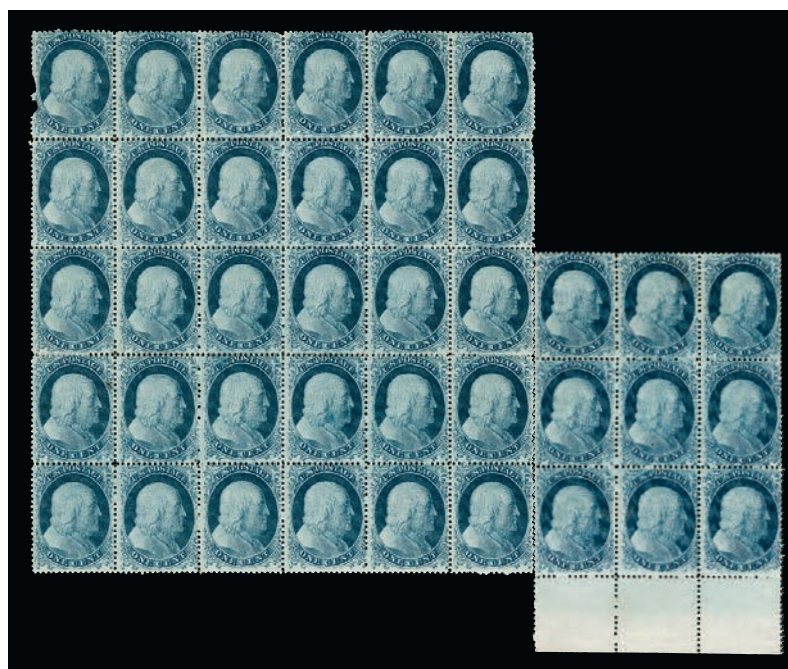
The 1¢ 1857 Perforated Stamps from Plate 2

The 1¢ Plate 2 was made before perforating was considered; therefore, the spaces between the stamps were insufficient to accommodate perforations. The majority of 1¢ stamps from Plate 2 were issued imperforate from December 1855 through June 1857. Perforated 1¢ stamps were issued beginning in July 1857, and Plate 2 (along with Plate 4) was used until replaced by new plates in late 1857.

Plate 2 multiples with original gum are far rarer perforated than in imperforate form. The converse is true for multiples from Plate 4. Although Type II perforated blocks with original gum are abundant from 1861 printings (Plates 11-12), Type II perforated blocks from Plate 2 are exceedingly rare.

At the time of our 1998 Zoellner sale, we determined that this block of 30 was originally joined with the famous 99R2 block (Positions 78-80/88-90/98-100R2) offered as lot 32 in this sale. A digital reconstruction is shown below. Both blocks were once part of the Caspary collection; another block in the Caspary sale (lot 596) also fits into this large multiple, filling Positions 58-59/68-69R2. There are three or four other blocks (unplated) in the Caspary and West sales that might also be part of the original large multiple. ■

Digital reconstruction of block of 30 offered here and block of 9 (lot 32)





Lot 32



Detail of 99R2
(bottom center)

LOT 32° ★田

This magnificent original-gum block of the 1¢ 1857 Issue from Plate 2 contains the finer of two extant unused examples of Position 99R2 in perforated form

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type III, Position 99R2 (21), Positions 78-80/88-90/98-100R2, block of nine from the bottom right corner of right pane of Plate 2, full sheet selvage, center stamp in bottom row is **Type III, Position 99R2**, center stamp in middle row is **major double transfer, Position 89R2**, original gum, center horizontal row is Mint Never-Hinged, rich color and early impression showing complete line at bottom of Position 100R (Type II at this stage)

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 602, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 21, to Weill

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1971 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1971, Sale 391, lot 34, to Grunin

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2412, to Ishikawa

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 213, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 101, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*, fig. 13-X, page 195

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; top left stamp has small tear, top right pair faintly creased, bottom right stamp has small thin—none of these trivial flaws affect the appearance of the block or the condition of 99R2, which is sound

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$110,000.00 for this specific block, which has not changed since 1994

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1¢ 1857 Perforated Type III Position 99R2

The 1¢ Plate 2 was made before perforating was considered; therefore, the spaces between the stamps were insufficient to accommodate perforations. The majority of 1¢ stamps from Plate 2 were issued imperforate from December 1855 through June 1857. Perforated 1¢ stamps were issued beginning in July 1857, and Plate 2 (along with Plate 4) was used until replaced by new plates in late 1857.

Plate 2 multiples with original gum are far rarer perforated than in imperforate form. The converse is true for multiples from Plate 4. Although Type II perforated blocks with original gum are abundant from 1861 printings (Plates 11-12), Type II perforated blocks from Plate 2 are exceedingly rare. The block offered here is the only perforated block containing Position 99R2.

Plate 2 was made in late 1855, and produced 198 stamps that are Type II, one position that is Type III (99R) and one that can be either Type II or Type IIIA (100R), depending on plate wear. The creation of the Type III (99R2) and the 89R2 major double transfer is a story of human error.

To lay out the plate, the siderographer used a tool to make tiny dots in the plate that served to guide him in rocking in entries from the transfer roll. Positions 79 and 89 were transferred perfectly using their guide dots. However, the guide dot to the southeast of Position 88R2, which was used to align the single B Relief for Position 99R2, was placed far out of line. The misplaced dot caused the siderographer to transfer the 99R entry far out of alignment and rock the adjoining A Relief on the transfer roll into the bottom part of Position 89 (and in the margin below this position).

The first 99R entry was erased and re-entered, but the parts of the A Relief transferred into the bottom of Position 89R remained. When the fresh entry was made in Position 99R, a full transfer of the design was not possible without running into the error in Position 89R. The position was therefore short transferred at top, and apparently also at bottom, creating the finest example of Type III found on any plate (see pages 183-184 of Neinken book).

At the time of our 1998 Zoellner sale, we determined that this 99R2 block was originally joined with the block of 30 offered as lot 31 in this sale. A digital reconstruction is shown on page 39. Both blocks were once part of the Caspary collection, but the Weills bought the block of 30 and Ezra Cole bought the 99R2 block for Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. At our 1968 sale of Lilly's collection, the Weills captured the block, evidently for themselves, since it does not appear in the inventory of the Benjamin D. Phillips collection.

At or sometime after the 1971 Rarities of the World sale, in which the 99R2 block was offered, it became part of Louis Grunin's 1847-1869 exhibit, which won the Grand Prix National at INTERPHIL in 1976. Following the sale of Grunin's 1847-1869 off-cover material in 1976, the block was acquired by Ryohei Ishikawa for his own 1847-1869 exhibit, which earned him three Grand Prix awards in exhibitions from 1981 to 1987. At the 1993 sale of Ishikawa's collection, Robert Zoellner was the successful bidder, and when his collection was sold by our firm in 1998, Mr. Gross acquired it. Eight years later it became a pillar of his exhibit, which captured the Grand Prix National at Washington 2006. ■



LOT 33° ★田

A pristine 1¢ Type V plate number block of sixteen

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type V (24), Positions 31-34/41-44/51-54/61-64L10, block of 16 from the left pane of Plate 10 with “**Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 10.P.**” plate number, original gum, Mint N.H. except three stamps within plate block of eight, rich color and excellent impression, strong bluish plate wash

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1983 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1983, Sale 618, lot 62

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 65A

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine plate block of eight at left; Fine-Very block at right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,600.00 for plate block and blocks

LOT 34° ★★田

A Mint Never-Hinged 1¢ Type V block

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type V (24), Mint N.H. block of four with top sheet selvage, rich color, beautifully centered

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1994) for block of eight (this is the left block)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$800.00 as previously hinged block of four





LOT 35°

**The only known multiple of the 3¢ 1857
Type I or II imperforate horizontally**

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, Type I, Imperforate Horizontally (25b), Plate 7, vertical pair, centered to lower right, no trace of horizontal perforations at top, bottom or in between, tied by “Jonesborough Ind. Oct. 11” (1857) circular datestamp on large piece of cover with court docketing confirming 1857 yeardate

PROVENANCE

Frank B. Allen, Harmer, Rooke sale, 5/23-24/1950, lot 46, to Colby Leonard Sheriff, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/11-12/1985, Sale 655, lot 172

Stanley M. Piller, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/25/1993, Sale 748, lot 121

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1950 and 1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Introduction of Perforations in the United States

Great Britain began to issue perforated stamps in 1854 and was followed by Sweden in 1855 and Norway in 1856. The Postmaster General expressed interest in having United States stamps perforated, and, on February 6, 1857, a contract was signed with the printers, Toppan, Carpenter and Co. This contract provided that Toppan Carpenter would be reimbursed for the cost of new plates with the wider spacing required for perforating stamps, and for the perforating machine in the event that their contract was not renewed.

Luff states that the first perforated stamps were delivered to the government on February 24, 1857. A seven-city test was begun to confirm public acceptance of the idea. The earliest known use of an officially perforated U.S. stamp is February 28, 1857. The testing continued from February 1857 through June 10, 1857 (the expiration date of the original six-year Toppan Carpenter contract). In total, about 75 items from this experimental perforation period have been recorded. Most are from Plate 7, as is the part-perforated pair offered here. The test was successful and on April 8, 1857, Toppan Carpenter's contract was extended for four more years (from June 10, 1857 to June 10, 1861). After June 10, 1857, all stamps were perforated.

This pair is the only recorded multiple of part-perforated 3¢ 1857 stamps from plates with the framelines all around—Type I (Scott 25) or Type II (Scott 25A). There are a few singles known with imperforate margins at top and bottom. One of these is shown below (Position 59L7), which is tied on cover by the same Jonesborough, Indiana, datestamp on the pair on piece (the cover is dated August 3, 1857). It is evident that some early products of Toppan Carpenter's perforating process were accidentally left imperforate in one direction, but were distributed with regular stock. ■

3¢ 1857 from Plate 7 with imperforate top and bottom margins, on cover from Jonesborough, Indiana (Siegel Sale 964, lot 247)—probably from the same sheet as the pair offered here (this cover is not in this sale)



LOT 36° ★田

An impressive 3¢ 1857 plate number block of 20

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Dull Red, Type III (26), block of 20 from the right pane of Plate 24 with “Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati” imprint and “No. 24 P.” plate number, full sheet selvage, original gum, several Mint N.H., remarkably fresh

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/28/1965, Sale 286, lot 28
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 117

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; some perf separations rejoined along the center horizontal row

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,450.00 for plate block, blocks and pairs

LOT 37° ★田

Choice 3¢ 1857 plate block

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Dull Red, Type III (26), Positions 31-32/41-42/51-52/61-62L20, block of eight from the left pane of Plate 20 with “Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati” imprint and “No. 20 P.” plate number, original gum, top left and bottom left hinged, others Mint N.H.

PROVENANCE

Eliot H. Weisman, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 5/8/1998, lot 1019, to Mr. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1992)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00





LOT 38° ★田

One of two recorded 3¢ 1857 plate blocks from Plate 28

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Dull Red, Type III (26), Positions 39-40/49-50/59-60/69-70R28, block of eight from the right pane of Plate 28 with “**Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 28. P.**” plate number, original gum, hinge remnants, remarkably choice centering

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 46

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 151

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUEVALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00

LOT 39° ★田

One of two recorded 3¢ 1857 Type IV plate blocks and the only one from Plate 11

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Brownish Carmine, Type IV (26A), Positions 41-42/51-52/61-62/71-72L11i, block of eight from left pane of Plate 11 Intermediate with “**Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati**” imprint and “**No. 11.**” plate number, original gum, three stamps Mint N.H., rich color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/28/1965, Sale 286, lot 33

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/29/1976, Sale 484, lot 287

Walter C. Klein, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 120, to Piller

Stanley M. Piller, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/25/1993, Sale 748, lot 108, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 117, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 156

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2000)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; top pair crease ending in small tear, bottom left stamp small thin

SCOTT CATALOGUEVALUE (2019)

\$12,500.00





LOT 40° ★田

This original-gum block of six is the largest known unused multiple of the 1857 5¢ Red Brown

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Red Brown (28), C/D Reliefs, block of six, original gum, rich color in the 1856 shade of Red Brown, centered to right, bottom perforations trimmed off but a wide even margin remains

PROVENANCE

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 157

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 661, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 28

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1993 Rarities of the World, 10/3/1995, Sale 745, lot 409

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1994)

CONDITION NOTES

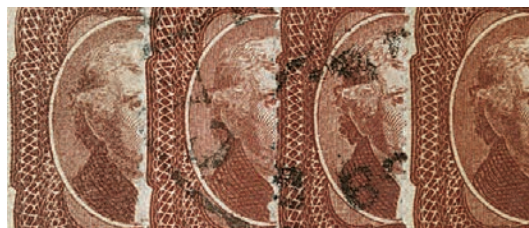
Fine; natural vertical preprinting paper crease in lefthand pair and bottom right stamp has tiny flaw in left margin (possibly natural and not noted on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Single at \$60,000.00 = \$300,000.00

Pair at \$125,000.00 = \$375,000.00

Average-Fine block at \$90,000.00 based on 2009 sale



Sc. 28
Red Brown
1856-57

Sc. 28
Red Brown
1858

Sc. 28b
Br Red Brn
1858

Sc. 28A
Indian Red
1858

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Rarity of Perforated 5¢ Type I Red Brown Blocks

The 5¢ Type I Red Brown Imperforate was issued sometime in the first quarter of 1856. It seems likely that all of the stamps distributed to post offices were from the initial print run of 600,000 made by Toppan Carpenter at their Philadelphia plant, because there is virtually no variation in the Red Brown shade of the imperforate stamps.

In 1857 the Post Office began issuing perforated stamps for all denominations, and they started by perforating the existing stock of imperforate sheets on hand. In the case of 1¢ stamps, the use of old stock produced perforated versions of stamps printed from plates associated with imperforate issues—Plates 1L, 2 and 4—and collectors can readily identify those early perforated stamps by their plate characteristics. However, since only one plate was used to print 5¢ Type I stamps, something other than plate criteria must be used to identify perforated stamps made from imperforate stock.

The key is the color shade. The photograph at left shows the four Red Brown shades associated with 5¢ Type I Perforated stamps. The 1856-57 Red Brown at the far left and the 1858 Red Brown to its right are both listed under Scott 28, but they represent two different printings—the block offered here is the 1856-57 shade. The Bright Red Brown, Scott 28b, is really just an intermediate shade from the 1858 printing, with the regular Red Brown, Scott 28, at the lighter end of the spectrum, and the Indian Red, Scott 28A, at the more intense end.

We are aware of only four unused blocks of Scott 28 (there are no unused blocks of Scott 28b or 28A):

- 1 Block of 6, original gum, bottom perfs trimmed, ex Worthington, Caspary, Lilly, **offered in this sale**
- 2 Block of 4, ex Hind, Ward, Klein, Whitman
- 3 Block of 4, left half of block of 9 illustrated in the Hill book (p. 44), no gum, ex Phillips
- 4 Block of 4, right half of block of 9 illustrated in the Hill book (p. 44), no gum, stain spot, ex Phillips

The block offered here is and likely will remain the largest surviving unused multiple. ■



LOT 41° ★田

This original-gum block is one of four recorded unused blocks of the 1859 5¢ Brown Type I—only three have original gum and only two have the Transfer Flaw position

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown, Type I (29), Positions 12-13/22-23R1, block of four, bottom right stamp shows the **transfer flaw** (23R1), original gum, unusually choice centering, rich color and dark shade

PROVENANCE

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 186, to Colson (for Caspary)

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 683, to Weill

Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer sale, 5/27-28/1969, lot 207, to Klein

Walter C. Klein, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 3/15/1989, lot 185, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 124, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine except for tiny nicked perforation hole at bottom of top left stamp, small hinge marks and careful reinforcement of perforations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$90,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Four Surviving Unused Blocks of the 5¢ Type I Brown

The Brown shade, which has no red or orange hue, was the last printed from the original 5¢ plate, which had the full Type I design. Beginning in 1860, the trimmed reliefs were used, producing Type II stamps (Scott 30A and 30).

There are only four unused blocks of the 5¢ Brown, Type I, Scott 29—all comprising four stamps. Three were owned by Walter C. Klein, and two of the blocks contain the defective transfer variety, Position 23R1. Details of the four recorded blocks are as follows:

- 1 Block of 4, positions unknown, sound, each stamp well-centered, ex Worthington, Sinkler, Ward, Klein and Whitman (Sale 968, lot 39)
- 2 Block of 4, Positions 12-13/22-23R1, bottom right stamp showing the **transfer flaw**, tiny nick in perf hole at top left, ex Caspary, Klein and Zoellner, **offered in this sale**
- 3 Block of 4, Positions 13-14/23-24R1, bottom left stamp showing the **transfer flaw**, ex Caspary, Lehman, Klein, Hall (Sale 1096, lot 65)
- 4 Block of 4, positions unknown, regummed, 1993 Rarities of the World, Sale 755, lot 76

This is one of three blocks with original gum, of which two have the Transfer Flaw position (numbers 2 and 3 in the list above). ■



Detail of bottom right stamp (23R1) with transfer flaw visible as a white cloud to the right of portrait



LOT 42° ★田

The only 5¢ Orange Brown plate block
in private hands

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Orange Brown, Type II (30), Positions 49-50/59-60R2, block of four from right pane of Plate 2 with “(Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Bost(on & Cincinnati)” imprint and “No. 2 P.” plate number, original gum, hinge remnants, rich color in the 1861 shade of Orange Brown, beautifully centered

PROVENANCE

Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, H. R. Harmer London sale, 6/27-30/1955, lot 286, to Cole (for Hetherington)

Arthur Hetherington, “Quality” collection, H. R. Harmer sale, 6/5/1980, lot 534, to Chapin

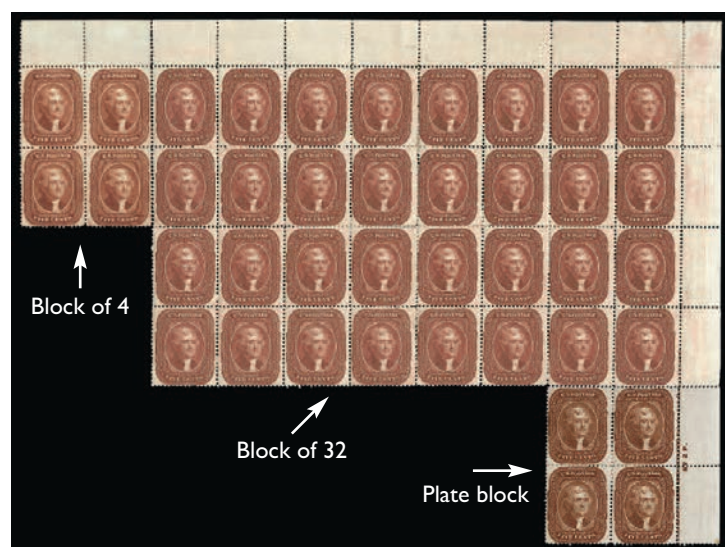
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 159

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; natural inclusion spot in gum at bottom left and some reinforced perf separations



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Mixed Up Order of Scott 30 and 30A

The first 5¢ Jefferson stamps were produced by Toppan Carpenter sometime in the first quarter of 1856. The 1856 Issue was imperforate and produced from the first plate with the full design (Type I). In 1857 the Post Office began issuing perforated stamps for all denominations, and they started by perforating the existing stock of imperforate sheets on hand. Looking at the earliest documented uses of the perforated 5¢ stamps issued from 1857 to 1861, there is a largely consistent pattern of new 5¢ printings at the beginning of each year. Printings from Plate 1 were made in 1858 (Red Brown) and 1859 (Brown); then in 1860 a new plate was made from a transfer roll with the design shortened at top and bottom—Type II. Plate 2 was used to print more 5¢ stamps in 1860 (Type II Brown) and 1861 (Type II Orange Brown). The Scott Catalogue transposes the chronological order of the Type II issues, with the Orange Brown listed first as Scott 30, followed by the Brown, Scott 30A.

Although a relatively large number of 5¢ Orange Browns reached collectors from unused supplies left over after the issue was demonetized due to the Civil War, multiples are scarce, and most have been broken to feed the market's desire for singles. The largest recorded multiple is a block of 32 from the upper right corner of Plate 2 (Positions 3-10/13-20/23-30/33-40R2) with corner sheet selvage. The plate block of four was detached from this block of 32, probably sometime before World War II, but at least by 1955 when the plate block appeared in the Waterhouse sale—the block of 32 appeared in the Caspary sale in 1956. Another block of four, with the top sheet margin, comes from Positions 1-2/11-12R2 in the original sheet. The three multiples are shown together in the digital reconstruction at left.

Only two plate number blocks of the 5¢ Orange Brown are known, the other of which (also a block of four) is in the Webster Knight collection, located in the John Hay Library at Brown University. The Chapin census lists a third plate block (of six) as Scott 30 (census no. 160), based on an incorrect auction sale description—the stamps are actually the Brown, Scott 30A (Siegel Sale 1090, lot 1163). ■

Digital reconstruction of plate block offered here
with block of 32 and block of 4

LOT 43° ★田

By far the finer of the two recorded plate blocks of nine of the 5¢ Brown Type II

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000



DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown, Type II (30A), Positions 41-43/51-53/61-63L2, E/F/C Reliefs, block of nine from left pane of Plate 2 with “(Toppan), Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati” imprint and “No. 2 P.” plate number, original gum with hinge marks and remnants, remarkably well-centered, deep rich color in the 1860 Brown shade, sharp impression

PROVENANCE

Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (sold privately)

Henry C. Gibson, Sr. (listed in Ward inventory, October 1945, “superb plate block of 9, imprint and plate number 2P”)

Henry B. Close, Eugene Costales sale, 6/23-26/1952, lot 129, to Cole Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/11/1962, lot 143

Siegel Auction Galleries, 6/18/1964, Sale 272, lot 217

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auctions, 1/29/1976, Sale 484, lot 299

Walter C. Klein, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 146

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 163

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; small thins, tiny hole in top left stamp

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

5¢ Jefferson Stamps Printed from the New Plate in 1860

Beginning with the printing in the first quarter of 1860, a new plate of 200 subjects, divided into left and right panes of 100, was used by Toppan Carpenter to print 5¢ stamps. The siderographer followed the same procedure used to make the 1¢ Plates 5 through 10, in which a 6-relief transfer roll was modified by trimming the designs to reduce the stamps’ dimensions. For the 5¢, the top and bottom of the design were trimmed from the reliefs, which distinguishes Type II from the earlier Type I. Entries on the plate were made from the transfer roll in vertical columns, ten to a column—when completed there were 10 columns and 10 rows in each half of the plate, separated by a centerline. Row 1 of the 5¢ plate was entered with the A Relief, followed by the B, C, D, E and F Reliefs for rows 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The progression resumed with the C Relief for row 7, followed by the D, E and F Reliefs for rows 8, 9 and 10.

The 1860 printing was in Brown, and the 1861 printing in Orange Brown. Since there were few Brown sheets on hand in 1861 when the issue was demonetized due to the Civil War, it is much scarcer than the Orange Brown in unused condition. There are three recorded plate blocks:

- 1 Left margin block of 9, Positions 41-43/51-53/61-63L2, Chapin census no. 163, ex Ackerman, Gibson, Close, Wunderlich, Klein, Chapin, **offered in this sale**
- 2 Right margin block of 9, Positions 48-50/58-60/68-70R2, defective, Chapin census no. 162, ex Worthington, Silsby, Curtis (Siegel Sale 1084, lot 3145)
- 3 Left margin block of 6, Positions 41-42/51-52/61-62L2, Chapin census no. 160 as Scott 30, Siegel Sale 1090, lot 1163 as Scott 30A. ■



LOT 44° ★★/★田

This block of 20 with original gum
is the largest recorded multiple of
the 1860 5¢ Brown Type II

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown, Type II (30A), Positions 51-55/61-65/71-75/81-85R2, F/C/D/E Reliefs, block of 20 from right pane of Plate 2 with centerline margin at left, original gum, **seven stamps Mint N.H.** including a block of four (center stamp top row, three middle stamps second row, third and fourth stamps fourth row, center stamp fifth row), others have small hinge remnants, centered to bottom, deep rich color in the 1860 Brown shade, sharp impression

PROVENANCE

Frelinghuysen collection, Part 2, Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/29/2012, Sale 1021, lot 174, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine overall; light horizontal crease at center partly along perfs affects three or four stamps, few toned spots mostly on back

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$109,500.00 as four blocks and two pairs without any premium for the seven Mint N.H. stamps

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Largest Known Block of the 1860 5¢ Brown Type II

The new 5¢ plate made from the 6-relief transfer roll with trimmed reliefs—the clipped projections at top and bottom distinguish Type II from the earlier Type I design—was used to print stamps in Brown in 1860 and in Orange Brown in 1861. Since there were few Type II Brown sheets on hand in 1861 when the issue was demonetized due to the Civil War, it is much scarcer than the Orange Brown in unused condition, and unused blocks are exceedingly rare.

Prior to the emergence of this block of 20 in 2012, when the long-dormant Frelinghuysen collection came to market through Siegel, the largest multiples of the Type II Brown were the two plate number blocks of nine, one of which is offered in this sale as lot 43.

This remarkable block comes from the right pane. It comprises the first five vertical columns and rows 6 through 9, and shows the dividing line between the left and right panes in the imperforate left margin. All sheets from the plate of 200 subjects were trimmed vertically between the two panes of 100. Obviously, only one side of each sheet could show the intact centerline, as does this block. ■



Rep. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen
(1916-2011)

LOT 45° ★田



This original-gum block of six is the largest recorded unused multiple of the 10¢ 1857 Perforated with Type I positions

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Types II/III/I (32/33/31), Positions 75-76/85-86/95-96R1, vertical block of six from the bottom three rows of right pane of Plate 1, including two Type Is at bottom with characteristic full shells in extra wide margin, original gum, stitch watermark, well-centered, bright shade

PROVENANCE

As block of 10 (Positions 66R and 74/84/94R removed): Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lots 55-58

Mortimer L. Neinken, Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/19-20/1970, Sale 384, lot 249

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1993 Rarities of the World, 11/20/1993, Sale 755, lot 78

Shreves Philatelic Galleries sale, 10/23-24/1998, lot 146

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1971 and 1994)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; tiny thins in bottom stamps

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$100,000.00 for this block of six



Wharton Sinkler
(1885-1967)

LOT 46° ★田

12¢ 1859 Plate 3 block in choice original-gum condition

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black, Plate 3 (36B), block of four, original gum, three stamps with hinge remnants, bottom right stamp lightly hinged, intense shade and impression, well-balanced margins for this difficult issue

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 2005 Rarities of the World, 6/3/2005, Sale 895, lot 113, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1998)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice; perf separations and pencil "Superb" on back of one stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00





Lot 47—Set of Three



Detail of imprints

LOT 47° ★田/(★)田

The famous set of 1860 Issue high denominations in imprint and plate number blocks of four, which have previously graced the important collections formed by Caspary, Phillips, Grunin and Chapin

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

1860 Issue, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ denominations, matching set of three blocks of four, each from the left pane with **Toppan, Carpenter & Co. imprint and “No. 1 P” plate number**, described in detail as follows:

- (a) **24¢ Gray Lilac (37)**, Positions 41-42/51-52L1, E/F Reliefs from 6-relief transfer roll, unused block of four (no gum) with **“(Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Bos(ton & Cincinnati)” First Type imprint and “No. 1 P.” plate number** at left
- (b) **30¢ Orange (38)**, Positions 41-42/51-52L1, C/B Reliefs from 4-relief transfer roll (entries from bottom to top), block of four with **“TOPPAN CARPENTER & CO. PHILADELPHIA” Second Type imprint and “No. 1 P.” plate number** at left, original gum
- (c) **90¢ Blue (39)**, Positions 41-42/51-52L1, B/C Reliefs from 4-relief transfer roll (entries from top to bottom), block of four with **“TOPPAN CARPENTER & CO. PHILADELPHIA” Second Type imprint and “No. 1.P.” plate number** at left, original gum

PROVENANCE

24¢ block noted as ex Herbert R. Duckwall by Warren H. Colson
 Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lots 778, 806 and 815, each sold to Weill
 Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills in January 1966; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)
 Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/25/1969, Sale 362, lots 308, 316 and 320
 Siegel Auction Galleries, 1971 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1971, Sale 391, lot 43, to Grunin
 Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2671-2673, sold as a group to Chapin
 John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 174, 175 and 176

ANPHILEX 1971 (exhibition catalogue pages 24 and 26)

CONDITION NOTES

- 24¢ Fine-Very Fine appearance; some reinforced perfs and small thin spot in one stamp
- 30¢ Fine appearance; top pair has thin spots, slight crease in selvage, faint oxidation
- 90¢ Fine-Very Fine appearance; some reinforced perfs and small thins in top left stamp

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Last Stamps of the Antebellum Period

In May 1860 President Buchanan's postmaster general, Joseph Holt, issued a new order requiring prepayment by stamps on transient printed matter, and on all foreign and domestic mail, except letters permitted to be sent unpaid by international postal conventions. Holt's order sparked public demand for stamps, especially in denominations greater than 12¢, the top value in circulation at the beginning of 1860. In response, the Post Office issued the three top values of the series that started in 1851. The 24¢ design had already been submitted for approval in April 1856, and the 24¢ plate was produced in 1857 or 1858, but the stamps were not issued until June 1860. In July-August 1860 the 30¢ and 90¢ designs were approved, the plates were made, and the stamps were issued in August of that year.

About fifteen months later, in the fall of 1861, the federal government demonetized all previous issues of postage stamps and replaced them with new stamps that would be distributed only to post offices in loyal states. The purpose of demonetization was to prevent the South from using stamps as a medium of exchange.

The demand for the high-denomination stamps in 1860 was limited, and the Civil War demonetization policy cut their lives short. Unused examples would be great rarities today if not for a cache of sheets discovered in Washington, D.C., which had been found in Southern post offices after the war and returned to the Post Office. These sheets were sold and traded to stamp dealers, and many of the unused stamps from late pre-war printings come from this source.

Despite the survival of unused high-denomination remainders, multiples with the imprint and plate number selvage are extremely rare. Philatelists record only two 24¢ plate blocks and one each of the 30¢ and 90¢. All four blocks are offered in this sale of the Gross collection.

The set of matching left-margin plate blocks of four was featured in the 1956 Caspary sale and acquired by the Weills. Their client, Benjamin D. Phillips, purchased the set from the brothers in January 1966, according to the Phillips inventory. After the Weills bought the entire Phillips collection for \$4.07 million in 1968, the set appeared in Siegel sales in 1969 and 1971. They were then displayed at ANPHILEX in 1971 and later featured in the Louis Grunin 1847-1869 exhibit, which won the Grand Prix National at INTERPHIL 1976. Later that year, when Grunin's off-cover material was sold by H. R. Harmer, the set was acquired by John C. Chapin for his classic plate number multiples collection. In 2002 the entire Chapin collection was acquired by the Shreves in a sealed bidding process and then sold privately to Mr. Gross. ■



Lot 48

LOT 48° ★田

This block of twelve is the only example of the 24¢ 1860 Issue with the complete imprint and plate number—a magnificent classic multiple with a long and impressive provenance

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Gray Lilac (37), Positions 31-33/41-43/51-53/61-63L1, D/E/F/C
Reliefs from 6-relief transfer roll, block of twelve with **“Toppan, Carpenter & Co. BANK NOTE ENGRAVERS. Phila. New York, Boston & Cincinnati”** First Type imprint and **“No. 1 P.”** plate number at left, original gum, bright and fresh color, exceptionally choice centering for this issue and for a multiple of this size

PROVENANCE

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 197

Joseph T. Lozier (sold privately by Ward)

Wharton Sinkler (sold privately by Ward)

Henry C. Gibson, Sr. (sold privately by Ward; listed on 3/27/1928 Ward invoice to Gibson, priced at \$3,000, along with other blocks)

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (bought from Gibson, estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8/1974, Sale 459, lot 157

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 173

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; minor hinge reinforcements, a few faint gum soaks and tiny thins in two stamps in right vertical row, inconsequential since they are outside the plate block of eight

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$32,500.00 for this specific block, which is not based on any recent transaction—this plate block has not sold publicly since 1974

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Delayed for Two Years and Valid for Fifteen Months

In April 1856 Toppan Carpenter sent a die proof of “the new 24¢ stamp” to Third Assistant Postmaster General John Marron for official approval. The printers described the 24¢ engraving as “entirely original in lathe work” and “as perfect a piece of geometric lathe work as can be produced.” Other correspondence indicates that the design was approved and the plate was manufactured in 1857 or 1858, but no 24¢ stamps were produced until 1860.

In May 1860 President Buchanan’s postmaster general, Joseph Holt, issued a new order requiring prepayment by stamps on transient printed matter, and on all foreign and domestic mail, except letters permitted to be sent unpaid by international postal conventions. Holt’s order sparked public demand for stamps, especially in denominations greater than 12¢, the top value in circulation at the beginning of 1860. In response to a letter received from the Philadelphia postmaster, the new Third Assistant Postmaster General, Alexander N. Zevely, contacted Toppan Carpenter about producing new high-denomination stamps. The printers responded that they could furnish stamps within three weeks of the order being received, which they were able to do since they already had the 24¢ plate from two years earlier. Zevely ordered 24¢ stamps in a “lilac” shade, and the firm stated that they would be ready by June 15, 1860. The earliest documented use is July 7, 1860.

Five months after the 24¢ was issued, in November 1860, an Illinois lawyer and one-time U.S. congressman named Abraham Lincoln was elected president on a Republican platform dedicated to preserving the Union and to laying the foundation for the eventual abolition of slavery. It was too much for the South. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina formally voted to secede from the Union, and other slave states soon followed. By April the first guns of the war were fired on Fort Sumter during Lincoln’s “I dare you” attempt to resupply the fort.

The 24¢ stamps issued in June 1860 were one of the war’s early casualties. In August 1861 the federal government demonetized all previous issues of postage stamps and replaced them with new stamps that would be distributed only to post offices in loyal states. The purpose of demonetization was to prevent the South from using stamps as a medium of exchange.

Demand for the high-denomination stamps in 1860 was limited, and the Civil War demonetization policy cut their lives short. Unused examples would be great rarities today if not for a cache of sheets discovered in Washington, D.C., which had been found in Southern post offices after the war and returned to the Post Office. These sheets were sold and traded to stamp dealers, and many of the unused stamps from late pre-war printings come from this source.

Despite the survival of unused high-denomination remainders, multiples with the imprint and plate number salvage are extremely rare. Philatelists record only two 24¢ plate blocks: the block of four offered in lot 47 and the block of twelve offered here. This block was once part of the famous Worthington collection, from which it passed into the Lozier, Sinkler, Ward, Phillips and Chapin collections. In 2002 the entire Chapin collection was acquired by the Shreves in a sealed bidding process and then sold privately to Mr. Gross. ■



LOT 49° ★田

A fresh and beautiful original-gum block of nine of the 24¢ 1860 Issue

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Gray Lilac (37), block of nine, original gum, dark shade, small hinge remnants, exceptionally fresh

PROVENANCE

Possibly Henry C. Gibson, Sr.

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 779, to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/19-20/1971, lot 100

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2628

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1979 Rarities of the World, 4/4/1979, Sale 544, lot 61, to Ishikawa

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 326, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; gum is brownish in places, small thin spots in top left pair and minor gum soak between the top right pair, center stamp has natural inclusion

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$17,750.00 as block of four, pairs and single



Alfred H. Caspary (1877-1955)



LOT 50° ★田

This magnificent original-gum block of 21 is the largest recorded unused multiple of the 30¢ 1860 Issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange (38), block of 21 (7 by 3), original gum, bright color and exceptionally fresh

PROVENANCE

This block and large block of 90¢ 1860, along with other lower denomination blocks, sold to Caspary privately (Ashbrook index card note)

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 809, to Weill

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 18, to Weill (for Bechtel)

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 148, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine overall; some minor reinforcements, small tears in a few bottom-row stamps and fourth stamp at top nicked from separation

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$60,900.00 as three blocks, four pairs and single

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Switch from Black to Orange

Official correspondence between the Post Office and Toppan Carpenter reveals that the decision to print 30¢ stamps in orange followed a printing in black on stamp paper. The existence of imperforate 30¢ Black stamps created controversy years ago, when some philatelists argued that the black stamps were a legitimate issue. A brief history of the early approval and production process is worth telling.

Toppan Carpenter submitted proofs of the 30¢ stamp to Third Assistant Postmaster Zevely in June 1860, suggesting printing the stamps in black to highlight the engraving. The design was approved on June 27, 1860. On July 2 Toppan Carpenter sent Zevely plate proof sheets of the 12¢ and 30¢ in black to show that the design differences were sufficient to tell the stamps apart, even if both were black, and Zevely replied with approval for the 30¢ to be printed in black. On July 11 Toppan Carpenter wrote again to Zevely, giving their opinion that it would be difficult to adequately cancel the 30¢ stamps if they were black, and suggesting that the color should be switched to “buff.” Zevely approved “orange buff” color, and Toppan Carpenter promised to deliver 280,000 stamps by July 31. As with all of the stamps in circulation when the Civil War broke out, the 30¢ was demonetized in the fall of 1861. ■



Lot 51

LOT 51° ★田

A superb quality original-gum block of nine of the 90¢ 1860 Issue—one of three recorded blocks of nine, which are the largest known multiples

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Blue (39), block of nine, original gum, lightly hinged, deep rich color and proof-like impression, bright fresh paper, exceptionally choice centering and well-balanced margins throughout

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 816, to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1969 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1969, Sale 350, lot 59

Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2667

Peter G. DuPuy, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/8/2010, Sale 1000, lot 1026, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1987)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; trivial natural gum bend in left vertical row, a few perf separations reinforced with tiny hinge slivers (certificate simply reads “genuine, previously hinged”)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$90,500.00 as block of four, pairs and single

Detail of Trumbull's portrait of General Washington at Yale University Art Gallery



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Young General Washington as Portrayed by Trumbull

In May 1860 President Buchanan's postmaster general, Joseph Holt, issued a new order requiring prepayment by stamps on transient printed matter, and on all foreign and domestic mail, except letters permitted to be sent unpaid by international postal conventions. Holt's order sparked public demand for stamps, especially in denominations greater than 12¢, the top value in circulation at the beginning of 1860. In response to a letter received from the Philadelphia postmaster, the new Third Assistant Postmaster General, Alexander N. Zevely, contacted Toppan Carpenter about producing new high-denomination stamps.

The 90¢ stamp was the first denomination of its kind and the highest issued in the United States from 1847 to 1893, when the dollar-value Columbian stamps were issued. The reason for a 90¢ stamp—30 times the 3¢ domestic rate—is explained in a letter from Zevely, who thought it was “necessary to have a stamp in the denomination of Ninety Cents—not only to suit that particular rate of postage, but to prepay packages, to the amount, sometimes, of several dollars.” Toppan Carpenter and Zevely engaged in some back and forth discussion about the design. The printers based their engraving, a three-quarter portrait of a youthful Washington in military uniform, on one of several similar full-length portraits painted by John Trumbull. Zevely did not like it, but soon acquiesced and approved the novel design and chose the color blue, which was described as “the handsomest of them all.” Philatelists agree.

The 90¢ stamps issued in August 1860 were one of the Civil War's early casualties. In August 1861 the federal government demonetized all previous issues of postage stamps and replaced them with new stamps that would be distributed only to post offices in loyal states. The purpose of demonetization was to prevent the South from using stamps as a medium of exchange. Demand for the high-denomination stamps in 1860 was limited, and the Civil War demonetization policy cut their lives short. Unused examples would be great rarities today if not for a cache of sheets discovered in Washington, D.C., which had been found in Southern post offices after the war and returned to the Post Office. These sheets were sold and traded to stamp dealers, and many of the unused 1859-60 issues come from this source.

There are three recorded original-gum blocks of nine of the 90¢ 1860 Issue, which survive as the largest recorded multiples following the division of the Caspary block of 21. The Caspary block (lot 817 in the 1956 sale) was still intact when it was part of the Benjamin D. Phillips collection, which the Weills acquired in 1968. Sometime after then, this block was divided into a block of nine from the center, two blocks of four from the bottom left and bottom right corners, and singles or pairs from the corners.

The block of nine offered here was also in the 1956 Caspary sale (lot 816), where it was acquired by the Weills for Phillips. It appeared in the Siegel 1969 Rarities of the World sale. In March 1987 the block surfaced in Switzerland at a Corinphila auction, where it was acquired by Peter G. DuPuy. It was sold by the DuPuy estate in Siegel Sale 1000 (lot 1026) to Mr. Gross. The third recorded block of nine was also offered on behalf of the DuPuy estate in our Sale 1000 (lot 1027). ■

1861-66 Issue



LOT 52° ★田

This is the only plate block of twelve of the 3¢ Brown Rose First Design, which is the largest plate number multiple extant

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Brown Rose (56), block of twelve with “**ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 2 Plate.**” plate number at bottom, original gum, correct shade for the old Scott 56 listing (other trial colors are known from this plate)

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 26, Harmer, Rooke sale, 3/25-29/1946, lot 51

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 183

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; small hinge sliver reinforcements

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$22,200.00 as plate block of eight and singles (listed under 65-E15h for any shade, but the Brown Rose is much more desirable)



LOT 53° ★田

One of eight plate blocks of the
1¢ 1861 Issue, of which three are
from Plate 9

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue (63), block of 20 from bottom of left pane of Plate 9 with
“ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW
YORK” imprint and “No. 9 Plate.” plate number, original gum, bright
color, centered to bottom

PROVENANCE

Y. Souren, H. R. Harmer sale, 3/12-15/1951, lot 55

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 185; after accounting for pane of 100 and block of
98 broken up and two additions, our records contain eight plate blocks
from Plate 9 (three), Plate 10 (two) and Plate 27 (three)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; natural gum creases, some perf separations, mostly rejoined at
center, small thin in one stamp second from right in bottom row

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,900.00 as plate block of eight, two blocks and two pairs



LOT 54° 田

One of two recorded blocks of the 1¢ 1861
on laid paper, both used, which are the largest
recorded multiples of this rare paper variety

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Vertically Laid Paper (63c), block of four, neatly cancelled by town
circular datestamp, perfectly centered, beautiful crisp blue shade

PROVENANCE

Ryohei Ishikawa

Dr. Robert Hinrichs, Shreves Philatelic Galleries sale, 5/21/2004,
lot 40, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Don L. Evans, *The U.S. 1¢ Franklin 1861-1868*, page 38

Richard B. Graham, “One Cent 1861 Stamps on Vertically Laid
Paper,” *Chronicle* 86, May 1975

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; couple trivial short perfs in bottom left stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$35,000.00

LOT 55° (★)田

This unique and famous plate block of 12 from the Luff, Worthington, Duveen, Hind, Waterhouse and Zoellner collections is the only plate number block known and the largest known multiple of the 1861 3¢ Pink

ESTIMATE \$40,000-50,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Pink (64), unused block of twelve (no gum) with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 12 Plate.” plate number at bottom, beautiful true Pink color, extraordinarily well-centered

PROVENANCE

One of two plate blocks of 12 discovered in California; this one sold to John N. Luff (reported in *American Journal of Philately*, Oct. 1892); sold by Luff to Worthington, 1905

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 249

J. C. Morgenthau sale, January 1922, to Duveen

Henry J. Duveen (sold privately to Hind, according to Ashbrook)

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 248, to Perry (as agent for Waterhouse)

Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, H. R. Harmer London sale, 6/27-30/1955, lot 409, to Weill

H. R. Harmer sale, 1/18/1966, lot 218, with PFC 5905 dated 10/11/65

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1988 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1988, Sale 692, lot 131

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1993 Rarities of the World, 11/20/1993, Sale 755, lot 107, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 175, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 193

Stanley B. Ashbrook, *Special Service*, #53, pages 425-426

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Worthington)

TIPEX 1936 exhibition (Waterhouse)

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1965)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine overall; faint vertical crease through third row as almost always found in the unused Pink stamps, lower left vertical pair rejoined and some perf separations throughout reinforced with hinge slivers

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$190,000.00 as two blocks and two pairs with original gum



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Long History of the 3¢ Pink Plate Block

The Pink shade of the National Bank Note Company 3¢ 1861 Issue was produced only in the early printings released in the fall of 1861. The shade is distinctive, and in its true form can easily be distinguished from the other shades. The Pink is prone to transformation through light exposure, and in some cases can lose its special vibrancy.

Unused and original-gum examples of the 3¢ Pink are very scarce, and multiples are rare. It has been reported that a sheet was owned by George Walcott, a collector during the early part of the 20th century, and that John Klemann, a dealer at the time, purchased the sheet and divided it into blocks and singles. Many of the stamps with original gum have similar centering and color, as well as vertical creasing, which suggests that the account of a Walcott-Klemann sheet is factual, but no other imprint or plate number multiple from that sheet has been reported.

In the *Special Service* (#53, September 1955), following the Waterhouse sale, Stanley B. Ashbrook reported the history of the 3¢ Pink plate block:

Writing in the October 1892 *American Journal of Philately*, Mr. Luff gave the history... At that time Mr. Luff resided in San Francisco, Calif. and he related how two blocks of the 3¢ 1861 PINK had been discovered “among the papers of a lawyer in National City, Calif.” who sold them to San Francisco dealers. Mr. Luff stated, quote: (there) “were two blocks of twelve, each bearing the imprint xxxx No. 12 plate. I am happy to say one of these blocks adorns my collection.”

If there was a second plate block in 1892, it has been lost to philately. Elliott Perry, who acquired this block for Waterhouse in the 1933 Hind sale, is also quoted stating that it did not have gum at that time, despite the sale catalogue describing original gum. ■



LOT 56° ★田

The only recorded plate block of the 3¢ Rose Pink shade

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose Pink (64b), bottom-margin block of four with half of “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK (NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK)” imprint and “No. 23 (Plate.)” plate number, original gum, bright and fresh in true Rose Pink shade, choice centering

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/16-18/1986, Sale 674, lot 931, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 193A (only Scott 64b plate block recorded)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; bottom pair creased

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00 for ordinary block of four

LOT 57° ★田

A beautiful well-centered plate block of the 1861 3¢ Rose

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000



DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose (65), block of eight with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 32 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, lightly hinged, lovely pastel shade and choice centering

PROVENANCE

As a block of 16: Henry B. Close, Eugene Costales sale, 6/23-26/1952, lot 168, to Cole

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 214

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; creased at bottom of selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,250.00



LOT 58° ★田

A very rare block of the 3¢ 1861 imperforate horizontally

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, Imperforate Horizontally (65d), block of four, part original gum, perfectly centered with large top and bottom margins, rich color and exceptionally fresh

PROVENANCE

Arthur Hetherington, "Quality" collection, H. R. Harmer sale, 6/5/1980, lot 568

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 390, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. II, fig. 47, p. 29

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1958 and 1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,000.00 for two pairs

LOT 59° TC田

An impressive imprint and plate number block of the 3¢ Rose Lake Imperforate trial color printing

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000



DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose Lake, Imperforate on Stamp Paper (65P5 variety), block of twelve with "ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK" imprint and "No. 52 Plate." plate number at bottom, original gum, large margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

As Scott 65c variety: Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 57

As Scott 65c variety: "Mid-Western Collector," Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/6-7/1972, Sale 410, lot 376

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 236 (illustrated on page 24)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1968) as 3¢ Rose, Scott 65c

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; small spot in bottom sheet margin at left

LOT 60° TC

Extremely rare imprint and plate number strip of the 3¢ Rose Lake Imperforate trial color printing

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose Lake, Imperforate on Stamp Paper (65P5 variety), horizontal strip of four with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 52 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, large margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

As Scott 66a: Grover C. Hubbell, Siegel Auction Galleries, 8/27/1957, Sale 262, lot 190

As Scott 66a: “Ambassador” collection, 4/27-28/1966, Sale 300, lot 92

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 241

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1994) as Scott 66a

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; signed on back (Economist Stamp Co.)



LOT 61° (★)

One of three recorded plate number multiples of the 3¢ Lake, including two strips of four and one plate block of eight

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Lake (66), horizontal strip of four (no gum) with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 34 Plate.” plate number at bottom, deep and true Lake shade, proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

“Country Gentleman,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/29-30/1972, Sale 422, lot 165

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 68

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 239

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; faint traces of toning

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00 (listed under 65-TC6)



LOT 62° ★田

The famous Duveen block of the 1861 5¢ Buff—for the past century this original-gum block has held fast as the only unused block of the 5¢ Buff or its shade varieties listed under Scott 67

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000



Henry J. Duveen



Arthur Hind



Wharton Sinkler



Philip H. Ward, Jr.



Benjamin D. Phillips



Ryohei Ishikawa

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Buff (67), block of four, large part original gum, hinge remnants, bright shade that we would classify as closer to Brown Yellow (Scott 67a)

PROVENANCE

Henry J. Duveen (listed in Phillips's November 1922 book)

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 262, to Ward

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lot 91, to Ward

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 401, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine centering, but creased, slightly gum stained and there is a small repaired hole in the bottom left stamp—uniqueness forgives these flaws

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Despite the value of four singles with original gum at \$110,000.00, the Scott Catalogue values this unique block at \$11,500.00, explaining, "The unused block of 4 is unique but very faulty. Value is based on actual 1993 sale." It is true that Mr. Gross acquired this 26 years ago for \$11,500 in the Ishikawa sale. One should expect the value to be updated to its new realization after the Gross sale is concluded



LOT 63° ★田

The only recorded plate block of the 10¢ 1861 Type II, including the grilled issues, without a Specimen overprint

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green (68), block of twelve with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 15 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, centered to right, but fresh and bright

PROVENANCE

Richard Wolfers sale, 10/28/1981, lot 558

Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 11/22/1982, lot 421

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 247

CONDITION NOTES

Average-Fine centering, sound and intact

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,100.00 as plate block of eight and pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Original-gum and unused blocks of the ungrilled 10¢ 1861 Issue are extremely rare. This is the only recorded 10¢ 1861 plate block, except for the Type I plate block of four (sold in the Gross U.S. Treasures sale) and a plate block of eight of Scott 68 with “Specimen” overprint. One imprint and plate number strip of four of the 10¢ F Grill is recorded and offered in this sale as lot 88. ■

LOT 64° ★田

12¢ 1861 Issue block in choice original-gum condition

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black (69), block of four, original gum, intense shade and proof-like impression, centered left

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 105

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 416

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; bottom right stamp has faintest trace of a corner crease noted on certificate

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00



LOT 65° ★田

This original-gum block of six is one of four recorded plate number multiples of the 24¢ 1861 in any shade, with or without grill

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Grayish Lilac (78a), vertical block of six from bottom of Plate 6 with half of “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK (NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK)” imprint and “No. 6 (Plate.)” plate number in selvage, original gum, crisp shade and sharp impression in the later 1863-66 shade and on thick paper of the later printings with characteristic “half-moon” perforations

PROVENANCE

T. Charlton Henry, Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/14-16/1960, lot 279 (as Scott 78), to Weill (for Phillips, listed in inventory as 78a)

Benjamin D. Phillips (collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 77 (as Scott 78a)

“An Important Collection,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/11/1979, Sale 286, lot 138 (as Scott 78a)

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 252 as Scott 70a (illustrated on page 13)

Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. II, fig. 85, page 56

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1981) as Scott 70a, which it is not

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice; small hinge reinforcements, slight crease in selvage and top right stamp with trace of discoloration (not noted on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$24,000.00 as ordinary block of four and pair of Scott 78



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Many Shades of the 24¢ 1861-68 Issue

The color chosen for the 24¢ stamp issued from 1861 through 1868 proved to be a challenge for the National Bank Note Company's plate printers and ink mixers. The early shades of Violet and Steel Blue gave way to Deep Red Lilac and the brighter tints of Brownish Lilac and Lilac. As printings continued in 1863, the shade turned grayer, until it reached Grayish Lilac and Gray. The stamps that were grilled in 1868 and 1869 (F Grill, Scott 99) are only known in these two shades of gray.

Due to the subjectiveness in assigning colors, this remarkable imprint and plate number block has been misidentified in the past. In the three auctions cited here, it was identified as Scott 78 (Lilac) or Gray Lilac (Scott 78a)—we agree with the latter classification. In 1981 the block was certified by The Philatelic Foundation as Brown Lilac, Scott 70a, which is in error. The Chapin census based the entry for this block (no. 252) on this incorrect certificate, but correctly listed the other two imprint and plate number multiples as Scott 78 (nos. 276, strip of four, and 276A, block of four).

Only one plate was used to print the 24¢ (Plate 6). If all 24¢ shades and the F Grill stamps are considered (excluding proofs and “Specimen” overprints), there are just four unused plate number multiples extant: the 24¢ F Grill (Scott 99) plate block sold in the Gross U.S. Treasures sale, this block of 6 (Scott 78a), a strip of four and a block of four in Grayish Lilac/Gray shades (Scott 78/78a). ■



LOT 66° ★

One of two known plate number multiples of the 30¢ 1861 without a Specimen overprint

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange (71), horizontal strip of four with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 7 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, centered to left

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 25, Costales sale, 2/18-21/1946, lot 153 (as a strip of eight)

H. R. Harmer sale, 10/13/1958, lot 289

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 253

CONDITION NOTES

Average appearance; creases and slight gum staining

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Original-gum and unused blocks of the 30¢ 1861-68 Issue are extremely rare. We record two unused plate number strips of four: the strip offered here and another that emerged in 2012 with the sale of the Frelinghuysen collection (Siegel Sale 1021, lot 220). There is also a plate block of eight with “Specimen” overprint. This strip was reduced from eight to four stamps. ■

LOT 67° ★田

This original-gum block of nine is the largest recorded 30¢ 1861 Issue unused multiple

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange (71), block of nine, original gum with hinge remnants, light shade, centered to right

PROVENANCE

Henry B. Close, Eugene Costales sale, 6/23-26/1952, lot 182

CERTIFICATION

Friedl Expert Committee (1971) issued by Herbert J. Bloch

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; some trivial gum toned spots

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$31,100.00 as block, two pairs and single





LOT 68° (★)

This is the only recorded plate number multiple of the 90¢ 1861-68 Issue, grilled or ungrilled, without Specimen overprint—a classic piece of outstanding importance and beauty

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Blue (72), horizontal strip of four (no gum) with “**ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 18 Plate.**” plate number at bottom, dark shade and intense impression, bright and fresh, centered to left

PROVENANCE

Henry G. Lapham (noted in article on display at The Collectors Club of New York, 10/6/1937, *Collectors Club Philatelist*)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 72

“Country Gentleman,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/29-30/1972, Sale 422, lot 190

Daniel F. Kelleher sale, 1/30/1976, lot 271

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 255 (illustrated on page 13)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1975)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; few slightly short perfs at left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$25,000.00 for this strip, which is the only one recorded, but it has not sold publicly for 43 years

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The First and Second Designs of the 1861 Issue

When the National Bank Note Company won the contract to print stamps, they had already designed the 1861 Issue, engraved the dies and made eight plates for each denomination, and printed sheets of “sample labels” to submit as part of the competitive bidding process.

The First Designs (1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 12¢ and 90¢) and First Colors (24¢ and 30¢) were followed by a second set of stamps made from modified dies and plates. The differences between the first and second designs are very noticeable on the 3¢ and 12¢, but more subtle for the other four denominations. The 24¢ Dark Violet and 30¢ Red Orange colors are unlike any of the issued stamps. All were printed on a thin semitransparent stamp paper—some were gummed with a dark brownish gum and perforated. These stamps and the associated trial printings are listed in the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue in a separate section (pages 913-915 in the 2019 edition).

Only the 10¢ First Design (Type I) was issued through post offices. The others from the trial printing were distributed through other channels. The 3¢ exists in a much larger number than the others, and comes in various shades, which indicates that a cache was released from the printer’s files. The 1¢, 5¢, 12¢, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ are great rarities, and the discoveries of examples in other countries suggests they were released through government Post Office notices of the new issue. For example, one complete set was discovered in Europe and sold in a 3/15/1906 Morgenthau auction of the Scholle collection.

The design of the 90¢ 1861 adopted the previous issue’s Trumbull portrait of a youthful General Washington in uniform, but added “90” numerals to make the denomination more obvious. The same deep blue color was chosen for the top value, but the perforation gauge was changed from 15 to 12, and the holes were enlarged. It is believed that the new plates were made to widen the spaces between stamps to accommodate the larger perforation holes.

Two 90¢ plates were made: Plate 8 from the First Design die, and Plate 18 from the modified die. To the best of our knowledge, not a single example of the Plate 8 imprint exists in any form (proof, specimen or stamp). Only two Plate 18 stamp multiples are known: the strip of Scott 72 offered here and a plate block of eight with the “Specimen” overprint. Plate proofs on card with the imprint and plate number 18 are also known. ■



LOT 69° ★田

The finest known original-gum block of the
90¢ 1861 Issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Blue (72), block of four, original gum, lightly hinged, remarkably choice centering, beautiful bright shade on fresh paper, well-formed perforations all around

PROVENANCE

Private sale to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 192, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; reinforced vertical perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$32,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Exception to the Rule

There are approximately ten blocks of the 90¢ 1861 with original gum that are centered strongly to upper left, have similar dark color, and have malformed perforation holes, the result of the pins failing to fully punch through the thick paper on which these stamps are printed. These 90¢ blocks undoubtedly came from the same sheet.

This block is unlike that group of off-center blocks. Its distinctive bright shade, precise centering and fully formed perforations are desirable characteristics not found among the other known multiples, except for one that no longer exists as a block. It is found in the Henry B. Close sale (Eugene Costales, 6/23-26/1952, lot 185), and was offered later in the 1969 Rarities of the World sale (Sale 350, lot 76). It has identical centering and color, and we are confident it joined the block offered here in the original sheet. It was divided into singles after its 1969 Rarities sale appearance.

The block in this sale was acquired by Robert Zoellner from our firm in a private transaction. When the Zoellner collection was offered in 1998, Mr. Gross was the buyer. ■



Robert Zoellner (1932-2014)



LOT 70° ★田

A remarkably well-centered and attractive plate block of the 1863 2¢ Black Jack issue

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Black (73), block of eight with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 30 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, deep shade, exceptionally choice centering for this issue

PROVENANCE

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 284
Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 18, to Mr. Gross

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 263

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; tiny hinge reinforcements, small thin in top right stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,000.00

LOT 71° ★

One of two recorded plate number multiples of the 1863 5¢ Brown without “Specimen”

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown (76), horizontal strip of three (left stamp rejoined) with “(ENGRAVED BY) THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” part imprint and “No. 17 Plate.” plate number at bottom, part original gum, centered to left

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/26-27/1977, Sale 513, lot 243
John W. Kaufmann sale, 1/21/1978, lot 207
Bought privately from Larry Bustillo (Suburban Stamp Co.)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 274

CONDITION NOTES

Average centering; left stamp rejoined, small faults



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,000.00 for a full plate strip of four

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Unused blocks of the 5¢ 1861-68 Jefferson stamps, in any shade and grilled or ungrilled, are rare. The only plate number multiples are a plate block of eight of Scott 76 with “Specimen” overprint, a Scott 76 plate strip of four (Siegel Sale 422, lot 204), and the strip offered here. The only other recorded plate number multiple is the 5¢ F Grill (Scott 95) block of six offered in this sale as lot 86. ■



LOT 72° ★田

**The finest original-gum block of the 5¢ Brown
1863 Issue known to us**

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500



Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. (1893-1966)

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown (76), block of four, original gum, by far the best centering found among the blocks known with original gum, crisp shade and impression

PROVENANCE

Possibly George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 309, as a block of six with straight edge at right

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 210, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 68, to Cole

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1978 Rarities of the World, 4/11/1978, Sale 528, lot 96

Bought privately from Larry Bustillo (Suburban Stamp Co.)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1985)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,250.00



LOT 73° ★田

The finest known original-gum block of the 1866 15¢ Lincoln Memorial Issue

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Black (77), block of six from right pane with interpane margin at left, original gum, lightly hinged, wonderfully choice centering with bottom row superb, intense shade and proof-like impression on bright paper

PROVENANCE

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 317

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 220, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/2/1967, Sale 312, lot 157

Arthur Hetherington, "Quality" collection, H. R. Harmer sale, 6/5/1980, lot 579

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 475, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; top right stamp has one short perf (not noted on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$42,500.00 as a block and pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1866 Lincoln Memorial Issue

The national year of mourning for Abraham Lincoln came to an end on April 14, 1866. During that period, many appeals were made to postal officials to issue a stamp with Lincoln's likeness. In October 1865 the first stamp to portray the martyred president was issued—the 25¢ Newspapers and Periodicals (PR3)—but that stamp was intended for use on bundles of newspapers distributed by publishers, not on ordinary letter mail. The first regular postage stamp honoring Lincoln is the 15¢ Black (Scott 77), issued on April 14, 1866. This date has been established through analysis of contemporary sources, but was not a "first day of issue" in the philatelic sense.

The Lincoln stamp was designed by James Macdonough of the National Bank Note Company. The vignette, adapted from photographic portraits taken by C. S. German in 1861 and Matthew Brady in 1862, was engraved by Joseph P. Ourdan (1828-1881). Ourdan was a highly-skilled engraver who later became chief of the Engraving Division of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The frame was engraved by William D. Nichols. The stamps were printed from Plate 41 in sheets of 200 (two panes of 100). A total of 2,139,000 of the 1866 stamps were issued.

Today, the largest known unused multiple of Scott 77 (the ungrilled stamp) is a block of 12 without gum. The largest known multiple with original gum is a block of six, represented by two recorded blocks. The block offered here is by far the better centered of the two, and, in fact, is superior to the few surviving blocks of four. ■



U.S. Treasury Department official mourning card, released February 12, 1866, with the same portrait engraving used on the 15¢ 1866 Issue



DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, A. Grill (79), unused block of four (no gum) from the right pane with “NOTE CO. NEW YORK” **portion of side imprint** at right, unusually well-centered and perforations much more intact than usual for this experimental grilled issue, pale shade as often

PROVENANCE

Discovered in NYC circa 1948 as part of a block of 20 and described in 11/15/1948 *Mekeel's* article by Philip H. Ward, Jr.; divided into four blocks of four and four singles; this block acquired by Ward

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (bought in 1948, estate sold to Weills in 1963; this block is not listed in B. D. Phillips inventory, probably sold to Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 74, to Weill

Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8/1974, Sale 459, lot 236

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1979 Rarities of the World, 4/4/1979, Sale 544, lot 80

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 496, to Hagendorf/Columbian; sold privately to Mr. Gross, 2004

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1979)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine for the issue; faint stains mostly on back

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$55,000.00 for a block of four with gum; catalogue notes “Values for No. 79 are for Fine-Very Fine examples with minor perf faults”

Reconstruction of 16 of the 20 stamps in the discovery block—the block at bottom right has definitely been divided into singles (shade variation does not reflect actual stamp colors)

1867-68 Grilled Issue

LOT 74° (★)田

A beautifully centered unused block of the 3¢ Rose A Grill with part imprint in selvage

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Grilled All Over—The 1867 Experiment

The August 1867 3¢ experimental A Grill was the first grilled issue, using a machine patented by Charles F. Steel. It was soon learned that the all-over female grill weakened the paper and interfered with perforating and separating, resulting in rough perforations and pieces torn out of the margins when split apart. Within two months of A Grill production the apparatus was modified by dividing the embossed area into small rectangular units within each stamp (C Grill). Eventually the female A/C grill device was replaced by male grilling rollers that had grills sized well within the dimensions of the stamp. All stamps produced during the regular grilling period, starting January 1, 1868, were grilled on the machines using the male rollers.

Multiples of Scott 79 are extremely rare. This block was part of a block of 20 described as a new find in an article by Philip H. Ward, Jr., published in *Mekeel's* 11/15/1948. Ward wrote, “The new find which was located in New York City consisted of a block of twenty, five horizontal by four vertical... There is a right sheet margin with part of imprint on margin of upper stamp. Until this large block was located, possibly two and certainly not more than three blocks were known. Fortunately, the new block is very well centered and fresh, although is without gum. The piece has been broken into four blocks of four and four singles.... We are pleased to announce that one block goes into our collection as it was one of about half dozen of known blocks of main varieties missing in our own collection.” A digital reconstruction of four blocks is shown below—at least one block has been broken up.

The Weills purchased the Ward estate in 1963, but apparently did not sell this block to their principal client, Benjamin D. Phillips, because it does not appear in his inventory. The earliest auction offering of this block was in our 1968 sale of the Lilly collection. It was offered again by our firm in 1974 and in the 1979 Rarities sale, where it was bought by Ryohei Ishikawa for his Grand Prix 1847-69 exhibit. Mr. Gross purchased it after the 1993 Ishikawa auction. ■





LOT 75° E 田

**Extremely rare imprint and plate
number block of the imperforate
3¢ All-Over “Biscuit Grill” essay**

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, Imperforate, All-Over “Biscuit Grill” Essay, Points Up (79-E15c), block of eight with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 52 Plate.” **plate number** at bottom, original gum, bottom row Mint N.H., top row has two small hinge remnants, large margins, bright color

PROVENANCE

Probably Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 25, Costales sale, 2/18-21/1946, as a plate block of 12 (later reduced to 8)

H. R. Harmer sale, 6/15/1953, lot 84

John A. Fox sale, 3/26/1957, lot 320

“The Brothers Collection,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 6/13-14/1961, Sale 241, lot 213

“Ambassador” collection, 4/27-28/1966, Sale 300, lot 113, to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1975 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1975, Sale 468, lot 79, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 277 as Scott 79a

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1954) as 3¢ Rose A Grill Imperforate (formerly Scott 79a)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine



LOT 76° ★田

This superb original-gum block is the finer of two recorded imprint blocks of the 1867 3¢ Rose C Grill—a rare and gem-quality classic multiple from the Caspary, Phillips, Bechtel and Zoellner collections

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, C. Grill (83), block of four from the top of the sheet with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint at top, original gum, beautiful rich color in the distinctive Rose shade, exceptionally fresh, remarkably choice centering, especially for this grilled issue

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 243, to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr., purchased from Weills, March 1970 (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 218, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1969)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; neat pencil “Tiffany” on back, John K. Tiffany (1842-1897) was a pioneering 19th century philatelist

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$30,000.00 for an ordinary block of four

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The C Grill Experiment

The August 1867 3¢ experimental A Grill was the first grilled issue, using a machine patented by Charles F. Steel. It was soon learned that the all-over female grill weakened the paper and interfered with perforating and separating, resulting in rough perforations and pieces torn out of the margins when split apart. Within two months of A Grill production the apparatus was modified by dividing the embossed area into small rectangular units within each stamp (C Grill). Eventually the female A/C grill device was replaced by male grilling rollers that had grills sized well within the dimensions of the stamp. All stamps produced during the regular grilling period, starting January 1, 1868, were grilled on the machines using the male rollers.

Multiples of the 3¢ C Grill, Scott 83, are extremely rare. This block has a notation indicating the possibility it was owned or handled by John K. Tiffany, which would date its discovery to sometime prior to his death in 1897. Its earliest auction appearance was in the 1956 Caspary sale, where it sold to the Weills, on behalf of their closely-guarded client, Benjamin D. Phillips. After the Weills purchased the Phillips collection in 1968 for \$4.07 million, they sold the block to another major client, Stephen D. Bechtel, whose notation “Weill March ‘70” appears on the accompanying Philatelic Foundation certificate issued to Raymond H. Weill Co. on October 6, 1969. When the Bechtel collection was sold privately in 1993, the block was purchased by Robert Zoellner. Mr. Gross acquired it in the Zoellner sale held by our firm in 1998.

There is only one other imprint block of the 3¢ C Grill, a left margin block of four that was part of the Lozier and Sinkler collections, then reappeared in our 2012 sale of the Frelinghuysen collection (Sale 1021, lot 240). The block offered here is the better centered of the two. ■



Lot 77

LOT 77° ★田

This original-gum block of the 12¢ Z Grill is the only recorded unused multiple of this rare grilled issue

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Intense Black, Z. Grill (85E), block of four, original gum, deep shade characteristic of all 12¢ Z Grill stamps, strong grills

PROVENANCE

As block of 9:

Joseph T. Lozier (sold privately by Ward)

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lots 111-114, divided after sale (Ward acquired block of four)

As block of 4:

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1970 Rarities of the World, 3/24/1970, Sale 371, lot 68

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, 5/7-9/2004, lot 639, to Mr. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2004)

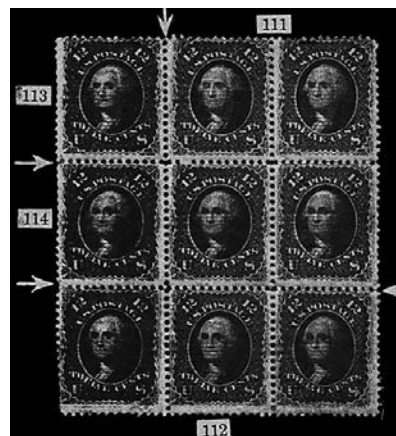
CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine appearance; small hinge reinforcements, right vertical pair has very slight crease

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

The block of four is listed, but unpriced; \$100,000.00 is the total value for four singles, but an original-gum single realized \$42,500 hammer in our 2018 Wingate sale (Sale 1180, lot 136)

Photo of the intact block of 9 from 5/17/1940 Eugene Klein sale of the Wharton Sinkler collection—the block was divided after this sale



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Unique (Shrinking) 12¢ Z Grill Block

The Z Grill is significant in the study of grill production for several reasons. First, the grill itself is unlike all other grills used on United States stamps. The top of each pyramidal point in a grill has a ridge that runs across the grill point. Some collectors call this the “rooftop.” Only on the Z Grill is the rooftop line horizontal—all others have either an X-shaped point or a vertical ridge. The Z and E Grills are the same size, but the distinctive horizontal ridge on each Z Grill point is its identifying feature. The Z Grill was labelled “Z” because William L. Stevenson, who classified the grills in the early part of the 20th century, could not place this type in the scheme of grill production. Today, much of the Z Grill’s history still remains a mystery. There are no contemporary grill-production logs, and philatelic classification (Z, D, E) was never applied to Stamp Agent delivery records, so those dates and figures do not establish beginning and ending dates for the different types of grills. Educated guesswork, based on earliest recorded uses, Stamp Agent records, relative scarcity and observations made of the material itself, is the only way to answer questions about grill production.

The Z Grill was the first grill put into regular production after the experiments with the A and C Grills. We know the Z Grill was an early creation, because it is found on essays and experimental papers from 1867. When grilling entered the contract phase on January 1, 1868, it most certainly was Charles F. Steel—the grill’s inventor and the National Bank Note Company employee responsible for grilling—who chose the Z as the grill for the job. The Z Grill probably went into production during the first week of January 1868 and was used exclusively until the D Grill machine was added to the process two weeks later. Soon after, the Z and D grilling rollers were replaced with the E and F grills.

Based on the earliest documented use of the 12¢ Z Grill (2/12/1868), E Grill (3/3/1868), and F Grill (5/27/1868), our theory is that the first 12¢ sheets were grilled in January 1868, using the Z Grill machine. They probably come from less than a day’s production, which coincided with high-volume 2¢ and 3¢ grilling, and with the few sheets of 1¢, 10¢ and 15¢ stamps put through the Z Grill machine. The 12¢ stamps were finished with perforations and distributed in time to be used no later than February 12, 1868. All of the 12¢ Z Grill stamps are a consistent shade of Intense Black.

Additional 12¢ stamps were produced in late February, after one of the two grilling machines was refitted with the E Grill roller. These were available by March 3, 1868 (EDU). No more 12¢ stamps were grilled until May, when the second machine was refitted with the F Grill roller. These 12¢ F Grill stamps were available by May 27, 1868 (EDU).

Unused or original-gum examples of the 12¢ Z Grill are rare. Only one block survives—the block of four offered here—but prior to 1940 this block was part of a block of nine, which was owned by Joseph T. Lozier and Wharton Sinkler. According to Ward, it was broken into a block of four (bought by Ward), strip of three and pair at the time of the 1940 Sinkler sale. The top strip of three was still intact in 1962 when it was certified by The Philatelic Foundation (PFC 15569). Singles from that strip and the lower left pair have appeared in the market, confirming that they no longer survive as multiples. ■



LOT 78° (★)

An outstanding 2¢ E Grill imprint and plate number multiple with the major double transfer—no plate blocks are known

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Black, E. Grill (87), unused horizontal strip of four (no gum) with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 29 Plate.” plate number at bottom, right stamp has **major double transfer** of top left corner, including numeral “2”, circle around it, acanthus leaf below the circle and the scroll above it, and in the letters “US”, well-centered for this issue

PROVENANCE

“Country Gentleman,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/29-30/1972, Sale 422, lot 221
Steven Metzger, Matthew Bennett Inc., 3/23/2002, lot 195
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 281

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$9,750.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Chapin census records more than 30 plate number multiples for Scott 73, 87 and 93. However, only seven come from Plate 29, and of those, only four are plate blocks. More significantly, only three plate number multiples of the E Grill (Scott 87) are recorded, and none are blocks. This strip includes the major double transfer position, which is present on the imprint positions of only one side of Plate 29. ■

LOT 79° ★田

One of two recorded plate number blocks of the 1868 3¢ E Grill

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Rose, E. Grill, Thin Paper (88), block of eight from the bottom of left pane of Plate 36 with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 36 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, centered to right

PROVENANCE

As pane of 100: Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/13/1999, Sale 818, lot 604
As plate block: John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 286 as full pane of 100

CONDITION NOTES

Very Good; tiny tears at edge of selvage, slight crease at bottom right



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$13,000.00—only \$1,000.00 more than value of two ordinary blocks

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Boiling down the 8 Chapin census listings of Scott 88 to just plate blocks, there are just two (both Plate 36). The pane listed as no. 286 was sold in Siegel Sale 818 (lot 604) and then divided into smaller units, including this block. The only other full plate block of eight was part of the pane listed as no. 287, which was in the Col. Green collection (Costales 2/19/1945, lot 15, no photo). ■



LOT 80° ★田

**A beautiful original-gum block of the 10¢ E Grill—
this might be the largest block to survive**

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, E. Grill (89), vertical block of six, original gum, remarkably choice centering, rich color, sharp impression, strong grills

PROVENANCE

As block of 18:

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lots 352-354

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 254, to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

As block of 6 (righthand block):

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1981 Rarities, 4/29/1981, Sale 579, lot 139, to Ishikawa

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 546, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; bottom left vertical pair with light gum staining

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$36,500.00 as a block and pair

LOT 81° ★田

**This beautifully centered original-gum block
of six is the largest recorded unused multiple
of the 12¢ E Grill**

ESTIMATE \$40,000-50,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black, E. Grill (90), horizontal block of six with interpane margin at left, original gum, remarkably choice centering, deep shade, sharp impression, strong grills

PROVENANCE

Possibly Benjamin D. Phillips (inventory lists a block of six with straight edge, but at right, not left—perhaps in error)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1983 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1981, Sale 618, lot 112

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, 5/7-9/2004, lot 643, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2004)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; certificate notes trivial gum adherences



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$47,500.00 as a block and pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Blocks of the 12¢ E Grill are much rarer than multiples of the 10¢ or 15¢ E Grill, or the F Grills up through the 15¢. Not one block of the 12¢ E Grill was included in the massive classic collections formed by Caspary, Crocker, Eno, Lilly, Moody, West or Ishikawa. The Green collection had two off-center blocks, and the Klein collection had one off-center block (all with original gum). ■



LOT 82° ★田

A choice original-gum block of four of the 15¢ E Grill, which is the largest unused multiple extant

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Black, E. Grill (91), block of four, original gum, deep shade and impression, strong grills, well-centered for this issue and very fresh

PROVENANCE

T. Charlton Henry, Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/14-16/1960, lot 296
Siegel Auction Galleries, 1981, 1985, 1989 and 1991 Rarities of the World sales
President's Sale, Ivy, Shreve & Mader, 12/4/1993, lot 286, to William H. Gross

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Our records contain only three or four other unused blocks of four of the 15¢ E Grill, and no larger multiples. The Zoellner block of four was broken into singles after the sale. This block is not from the Caspary block of eight, which went into the Phillips collection and was later divided into two blocks of four (and possibly further divided). The similarity in centering among the known blocks suggests they originated from one sheet. ■

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1994)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$75,000.00

LOT 83° (★)田

This is the only recorded imprint and plate number multiple of the 1¢ F Grill

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, F. Grill (92), unused block of six (no gum) with "ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY (OF NEW YORK)" part imprint and "No. 27 Plate." plate number at bottom, beautiful bright shade, well-centered, strong grills

PROVENANCE

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)
Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)
Siegel Auction Galleries, 1980 Rarities of the World, 4/5/1980, Sale 560, lot 120, to Ishikawa
Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 560, to Mr. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 289; Evans U.S. 1¢ 1861-68, fig. 3-20, p. 51

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; pulled perf in bottom left stamp, light selvage creases





LOT 84° ★

Probably the finest of the few 2¢
F Grill imprint and plate number
multiples with original gum

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Black, F. Grill (87), horizontal strip of four with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 30 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, exceptionally well-centered for this issue

PROVENANCE

T. Charlton Henry, Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/14-16/1960, lot 299
Dr. Joseph F. Rorke, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 3/16/1988, lot 594
Ivy, Shreve & Mader sale, 12/9/1988, lot 470, to Chapin
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 291

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$6,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Chapin census records more than 30 plate number multiples for Scott 73, 87 and 93, but there are only seven strips of the F Grill (Scott 93), and no plate blocks outside of the two recorded panes of 100. One pane is believed to remain intact following its sale in 2002 (Metzger collection, Matthew Bennett Inc.). The other was part of the Maryette B. Lane Black Jack collection that was stolen decades ago, but was not contained in the recovered material. ■

LOT 85° ★田

A spectacular plate number block of nine of
the 3¢ Red F Grill

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Red, F. Grill (94), block of nine with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY (OF NEW YORK)” part imprint and “No. 32 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, beautiful brilliant shade, exceptionally well-centered

PROVENANCE

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 339
Walter C. Klein, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 248, to Zoellner
Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 21, to William H. Gross

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 306

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; slight gum disturbance, bottom row creased





CENSUS

Chapin census no. 308

CONDITION NOTES

Very Good appearance; top right and bottom row stamps creased, short perfs at right mostly in selvage, tiny hinge reinforcements

LOT 86° ★田

The only recorded plate number multiple of the 5¢ F Grill

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown, F. Grill (95), block of six with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK (NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK)” part imprint and “No. 17 (Plate.)” plate number at bottom, original gum, centered to upper left, rich color

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 24, Irwin Heiman sale, 1/8-10/1946, lot 163

Bought privately from Larry Bustillo (Suburban Stamp Co.)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Unused blocks of the 5¢ 1861-68 Jefferson stamps, in any shade, grilled or ungrilled, are rare. The only ungrilled plate number multiples are a plate block of eight of Scott 76 with “Specimen” overprint, a Scott 76 plate strip of four (Siegel Sale 422, lot 204), and the strip offered in lot 71. This is the only recorded plate number multiple of the 5¢ F Grill (Scott 95). ■

LOT 87° ★田

5¢ F Grill block in fresh original-gum condition

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Brown, F. Grill (95), block of four, original gum, warm rich color, centered to top but nicely balanced at sides

PROVENANCE

Walter C. Klein, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 249, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 252, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$17,000.00





LOT 88° ★

This is the only recorded 10¢ Grilled Issue plate number multiple—a superb strip and of great significance in classic United States philately

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, F. Grill (96), horizontal strip of four with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 15 Plate.” plate number at bottom, original gum, deep shade and intense impression, choice centering

PROVENANCE

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Warren H. Colson, 1955; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer sale, 2/17-19/1970, lot 430, to Irwin Weinberg

Siegel Auction Galleries, 8/27/1977, Sale 516, lot 730

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 309 (illustrated on page 30)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1970)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; a few negligible gum soaks in grill points

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$29,000.00 for this strip, which is the only one recorded, but it has not sold publicly for 42 years

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Unique 10¢ Grilled Issue Plate Number Multiple

When the National Bank Note Company won the contract to print stamps, they had already designed the 1861 Issue, engraved the dies and made eight plates for each denomination, and printed sheets of “sample labels” to submit as part of the competitive bidding process.

The First Designs (1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 12¢ and 90¢) and First Colors (24¢ and 30¢) were followed by a second set of stamps made from modified dies and plates. The differences between the first and second designs are very noticeable on the 3¢ and 12¢, but more subtle for the other four denominations. The 24¢ Dark Violet and 30¢ Red Orange colors are unlike any of the issued stamps. All were printed on a thin semitransparent stamp paper—some were gummed with a dark brownish gum and perforated. Only the 10¢ First Design (also known as Type I) was issued through post offices. The others from the trial printing were distributed through other channels.

Four plates were made to print 10¢ stamps, each with a plate number. The first, Plate 4, was entered from the First Design die (Type I, Scott 62B)—only one block with a Plate 4 number is recorded (sold in the Gross U.S. Treasures sale). The 1861-68 10¢ Type II stamps, both ungrilled and grilled, were printed from two plates—Plates 15 and 26—but only Plate 15 is represented by stamp multiples with the number. There is the unique plate block of Scott 68 offered in this sale (lot 63) and one plate block with “Specimen” overprint. Plate 59 was made for the 1875 Re-Issue (Scott 106).

Beginning in January 1868, the 10¢ stamps were grilled, using the machines patented by Charles F. Steel and starting with the Z Grill (Scott 85D), followed by the E and F Grills (Scott 89 and 96). The only known plate number multiple among the three grilled issues is this original-gum strip of four with the full Plate 15 imprint and number.

The earliest report of this strip’s existence we can find is an entry in the Benjamin D. Phillips inventory indicating it was purchased from Warren H. Colson in February 1955. After the Weills purchased the entire Phillips collection for \$4.07 million in 1968, the strip appeared in auctions before selling to John C. Chapin. In 2002 the entire Chapin collection was acquired by the Shreves in a sealed bidding process and then sold privately to Mr. Gross. ■



LOT 89° (★)

This beautiful strip of four is the only recorded 12¢ 1861-68 multiple with the full imprint and plate number—an important classic piece of great beauty and quality

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black, F. Grill (97), unused horizontal strip of four (no gum) with “ENGRAVED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE COMPANY CITY OF NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 16 Plate.” plate number at bottom, crisp shade and impression, nearly perfect centering

PROVENANCE

“Country Gentleman,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/29-30/1972, Sale 422, lot 239

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 310

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1983)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; a few negligible perf separations noted on certificate

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$50,000.00 for this strip, which is the only one recorded, but it has not sold publicly for decades

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Unique 12¢ 1861-68 Full Imprint and Plate Number

When the National Bank Note Co. won the contract to print stamps, they had already designed the 1861 Issue, engraved the dies and made eight plates for each denomination, and printed sheets of “sample labels” to submit as part of the competitive bidding process. The differences between the 12¢ First and Second Designs are significant. The First Design die was used to make Plate 5, and that plate was only used for the trial printing. The Second Design stamps issued from 1861 through 1868 were printed from one plate, Plate 16. Another plate, Plate 60, was made for the 1875 Re-Issue (Scott 107). Beginning in January 1868, the 12¢ stamps were grilled, using the machines patented by Charles F. Steel and starting with the Z Grill (Scott 85E), followed by the E and F Grills (Scott 90 and 97).

12¢ stamp multiples with the plate number are extremely rare, and the Chapin census is probably inaccurate. Our records show three examples (all bottom positions):

- 1 Scott 69, Chapin no. 249, pair, o.g., part imprint and number, ex dos Passos (Robbins 9/22/1981, lot 751)
- 2 Scott 69, Chapin no. 250, pair, o.g., part imprint and number, ex Lilly, Frelinghuysen (Sale 1021, lot 216; we wrongly said it was an addition to the record)
- 3 Scott 97, Chapin no. 310, strip of 4, no gum, full imprint and plate number, **offered in this sale**

The Chapin no. 251 entry lists a Scott 69 strip of four in the Hind sale (Phillips-Kennett, 11/20/1933, lot 266), but the description for that strip reads “part imprint and plate No., perfs close at bottom.” In our opinion, that strip was reduced to the pair listed in Chapin as no. 250 (#2 in the list above). A plate block of eight with “Specimen” overprint was altered prior to 1940 by removing the overprint. According to Ashbrook’s indexed notes, it was offered by Klemann to Moody, but Colson determined it had the overprint removed—its current whereabouts is not known.

Therefore, based on the above careful analysis, this strip of four is the only known 12¢ 1861-68 stamp multiple with the full imprint and plate number. It was part of the Chapin collection, which Mr. Gross acquired in 2002 in a private transaction. ■

LOT 90° ★田

Attractive 12¢ F Grill block in original-gum condition

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Black, F. Grill (97), block of four, original gum, **double transfers of framelines at top or bottom**, spaces between stamps show plate bruises, deep shade and fresh

PROVENANCE

T. Charlton Henry, Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/14-16/1960, lot 310

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 578, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1976 and 1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$50,000.00



LOT 91° ★田

A well-centered 15¢ F Grill block with original gum

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Black, F. Grill (98), block of four, original gum, crisp shade and well-centered

PROVENANCE

Barrett G. Hindes, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/23/1968, lot 217

Walter C. Klein, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 253, to Zoellner

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 259, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; faint crease in top left stamp, tiny grill thin in bottom left stamp, faint brown spots on gum

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

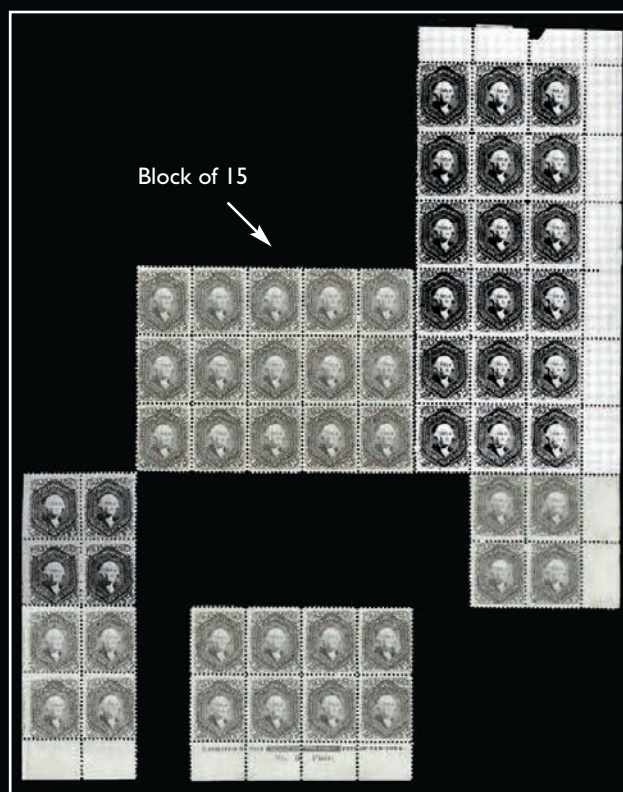
\$35,000.00





Lot 92

Digital reconstruction of the de Coppet pane of 100, sold in 1893 and divided into smaller blocks. The block of 15 is shown in its approximate position. The block of 18 at upper right was divided after the Green sale.



LOT 92° ★田

This superb block of fifteen is the largest recorded multiple of the 24¢ F Grill and contains several of the finest examples known of the issue

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Gray Lilac, F. Grill (99), block of fifteen, original gum, three stamps appear to be Mint N.H. (row 2—stamps 2-3-4), no trace of hinging on four others (row 1—stamp 2, and row 3—stamps 1, 2 and 4), magnificent centering, rich color and sharp impression

PROVENANCE

As part of complete right pane of 100:

Frederick de Coppet, J. W. Scott Co. sale, 4/24/1893, lot 1944

As block of 15:

Joseph T. Lozier (sold privately by Ward)

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (bought from Lozier, estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer sale, 5/27-28/1969, lot 376

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1984 Rarities of the World, 4/14/1984, Sale 632, lot 270

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1989 Rarities of the World, 4/15/1989, Sale 708, lot 180, to Stanley J. Richmond

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1992 Rarities of the World, 10/3/1992, Sale 745, lot 507, to Christopher Rupp (sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; a flawless block which we believe contains Mint N.H. stamps (as noted above), but certificate states “previously hinged”

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$152,500.00 as two blocks of four, three pairs and one single



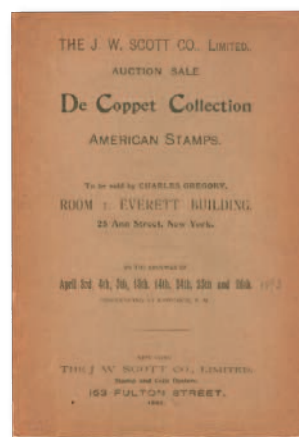
HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Finest Block in Existence

The 24¢ 1861-68 was printed from one plate, Plate 6, which was used for the trial printing in Dark Violet (First Color) and for all subsequent printings. In 1868 a supply of sheets was griled with the F Grill roller (Scott 99), using the machine patented by Charles F. Steel.

This block of 15 and the plate number block of eight sold in the Gross U.S. Treasures sale originated from the same

pane of 100, which was sold in one of the early major “name” stamp auctions—the Frederick de Coppet collection—held by J. W. Scott Co. in New York City in April 1893. This auction featured a British Guiana 2¢ Cotton Reel, which sold for \$1,000, a record price at the time. Lot 1944 was described as “24¢ VIOLET, entire sheet with perfect margins, original gum, fine in every way, probably unique, 100 (stamps).” The pane was sold for \$300.



1893 de Coppet catalogue

Following the 1893 de Coppet sale, the 24¢ F Grill pane was divided into smaller units. The plate block and a few other blocks were acquired by the Cleveland tycoon George H. Worthington, and the block of 15 became part of automobile magnate Joseph T. Lozier’s collection. A large block of 18 from the upper right corner eventually found a place in Colonel Edward H. R. Green’s collection. When it was sold in Part 23 of the Green sales (Barr 10/15-18/1945), it was immediately divided into smaller blocks, as documented in a note from Philip H. Ward, Jr., who wrote “[the block] was broken... in New York yesterday so that my Lozier block of 15, which is well centered, is the largest block now known to me” (Ashbrook index files).

Ward’s block passed to the Weills in 1963, when they bought his estate, and one year later to their principal client, Benjamin D. Phillips. After a few appearances in auctions, it was bought in the 1992 Rarities of the world sale by Christopher Rupp, who sold it privately to Mr. Gross. ■

Ward at center showing page with the 5¢ 1847 Lord Crawford block—he bought the 24¢ F Grill block from the Lozier collection

LOT 93° ★田

The largest recorded multiple of the 30¢ F Grill—each of the two blocks of six which have been reunited in this sheet-margin block of 12 are the only known intact unused blocks

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000



DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange, F. Grill (100), block of twelve—two blocks of six rejoined along center row—with left sheet selvage showing extra grill impressions from roller, original gum, beautiful bright color on fresh white paper, centered slightly to left but overall well-centered for the issue

PROVENANCE

As block of 12:

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 393, to Lozier

Joseph T. Lozier (sold privately by Ward)

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lots 129-132

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Left margin block: Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Right block: Siegel Auction Galleries, 1981 Rarities of the World, 4/29/1981, Sale 579, lot 145, to Ishikawa

Right block: Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 590, to Zoellner

Block of 12 (rejoined): Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 262, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Philip H. Ward, Jr., "United States Early Unused Blocks 1847-1869," 1960 *Congress Book*

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Worthington)

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

Left margin block: The Philatelic Foundation (1970)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine overall; top row creased and small thins in two stamps at top

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$138,000.00 as two blocks and two pairs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Reunited as the Largest Known Multiple

The 30¢ 1861-68 was printed from one plate, Plate 6, which was used for the trial printing in Red Orange (First Color) and for all subsequent printings. In 1868 a supply of sheets was grilled with the F Grill roller (Scott 100), using the machine patented by Charles F. Steel.

Unused blocks of the 30¢ F Grill are extremely rare. In fact, no other intact unused block was found by us after a careful search of auction and certification records. The Philatelic Foundation has certified the left margin block offered here and only one other, the ex-Lilly block of four that was certified as "severed and rejoined."



George H. Worthington

For the first 100 years of their existence, the two blocks in this multiple were joined together. As a block of twelve, it passed from Worthington to Lozier to Sinkler and then to Ward after the 1940 Klein auction of the Sinkler collection. The Weills bought the Ward estate in 1963 and kept the block intact for their principal client, Benjamin D. Phillips, who acquired it in 1964 along with large parts of the Ward collection.

The Weills bought the entire Phillips collection for \$4.07 million in 1968, and divided the block of twelve into two blocks of six. The left sheet-margin block was sold to Stephen D. Bechtel, who had it certified in 1970. At the 1981 Rarities of the World sale, the right block was purchased by Ryohei Ishikawa for his Grand Prix award-winning 1847-69 exhibit. The right block was bought by Robert Zoellner in the 1993 Ishikawa sale—one month before that sale, he had acquired the left sheet-margin block from the Bechtel collection in a private transaction. After 23 years, the two blocks were reunited in his collection and sold as one unit to Mr. Gross in the 1998 Zoellner sale held by our firm. ■



LOT 94° ★田

One of two original-gum blocks of the 90¢ F Grill, which originated from the same sheet and for the past century have stood their ground as the only extant unused blocks of this rare issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Blue, F. Grill (101), block of four, original gum, hinge marks, beautiful deep shade

PROVENANCE

Probably George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 396 (no photo)

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 297, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 94, to Sam Pinchot

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 594, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine appearance; faint horizontal crease in bottom pair (noted on certificate), minor reinforced perf separations (not noted)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$75,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Only Two Unused 90¢ F Grill Blocks for a Century

The design of the 90¢ 1861 adopted the previous issue's Trumbull portrait of a youthful General Washington in uniform, but added "90" numerals to make the denomination more obvious. The same deep blue color was chosen for the top value, but the perforation gauge was changed from 15 to 12, and the holes were enlarged. Two 90¢ plates were made: Plate 8 from the First Design die, and Plate 18 from the modified die. In 1868 a supply of sheets from Plate 18 was grilled with the F Grill roller (Scott 101), using the machine patented by Charles F. Steel.

There are approximately ten original-gum blocks of the 90¢ 1861 without grill, but only two unused F Grill blocks have been documented. Both have original gum, identical centering and shade, and undoubtedly originated from the same area of the same sheet. The ownership history of the two blocks has been confused by the absence of photographs in the 1917 Worthington and 1933 Hind auction catalogues, and by the similar appearance and condition of the blocks. We have concluded that the block offered in this sale, which was definitely Caspary's, probably came from the Worthington collection.

The other block, sold most recently in our sale of the Richard Drews collection (Sale 1195, lot 406), is definitely the Sinkler block (Klein sale, 5/17/1940, lot 133), and it was described in that sale as ex Ackerman. In our opinion, the Sinkler block passed from Ackerman to Hind to Lozier and then Sinkler. One compelling piece of evidence supporting this conclusion is a copy of the 1933 Hind catalogue in our library that was Warren H. Colson's personal marked copy. He represented Caspary in that sale and did not buy the block for him, probably because Caspary already owned the Worthington block at that point.

The block offered here passed from Caspary to Lilly and eventually to Ishikawa. In the 1993 Ishikawa sale, Mr. Gross acquired it for his collection. ■

UNITED STATES STAMP
MULTIPLES



Lot 95

1875 Re-Issue of the 1861-66 Issue

LOT 95° ★田

The spectacular “set” of the 1875 Re-Issue of 1861-66 Issue in blocks of four, complete from the 1¢ through 30¢ values, including seven unique blocks—this famous set was featured in the important collections formed by Caspary, Lilly, Hetherington and Whitman, and as a group constitutes one of the most outstanding assemblages in classic United States philately

ESTIMATE \$500,000-750,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢-30¢ 1875 Re-Issue of 1861-66 Issue (102-110), blocks of four, all with original gum, deep rich colors and proof-like impressions, choice centering throughout

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lots 322-329 (2¢-30¢) as a group to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lots 96-103/105 (2¢-30¢) as a group to Cole (for Hetherington)

1¢ block: Siegel Auction Galleries, 1982 Rarities of the World, 4/24/1982, Sale 596, lot 231

Arthur Hetherington, “Quality” collection, H. R. Harmer sale, 10/27/1983, lots 7-14 (2¢-30¢) as a group

Bought and sold privately by Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.) and Gary Posner (who sold them to Whitman)

Alan B. Whitman, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/7/2009, Sale 968, lot 34 (including 1¢ block), to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2¢-30¢—1968; 1¢—1982)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; minor reinforcements, a few trivial imperfections, including 1¢ light crease at top right, 3¢ small thin spot at left, 15¢ faint natural horizontal gum bend at top

QUANTITIES SOLD, BLOCKS KNOWN AND SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUES (2019)

Scott	Sold	Blocks	Scott Value
102	3195	4	7,500.00
103	979	2	70,000.00
104	465	1	100,000.00
105	672	1	100,000.00
106	451	1	100,000.00
107	389	1	125,000.00
108	397	1	100,000.00
109	346	1	125,000.00
110	346	1	125,000.00
			\$852,500.00



Alfred H. Caspary

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Post Office Special Printing Program

The stamps called *Reproductions*, *Reprints*, *Re-Issues* and *Special Printings* were created by the Post Office Department to exhibit every United States stamp at the 1876 Centennial, and to furnish examples to collectors. The program began in 1875 and ended in 1883, and was managed by the Third Assistant Postmaster General's office. Invoices were made for all sales, listing the denomination, quantity sold and name of purchaser. Unsold stamps were destroyed on July 3, 1884.

To have an inventory to fill orders, postal officials authorized the printers under contract to make special printings. For the 1847 Issue, new dies and plates with different engravings were made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing—these are Reproductions (Scott 3-4). Stamps no longer valid for postage, but which could be reprinted using the original die designs are Reprints (Scott 40-47, PR5-PR7 and LO3-LO6). Those still valid for postage are called Re-Issues (Scott 102-111, 123-133a)—they were printed either from the original plates or from plates created for the Special Printing program. Re-Issues can be found cancelled and, in rare cases, used on cover. Finally, the special-order printings of currently circulating issues are called Special Printings, which include the Bank Note regular issues (Scott 167-177, 180-181, 192-204, 205C, 211B, 211D), and Postage Dues, Officials and Newspapers & Periodicals stamps (the Official stamps received “Specimen” overprints).

The 1847 Reproductions were presumably printed at the Bureau, where the imitation dies and plates were made. The 1861-66 and 1869 Re-Issues were printed by the National Bank Note Co. The 1851-57 Reprints and 1875 Bank Note stamps on hard paper were printed by the Continental Bank Note Co. The American Bank Note Co. printed the 1879-83 Special Printings on soft paper.

Stamps created for the Special Printing program differ from the normal printings. In most cases, the differences are obvious; in others, such as certain Special Printings on soft paper, the differences are subtle. The 1861-66 and 1869 Re-Issues are the only sets with gum.

The set of blocks offered here cannot be duplicated. Since the 90¢ does not exist in block form, this group of blocks is considered to be a “set.” Seven of the nine are the only blocks extant; we record four 1¢ blocks and one additional 2¢ block. In a 1974 Jackson Winter auction, a second 15¢ block was described as the Re-Issue and repaired, but it was never certified and has since disappeared, leaving us to conclude it was either misidentified or has been divided into singles—we have removed it from the record. ■



Lot 96



Lot 97



Lot 98

1869 Pictorial Issue

LOT 96° (★)田

The only recorded “No. 1” plate block of the 1¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue—only one other plate block is in private hands

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Buff (112), unused block of four (no gum) with “No. 1” plate number in top selvage, bright shade, centered to left

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Not listed in Chapin book or supplements; no. 313 is a plate block of four with “No. 2” (ex Wunderlich), and no. 313A is a block of 25 with “No. 2” in the Hirzel collection, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications—therefore, this is the only block from Plate 1 and one of two Scott 112 plate blocks in private hands (both blocks of four)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; thin spot in bottom left stamp and slight crease in selvage

LOT 98° ★田

Post-office fresh plate block of the 3¢ 1869 Pictorial with quadruple split grill

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Ultramarine (114), block of twelve from bottom right with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 26” plate number and guide arrow at bottom, original gum, several Mint N.H., couple small hinge remnants, brilliant color and fresh

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,750.00 without premium for quadruple split grill variety

LOT 97° ★田

A spectacular plate number block of 24 of the 2¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue with full imprint and guide arrow in selvage

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Brown (113), block of 24 from bottom right with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 28” plate number and guide arrow at bottom, original gum, sixteen stamps are Mint N.H., including entire second and third rows and pairs at each end of bottom row, bright shade, choice centering

PROVENANCE

William L. Moody III, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/6-8/1950, lot 26

H. R. Harmer sale, 11/26/1956, lot 21

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 321 (illustrated on page 24)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1957)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$72,350.00 as plate block, three blocks and one pair without well-deserved premium for Mint N.H. stamps



John C. Chapin (1920-2008)

LOT 99° ★田

This marvelous imprint block of fifteen
with original gum is the largest recorded
multiple of the 10¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000



DESCRIPTION

10¢ Yellow (116), Positions 124-128/134-138/144-148L16, block of fifteen from bottom left with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint in bottom sheet selvage, original gum, beautiful bright color on fresh white paper, centered to bottom

PROVENANCE

As block of 25:

Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (according to Ward article)

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1965; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

As block of 15:

Michael Laurence (sold privately to William H. Gross)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Philip H. Ward, Jr., “United States Early Unused Blocks 1847-1869,” 1960 *Congress Book*, page 56 (identifying block as ex Ackerman)

Michael Laurence, “10c 1869 Multiples,” *Chronicle* 81, February 1974

Jonathan W. Rose, *United States Postage Stamps of 1869*, fig. 98, page 77

1869 Times, No. 27 (August 1982) front cover photo

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Ackerman)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; slight gum crease, reinforced perf separations, slight oxidation on stamps around the perimeter

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$41,850.00 as two blocks, three pairs and single

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Reigning Block for More than a Century

When this block was exhibited by Ernest R. Ackerman, a New Jersey state senator and U.S. Congress representative, in 1913 at the New York International Philatelic Exhibition, it was ten stamps larger, with two more rows at the top. When the Ackerman collection was dispersed through private and auction sales before and after his death in 1931, the block of 25 was acquired by Philip H. Ward, Jr., who described it in his 1960 *Congress Book* article on classic unused multiples as the largest known. It passed to the Weills when they bought the Ward estate in 1963, and two years later, the block joined other stellar classic multiples in the Benjamin D. Phillips collection. After the Weills bought the entire Phillips collection for \$4.07 million in 1968, the brothers carefully separated the top two rows and subdivided those stamps into blocks of six and four (the block of six is offered in the next lot, and a reconstruction of the block of 25 is shown opposite).

The census of 10¢ 1869 multiples maintained by Michael Laurence since he published it 45 years ago (*Chronicle* 81, February 1974) still lists this block as the largest recorded multiple. It was followed by a block of nine, but that block has been reduced to a block of six. As other blocks have been reduced, today the second largest unused blocks are two blocks of six.

Michael Laurence owned this block of 15 for many years. He was unable to identify the plate and pane from which it was printed, but we think we have answered that question. By comparing the relative positions of the imprint below Position 146 (“OTE CO. NEW YORK”) and the plate guide dot of that position (lower left corner of design, bottom center stamp in this block), we have concluded that this block comes from the left pane of Plate 16.

Laurence’s 10¢ 1869 collection is one of the most outstanding single-stamp studies ever formed, and the block of 15 was a large yellow diamond in the king’s crown, but prior to Washington 2006, Laurence was persuaded to part with the block so that Mr. Gross could display the largest recorded 10¢ 1869 block in his Grand Prix exhibit. ■



LOT 100° ★田

A choice and fresh original-gum block of the 10¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue—this block adjoins the block of fifteen

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Yellow (116), Positions 106-108/116-118L16, block of six, original gum, beautiful bright color on fresh white paper, centered to bottom

PROVENANCE

As block of 25:

Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (according to Ward article)

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1965; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

As block of 6:

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1970 Rarities of the World, 3/24/1970, Sale 371, lot 77

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 648

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Philip H. Ward, Jr., "United States Early Unused Blocks 1847-1869," 1960 *Congress Book*, page 56 (identifying block as ex Ackerman)

Michael Laurence, "10c 1869 Multiples," *Chronicle* 81, February 1974

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Ackerman)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; slight vertical crease in two center stamps, reinforced perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$18,000.00 as block and pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This block of six was joined with the block of 15 offered in lot 99—a digital reconstruction of the original block of 25 is shown below. The full-size block was owned by Ackerman, Ward and Phillips. After the Weills bought the Phillips collection in 1968, the brothers carefully separated the top two rows and subdivided those stamps into blocks of six and four.

The census of 10¢ 1869 multiples maintained by Michael Laurence since publication 45 years ago (*Chronicle* 81, Feb. 1974) still lists the block of 15 as the largest recorded multiple (lot 99 in this sale). It was followed by a block of nine, but that block has been reduced to a vertical block of six. As other blocks have been reduced, today the second largest unused blocks are two blocks of six, vertical and horizontal. ■



Digital reconstruction of the original block of 25, comprising block of 15 at bottom (lot 99), block of 6 (lot 100) and the block of 4 at upper left



LOT 101° ★田

An original-gum block of the 12¢ 1869 Pictorial
from the Caspary collection

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Green (117), block of four, original gum, hinge marks, beautiful deep shade, centered to bottom

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 382

Siegel Auction Galleries, 2005 Rarities of the World, 6/3/2005, Sale 895, lot 207, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; thin in grill of bottom right stamp, slight crease, short perf at lower right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$14,000.00



15¢ 1869 vignette is based on an oil painting *Landing of Columbus* by Vanderlyn



LOT 102° ★田

A truly astounding block of twenty of the 15¢ Type II 1869 Pictorial Issue—one of only two recorded blocks with the full imprint and plate number

ESTIMATE \$40,000-50,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Brown & Blue, Type II (119), Positions 66-70/76-80/86-90/96-100, block of 20 from bottom right side of sheet of 100 with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 23**” plate number in Blue (vignette plate), alignment markers in Brown and Blue at bottom left, original gum, lightly hinged, beautiful rich colors and sharp impressions, centered to bottom right but the extra wide selvage nicely balances the overall appearance

PROVENANCE

As block of 33:

Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (according to Chapin)

Francis E. Stern, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/7-8/1966, Sale 309, lot 144

As block of 20:

“Mid-Western Collector,” Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/6-7/1972, Sale 410, lot 690

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 346 (illustrated on page 25)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1972)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Good-Fine; intact and sound (remarkable for a block of this size)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$90,000.00 for plate block of 8, two blocks and two pairs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Bicolored 1869 Pictorial Stamps

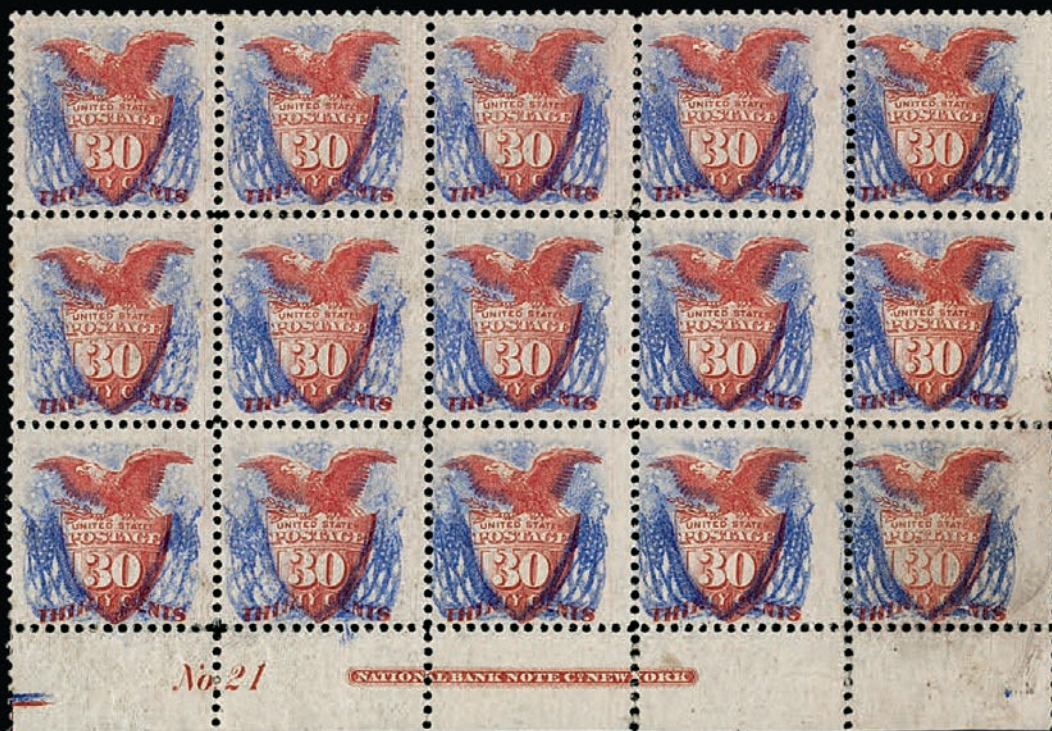
The 1869 Pictorial Issue was a transformative set of stamps created during a period of historic transition. With their novel shapes and imagery, they reflected the choice of President Johnson’s postmaster general, Alexander Randall, but they were inherited by Grant’s new postmaster general, John A. J. Creswell. In the midst of Reconstruction’s political controversies, the 1869s were spurned by the public and quickly replaced with the 1870 Issue, bearing traditional portraits of statesmen, war heroes and Founding Fathers.

The four 1869 high values were printed in two colors. The 15¢ vignette is an engraving by Smillie, based on Balch’s engraving from an 1839 oil painting entitled *Landing of Columbus* by John Vanderlyn.

We record four intact unused blocks of 20, as follows:

- 1 With left selvage, ex Wingate (Sale 1180, lot 174)
- 2 Bottom right corner selvage with blue imprint and plate no. 23, ex previous Rarities sales (including 1977), Walske and Dr. Heimburger
- 3 Bottom right corner selvage with blue imprint and plate no. 23, originally a block of 33, reduced to the block of 20 sometime after our 1966 Stern sale (Sale 309, lot 144), **offered in this sale**
- 4 Right selvage with plate marker, centered to bottom right, from the block of 50 shown in Rose book (fig. 159, p. 122), 1999 Rarities sale (Sale 811, lot 120)

The block of 20, ex Worthington and Caspary, has been broken. Apart from the two plate blocks above, there is only one other plate number block (of six, ex Wunderlich). ■



Lot 103



Digital reconstruction of the two blocks in their original positions in sheet
(the block of six at left is not part of this sale)

LOT 103° ★田

This colossal block of fifteen is the largest recorded multiple of the 30¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue with or without grill—its importance is enhanced by the fact it is an imprint and plate number block

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Ultramarine & Carmine, Double Paper, Without Grill (121 variety), Positions 76-80/86-90/96-100, block of fifteen from the bottom right of the sheet of 100 with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 21**” plate number in Carmine (Eagle and Shield plate), alignment markers in Ultramarine and Carmine at bottom left, deep rich colors characteristic of this printing without grill on double paper, natural pre-printing paper creases found throughout the entire sheet, centering shifts toward the left in each column from left to right, due to an increase in the width between vertical rows of perforations (we checked the measurements)

PROVENANCE

As block of 25:

C. E. Chapman (exhibited at 1913 New York International Philatelic Exhibition—catalogue states “30c without grill, mint block of twenty-five with corner margins, imprints and plate numbers”)

As block of 15:

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 401, to Klein

H. R. Harmer sale (described by Dr. Carroll Chase), 10/30-11/1/1944, lot 594

William L. Moody III, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/6-8/1950, lot 202, to Phillips

Benjamin D. Phillips (Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1973 Rarities of the World, 3/22/1973, Sale 428, lot 79

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie’s Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 725, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 349 (illustrated on page 30)

Jonathan W. Rose, *United States Postage Stamps of 1869*, fig. 197, p. 152

Scott R. Trepel, “The 30¢ 1869 Without Grill/Double Paper Variety,” *Chronicle* 270, February 2008

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Chapman)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; minor hinge reinforcements, bottom right vertical pair slightly stained (not integral to the plate block of eight)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Miraculous 30¢ 1869 Block of Fifteen

The bicolored 30¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue was printed from separate plates of 100—the Eagle and Shield plate with imprint at bottom (in Carmine) and the Draped Flags plate with imprint at top (in Ultramarine). Regardless of the printing, paper type or presence of a grill, the block offered here is **the largest recorded 30¢ 1869 multiple**. The second largest is a used block of twelve (Scott 121). The second largest unused multiple is a block of eight of the Without Grill/Double Paper variety (Sale 1185, lot 58). The largest unused multiple of Scott 121 is a block of six, and the largest of Scott 121a (without grill, normal paper) is a block of four.

Equally, if not more important, the block offered here is **one of two 30¢ 1869 blocks with the plate number**. The other is the block of six shown in the digital reconstruction on the page opposite. The only other examples of 30¢ 1869 stamps with plate numbers are Scott 121 in an L-shaped strip of four with bottom Carmine “No. 21” and part imprint (Sale 1118, lot 98), and a used Scott 121 single with Carmine “No. 21” (Sale 1118, lot 99). Apart from stamps, there are plate proof multiples with numbers.

We will briefly summarize information about the 30¢ 1869 Double Paper/Without Grill variety, which was presented in an article in *Chronicle* 217, available online to U.S. Classics Society members at <https://www.uspcs.org>

This block of fifteen, three other sheet-margin blocks and a number of singles and interior blocks originate from a large multiple spanning the right and left sides of one sheet of 100 printed on experimental double paper without grill (a variety of Scott 121). The 30¢ 1869 Without Grill/Double Paper block was described by John N. Luff in his book, but over the years, stamps from this multiple have been offered and certified as Scott 121a, without grill on ordinary single-layer paper.

The 30¢ 1869 Double Paper/Without Grill variety exists in top and bottom imprint multiples, which show that the Flags plate did not have a plate number at one point. However, plate proofs exist with the “No. 21” present, so it is possible that issued stamps exist with the plate number at top in Ultramarine. No top-margin examples of the normal 30¢ 1869 are known, with or without imprint or plate number. Therefore, it is impossible to say with certainty that the regular 30¢ stamps were printed from a Flags plate with plate numbers or without them. Since the Double Paper/Without Grill sheet does not have a Flags plate number, it probably comes from an early printing.

When this block was exhibited by C. E. Chapman at the New York International Philatelic Exhibition in 1913, it was a larger size (25 stamps), but by the time it was offered in the 1933 Hind sale, it had been reduced to its present form. ■



Lot 104

LOT 104° (★)田

This magnificent unused block of the 90¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue is one of two recorded unused blocks of six—the largest intact multiples—and it is one of only three unused blocks in private hands

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Carmine & Black (122), unused vertical block of six with traces of original gum, well-centered for this issue, intense vignette impression, the shade and impression of Carmine frame ranges from deeper at left to lighter at right, which, taken together with the vignette shift, indicates this probably came from the right edge of the sheet

PROVENANCE

As block of 16:

E. B. Hains (according to Ward article)

Hiram E. Deats (according to Ward article)

As block of 6:

Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (according to Ward article)

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lots 154-155, to Ward

Philip H. Ward, Jr. (estate sold to Weills in 1963)

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)—Phillips also owned the block of six from the Caspary sale

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1970 Rarities of the World, 3/24/1970, Sale 371, lot 89, to Bechtel

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 297

Siegel Auction Galleries, 2000 Rarities of the World, 5/13/2000, Sale 824, lot 204, to Ainsworth

William J. Ainsworth, Spink Shreves Galleries, 4/17/2009, lot 133, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Vol. II, page 188, described as ex Ackerman, Sinkler and Ward

Philip H. Ward, Jr., "United States Early Unused Blocks 1847-1869," 1960 *Congress Book*, pages 55 (photo) and 56, described as ex Hains, Deats, Ackerman and Sinkler

Jonathan W. Rose, *United States Postage Stamps of 1869*, fig. 215, p. 164, where attributed to Hind collection (incorrectly)

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Zoellner)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1999)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; small thin spot in right middle stamp and some rejoined and reinforced perfs noted on certificate

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$175,000.00 as the listed block of six

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

One of the Rarest of Classic United States Multiples

The bicolored 90¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue was printed from separate plates of 100—the frame plate in Carmine and the Lincoln portrait plate in Black. The stamp was designed by a National Bank Note Co. employee named E. Pitcher. The vignette, adapted from photographic portraits taken by C. S. German in 1861 and Matthew Brady in 1862, is the same engraving by Joseph P. Ourdan that appeared on the 1866 15¢ Lincoln stamp. The frame was engraved by D. S. Ronaldson, and the lettering by J. C. Kenworthy.

We record just five intact unused blocks, two of which are blocks of four in the Hirzel collection at the Swiss Museum of Communications:

- 1 Vertical block of 6, original gum, ex Duveen, Hind, Caspary, Phillips, Dr. Kapiloff, Joseph, Eubanks, and currently in a private collection
- 2 Vertical block of 6, traces original gum, vignette shift and centering similar to no. 4, ex Hains and Deats (as block of 16), Ackerman, Sinkler, Ward, Phillips, Bechtel, Zoellner, Ainsworth, **the block offered here**
- 3 Block of 4, slightly disturbed original gum, ex Caspary, Lilly, Seymour, Wunderlich, Ishikawa, **offered in this sale (lot 105)**
- 4 Block of 4, part original gum, vignette shift and centering similar to no. 2, part original gum, ex Worthington, Lozier, Sinkler, Gibson, Picher, Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications, **unavailable to collectors**
- 5 Block of 4, original gum, gum crease left vertical pair, ex Col. Green (Costales 4/18/1946, lot 270), Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications, **unavailable to collectors**

In addition to the five intact blocks, there is an unused reconstructed block of eight assembled from the four original contiguous vertical pairs (PFC 249455, ex "Lafayette").



Hiram E. Deats (1870-1963)

Regarding the origin of this block of six, Ward stated that, "[this block is] ex Ackerman and Sinkler. This came from an irregular block of sixteen in the Hiram E. Deats collection which was sold some time back. This block was broken at the time. Mr. Deats wrote us that this had been acquired from E. B. Hains at \$150 many years ago and it was then considered an 'awful price.'" ■



Lot 105

LOT 105° ★田

A beautifully centered original-gum block of the 90¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue from the Caspary and Lilly collections—one of only three unused blocks in private hands

ESTIMATE \$50,000-75,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Carmine & Black (122), block of four, original gum with slight hinge mark and small hinge remnants, well-centered for this issue, rich frame color and intense vignette impression, exceptionally fresh

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 422, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 119, to Weill (for Seymour)

A. T. Seymour (name on 1968 P.F. certificate, but not included in two Siegel auctions of Seymour collection, Sales 362 and 373)

Rudolph G. Wunderlich (not in 1980 Sotheby Parke Bernet sale)

Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 738, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Jonathan W. Rose, *United States Postage Stamps of 1869*, fig. 216, p. 164, where attributed to Green collection (incorrectly)

— “Handbook of the 1869 Issue and the 1875 & 1880 Re-Issues,” *1869 Times*, No. 50 (August 1990)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1968 and 1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; 1993 certificate describes gum as “slightly disturbed,” but we think it is simply previously hinged, and also mentions a “tiny gum stain on one perforation between the right stamps,” which is, with all due respect, the apotheosis of picking nits

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$115,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Only Available 90¢ 1869 Unused Block of Four

The bicolored 90¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue was printed from separate plates of 100—the frame plate in Carmine and the Lincoln portrait plate in Black. The stamp was designed by a National Bank Note Co. employee named E. Pitcher. The vignette, adapted from photographic portraits taken by C. S. German in 1861 and Matthew Brady in 1862, is the same engraving by Joseph P. Ourdan that appeared on the 1866 15¢ Lincoln stamp. The frame was engraved by D. S. Ronaldson, and the lettering by J. C. Kenworthy.

We record just five intact unused blocks, two of which are blocks of four in the Hirzel collection at the Swiss Museum of Communications:

- 1 Vertical block of 6, original gum, ex Duveen, Hind, Caspary, Phillips, Dr. Kapiloff, Joseph, Eubanks, and currently in a private collection
- 2 Vertical block of 6, traces original gum, vignette shift and centering similar to no. 4, ex Hains and Deats (as block of 16), Ackerman, Sinkler, Ward, Phillips, Bechtel, Zoellner, Ainsworth, **offered in this sale (lot 104)**
- 3 Block of 4, slightly disturbed original gum, ex Caspary, Lilly, Seymour, Wunderlich, Ishikawa, **the block offered here**
- 4 Block of 4, part original gum, vignette shift and centering similar to no. 2, part original gum, ex Worthington, Lozier, Sinkler, Gibson, Picher, Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications, **unavailable to collectors**
- 5 Block of 4, original gum, gum crease left vertical pair, ex Col. Green (Costales 4/18/1946, lot 270), Hirzel, currently in the Swiss Museum of Communications, **unavailable to collectors**

In addition to the five intact blocks, there is an unused reconstructed block of eight assembled from the four original contiguous vertical pairs (PFC 249455, ex “Lafayette”).

This is the only intact unused block of four in private hands. Its centering and rich color, as well as the full original gum, are outstanding qualities which are shared only by the ex-Caspary block of six (he owned two 90¢ 1869 blocks). ■

1875 Re-Issue of the 1869 Pictorial Issue

LOT 106° ★田

The only recorded plate number block of the
2¢ 1869 Pictorial Re-Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Brown, Re-Issue (124), Positions 131-132/141-142R4, block of four from bottom right of sheet of 150 with “**No. 4**” plate number and guide arrow in selvage, original gum with slight adherence, rich color, choice centering

PROVENANCE

Daniel F. Kelleher sale, 10/18/1940, lot 100

1000th Sale (with material from Philip G. Rust), H.R. Harmer, 4/11/1956, lot 537

H. R. Harmer sale, 10/15/1956, lot 176

H. R. Harmer sale, 5/10/1965, lot 189, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 351

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1965)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; negligible faint crease in selvage and minor separations

LOT 107° ★田

One of four recorded blocks of the 10¢ 1869
Pictorial Re-Issue—a beautifully centered and
rare block

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Yellow, Re-Issue (127), block of four, original gum, lightly hinged, superb centering, brilliant color on fresh paper

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 438, to Cole (for Lilly)

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 123, to Cole

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1969 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1969, Sale 350, lot 98

Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 304, to William H. Gross



CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1968)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; couple nibbed perfs and tiny tear in bottom margin of bottom left stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$25,000.00



LOT 108° ★田

**A spectacular plate number block of 40 of the American Bank Note Company
1881 Re-Issue of the 1¢ 1869 Pictorial on soft paper**

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Brown Orange, 1881 Re-Issue (133a), block of 40 from top left corner with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 33**” plate number at top, without gum as issued, well-centered overall and some are remarkably choice, rich color, bright and fresh

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/25/1973, Sale 438, lot 112, to Chapin, with letter to him signed by Robert A. Siegel confirming it is Scott 133a and commenting, “In my opinion, this is an outstanding and magnificent showpiece”

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 361 (four full plate blocks listed)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; trivial perf separations, four stamps in second row have slight horizontal crease

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$33,250.00 as plate block, five blocks and ten singles



LOT 109° ★田

**A beautifully centered plate block
of the American Bank Note Co.
1881 Re-Issue of the 1¢ 1869 on
soft paper—only four full plate
blocks are recorded**

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Brown Orange, 1881 Re-Issue (133a), block of twelve from top left corner with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 33” plate number at top, without gum as issued, truly superb centering for this issue, rich color, bright and fresh

PROVENANCE

Max L. Simon, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/27-28/1965, Sale 292, lot 366

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 25, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Chapin census no. 360 (four full plate blocks listed)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; negligible thin spot in top right stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

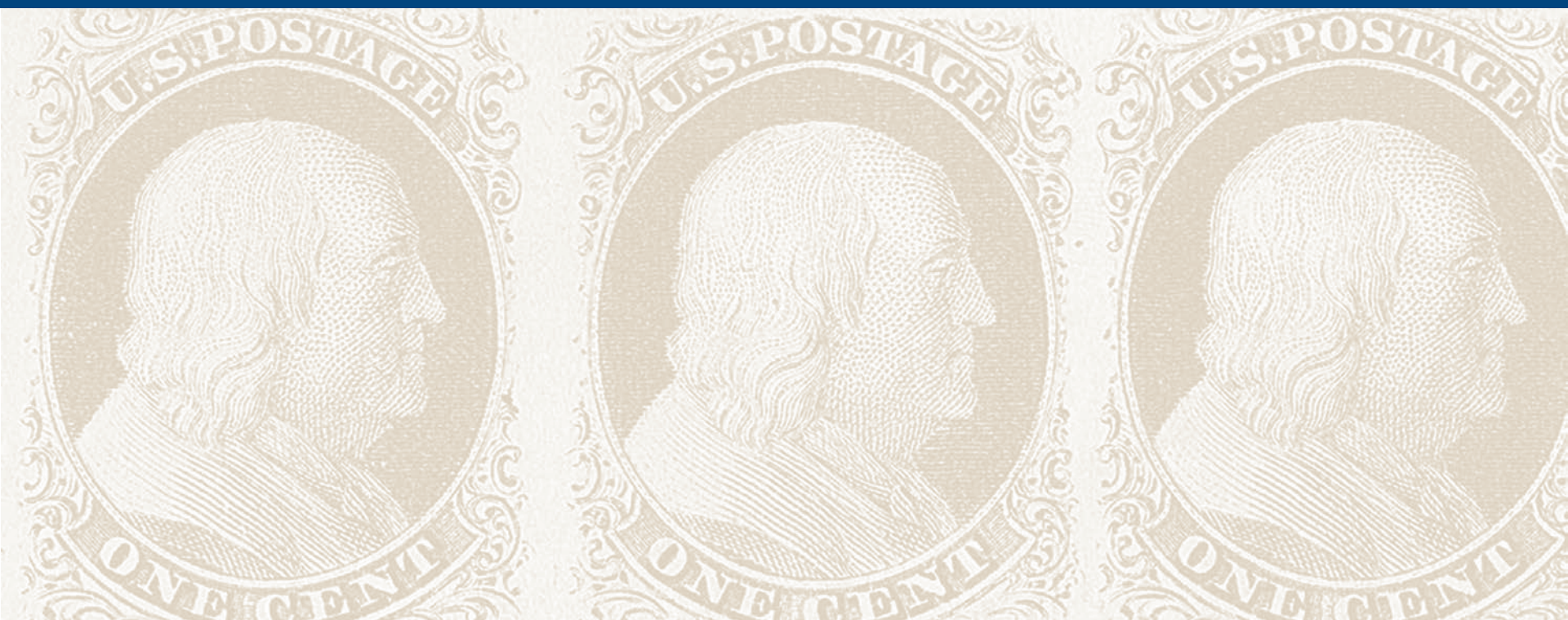
\$23,150.00 as plate block and two singles

End of Session One



Session Two—Lots 110-306
Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Sale to be held at
The Collectors Club of New York
22 East 35th Street
(between Park and Madison Avenues)





Lot 110

National Bank Note Company 1870-71 Grilled Issue

LOT 110° ★★田

The largest recorded multiple of Scott 136 and the only recorded plate block which shows the entire plate number and imprint—one of the truly outstanding multiples of the 1870 Grilled Issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green, H. Grill (136), block of 32 from top of right pane with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 8” plate number and guide arrow, most stamps including the entire plate block are Mint N.H., two stamps at bottom center small hinge remnants, clearly defined grills, well-balanced margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1972 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1972, Sale 409, lot 91

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1974 Rarities of the World, 3/27/1974, Sale 448, lot 87

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)

CENSUS

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 364

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; right column vertical gum crease, light staining in selvage from gum, contemporary ink in selvage to right of plate block, some perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$26,000.00 as plate block of 12 and five blocks of four without any premium for the Mint N.H. stamps

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Miraculous Survivor

This is the largest recorded multiple of Scott 136 in existence. It is also the only example to show the entire imprint and plate number. A block of eight is known with the I Grill, but it only shows the plate number. Another block of eight shows only part of the imprint. The imperforate bottom-margin block of 16 offered in the following lot has the complete imprint and plate number—from a different plate and with a different style of imprint—but it is not the regularly issued stamp.

Considering the centering of the stamps in this block, the Mint N.H. gum, and the scarcity of choice singles of this issue, its survival as a multiple is miraculous. In fact, the miracle worker was Jack Chapin, whose passion for classic plate number blocks ensured that the vandals were kept at bay.



John C. Chapin
(1920-2008)

John C. “Jack” Chapin served with the U.S. Marine Corps as a second lieutenant rifle platoon leader in the South Pacific, receiving two Purple Hearts for his valor. Long interested in military history—World War II in particular—Chapin was the author of *Uncommon Men: The Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps* and numerous monographs for the Marine Corps Historical Center. Chapin was also a collector of classic plate number multiples. In

1982 he published a census of all classic plate number blocks known to him, and he updated the census with articles in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.

After Mr. Gross acquired the entire Chapin collection in 2002, he of course kept this block intact. When it is sold in the Gross auction, we hope a true philatelist will acquire and preserve it, as Jack Chapin did 45 years ago and Mr. Gross did for the past 17 years. ■



LOT 111° ★田

The only recorded full imprint and plate block of the 3¢ grilled Bank Note issue from Plate 44, and one of two from any plate

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green, H. Grill Imperforate (136b), block of sixteen from bottom of left pane with “ENGRAVED & PRINTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK-NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 44” plate number and guide arrow, large margins, lightly hinged between the fourth and fifth stamps at top, others Mint N.H., large margins other sides, clear grill points, rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1969 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1969, Sale 350, lot 102

Siegel Auction Galleries, 8/27/1977, Sale 516, lot 747

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

John C. Chapin, *A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882*, census no. 367 (illustrated on page 21)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1969)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; faint vertical bend/crease entirely between third and fourth stamps in the top row

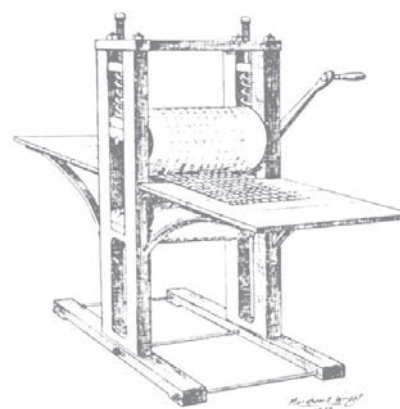
SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$9,600.00 as pairs with no premium for the imprint and plate block position

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Unique Imperforate 3¢ 1870 Grilled Plate Block

Only two multiples of the 3¢ Bank Note grilled issue are known showing the complete imprint and plate number. The other, offered in the previous lot, is the normal perforated Scott 136, from the top position, from a different plate and with a different style of imprint. The example offered here has a line added at the top of the imprint—“ENGRAVED & PRINTED BY THE”—and has a hyphen added between “BANK” and “NOTE.” ■



Conceptualized grilling machine



LOT 112° ★田

A beautiful top left corner position block of four of the 3¢ H grill imperforate

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green, H. Grill, Imperforate (136b), top left corner sheet margin block of four, large margins other sides, original gum, bottom stamps small hinge remnants, clear grills with partial grills also impressed in the sheet margin, rich color

PROVENANCE

Arthur Hetherington, "Quality" collection, H. R. Harmer sale, 6/5/1980, lot 646

CERTIFICATION

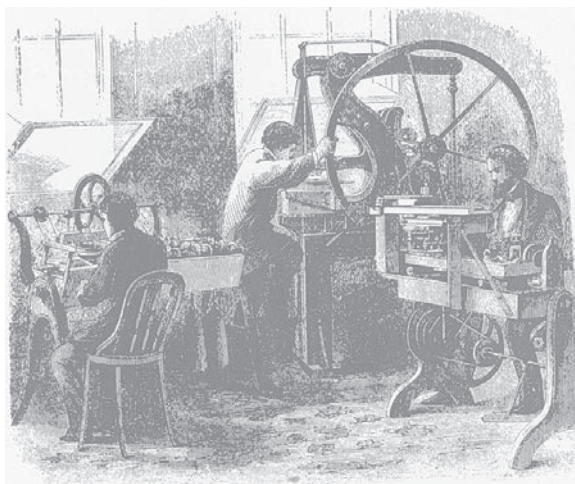
The Philatelic Foundation (1961 and 1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,400.00 as two pairs



19th century stamp production



Lot 113

LOT 113° ★田

This original-gum imprint block of four is the only recorded unused multiple of the 12¢ National Bank Note Company Grilled Issue, and one of the most important items of the 1870 to 1888 Bank Note Company issues

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Dull Violet, H. Grill (140), block of four with bottom “(NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” **part imprint**, original gum, each stamp shows some grill points with the most noticeable in the top left stamp, bottom stamps with superior centering, rich color in the distinctive shade associated with the grilled issue

PROVENANCE

William H. Crocker, Harmer, Rooke & Co., 11/23-25/1938, lot 243 (as Scott 151), to Y. Souren

H. W. Roach, Bill Lathrop auction, 11/12-13/1946, lot 119 (as Scott 140)

Jay R. Braus, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/16/1974, Sale 449, lot 51

Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 331, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Stanley M. Bierman, M.D. *The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors*, page 112

Morrison Waud, “An Important Bank Note Collection,” *Chronicle* 83, Aug. 1974, illustrated on page 163

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1974 and 1998)

Accompanied by notarized letter from Lester Brookman, dated March 5, 1954

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

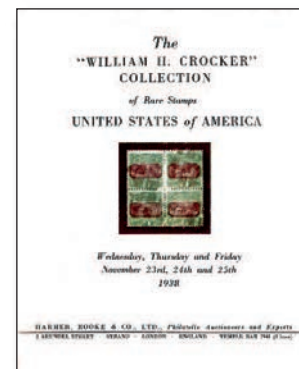
\$140,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Souren's “Sleepers”—A Block of a Major Rarity

This block has an interesting history. The first owner of record was William H. Crocker. The Crocker family built an empire in the west, which included railroads, banks, insurance and other enterprises. William H. Crocker, president of Crocker National Bank in San Francisco, began collecting U.S. and foreign stamps in 1884 and, by the start of the 20th century, had already assembled a world-class holding. Through acquisitions from the collections formed by Craig, Castle, de Coppet, Ayer, and Worthington, Crocker's collection evolved into what is today still considered one of the greatest worldwide collections ever formed. He died in September 1937. Arrangements were made to sell Crocker's 42-volume collection at auction through Harmer, Rooke & Co., a London-based firm run by Gordon Harmer.

The sale of this block at auction on November 23, 1938, is summed up in the following story, originally published in the *The International Stamp Review* of 1/4/1939:



1938 Crocker catalogue

An unexpected outcome of the Crocker sale is a discovery of a mint block of four of the 12¢ Dull Violet of the United States grilled series of 1870-71. At the London auction this was described as comprising the non-grilled 12¢ issued in the same year, its catalogue quotation being given as \$500. Examination of the block after its arrival in New York disclosed the presence of two vertical rows of grills on three of the stamps and almost a full grill on the fourth, and this established the block as #140 with a catalogue value of \$10,000. Its sale price in London was \$800.

The block was bought at the Crocker sale by famed dealer Y. Souren. Souren escaped Georgia just ahead of the Bolshevik army, posing as a peasant driving a hay cart. Under the hay was his valuable collection of medieval and primitive clocks and timepieces, which he sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Souren is also famous for buying the unique block of four of the 24¢ 1869 Pictorial Issue invert at the same 1938 auction of the Crocker collection where the block offered here was acquired. ■

Y. Souren (at right) holding the 24¢ 1869 Invert block he purchased in the 1938 Crocker sale in London



National Bank Note Company 1870-71 Issue Without Grill

LOT 114° (★)田

The only complete plate block of Scott 145 in private hands, and impressive as a block of fourteen

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Ultramarine (145), unused block of fourteen (no gum) from bottom of right pane with “ENGRAVED & PRINTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK-NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 16” plate number and guide arrow, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Richard Wolfers sale, 3/3/1982, lot 453
Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 27 to Chapin
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 369

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; few toned spots, sensibly reinforced perf separations, dry printing affects two stamps above imprint

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,980.00 as plate block of twelve and two no gum singles

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Chapin census lists only two full plate blocks for Scott 145. The other is in the Miller collection, owned by The New York Public Library. The Luff book notes that 146,668,600 1¢ stamps were distributed to post offices between September 1870 and June 1873. This includes the grilled issue. Despite the large quantity issued and low denomination, plate blocks or other multiples are rare. ■

LOT 115° ★田

The only recorded plate block of Scott 146—a wonderful large multiple

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Red Brown (146), block of fourteen from bottom of left pane with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 34” and guide arrow, seven stamps including most of bottom row Mint N.H., others original gum, few hinge remnants mostly where few perf separations sensibly reinforced, crisp impression on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 28 to Chapin
John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 372

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; three stamps at top right light diagonal crease, few perf separations sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,250.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Chapin census lists just this plate block for Scott 146, plus a block of four showing the plate number only (no imprint). The Luff book notes that 234,091,350 2¢ stamps were distributed to post offices between September 1870 and June 1873. This includes the grilled issue. Despite the large quantity issued and low denomination, plate blocks or other multiples are rare. ■



LOT 116° ★田

One of only three recorded
Scott 147 plate blocks, of which
two are top positions

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green (147), block of fourteen from top of right pane with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint, “**No. 7**” plate number and guide arrow, original gum, top stamps hinge remnants, choice centering throughout, bright shade

PROVENANCE

W. Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/10/1978, Sale 521, lot 115

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 374

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,600.00 as plate block of ten and two pairs

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Chapin census lists three plate blocks for Scott 147, plus one plate block in imperforate form. A bottom plate block from Plate 44 was offered in the Moody, Todd and Wampler sales. A plate block of 14 from the top left corner of Plate 7 was offered in a 3/31/1947 Harmer sale, but it was not illustrated and we have no other information. The third is offered here. This is an extremely small survival rate, considering that 1.2 billion 3¢ stamps, or 6 million sheets, were distributed to postmasters between September 30, 1870, and June 30, 1873. ■

Continental Bank Note Company 1873-75 Issue

LOT 117° ★田

The largest recorded plate block
of the 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank
Note Co. Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000



DESCRIPTION

1¢ Ultramarine (156), block of fourteen from bottom of left pane with “**PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint, “**No. 307**” plate number and guide arrow, original gum, hinge remnants, brilliant color

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue is extremely rare in plate block form. We have offered only one since keeping computerized records—a plate block of 12 with full imprint from Plate 209. The block offered here, from the left pane of the sheet of 200, requires seven

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 456, incorrectly listed as Scott 182b Gray Blue shade

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; natural gum crease affects two stamps, few minor perf separations sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Unlisted as a plate block of 14. Scott value as plate block of 12 is \$6,250.00

stamps across to show the full imprint, thus requiring 14 stamps to be a complete plate block. This plate block is an excellent companion to the one offered in lot 127, which is from the same plate number but printed by American Bank Note Co. after it acquired Continental. ■



LOT 118° ★田

A magnificent plate block of 20 of the 2¢ Brown 1873 Issue

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Brown (157), block of 20, the complete two bottom rows of the right pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 241.” plate number and guide arrow, original gum, most stamps in bottom row Mint N.H., few hinge remnants in top row and selvage, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

As part of complete pane of 100:
1982 Siegel sale (Sale 592, lot 55)

As plate block of 20:

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 397

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; perf separations most prominent between the two horizontal rows at right

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$12,325.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 2¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue is scarce in plate block form. We have offered only two others since keeping computerized records—one from the bottom and one from the top of the pane, and both smaller than the block offered here. ■

LOT 119° ★田

Top plate block of 18 of the 3¢ 1873 Issue

ESTIMATE

\$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green (158), block of 18 from top of left pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 282” plate number and guide arrow, original gum, few hinge remnants including in right block of four

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 405

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,300.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 3¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue is scarce in plate block form and particularly desirable from the top position. The Chapin census records only seven complete plate blocks of Scott 158. This is the first top plate block we have offered since keeping computerized sale records. ■



LOT 120° ★★田

The unique top plate number 305
block of the 6¢ 1873 Continental in
the Brown Rose shade

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Brown Rose (159 variety), block of twelve from top of right pane with “**PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 305**” plate number, Mint N.H., hinged only in selvage, wonderful color in Brown Rose shade, top row choice centering and wide margins

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 23, Hugh C. Barr sale, 10/15-18/1945, lot 32, as a block of 16

Benjamin D. Phillips (collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1974 Rarities of the World, 3/27/1974, Sale 448, lot 93, as a block of 16, from the Weills

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1977 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1977, Sale 510, lot 125A, as this block of 12

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 419

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$17,500.00 as Dull Pink, unlisted as Brown Rose

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is the only recorded plate block of the 6¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue in the scarce Brown Rose sub-shade, which was printed only from Plate 305. Despite the Scott Catalogue assigning the same value to this shade as the normal Dull Pink shade, examples are very elusive. Power Search does not list even a single in our sales since 1995. This block was originally part of a block of 16 when it was offered in Part 23 of the Colonel Green sales (Hugh C. Barr, 10/15-18/1945, lot 32). It remained a block of 16 until it was broken into this block of 12 and a block of four following the Siegel 1974 Rarities of the World sale. This plate block was offered again in the 1977 Rarities of the World sale before entering the Chapin collection. Overall for Scott 159, the Chapin census records only nine complete plate blocks, this being the only one in Brown Rose. ■

LOT 121° ★田

The unique plate block of the
7¢ 1873 Continental Bank
Note Co. Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

7¢ Orange Vermilion (160), block of twelve from bottom of right pane with “**PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 22**” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged with narrow hinge remnant at right and in selvage, vibrant color

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (acquired in Siegel Sale 821, lot 560, Chapin collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 421

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; some sensibly reinforced perf separations, inconsequential small scrape in selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$14,500.00 for this unique plate block

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 7¢ denomination was dropped from the Bank Note series after the 1875 General Postal Union rates took effect. This is the only recorded plate block of the 7¢ 1873 Issue. ■

LOT 122° ★田

The unique top plate block of the 10¢ 1873 Continental Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Brown (161), block of twelve from top of right pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 23” plate number, most stamps are Mint N.H., hinge slivers in selvage, deep rich color, attractive centering

PROVENANCE

As pane of 100: Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 23, Hugh C. Barr sale, 10/15-18/1945, lot 48

As pane of 100: Siegel Auction Galleries, 1974 Rarities of the World, 3/27/1974, Sale 448, lot 95

As plate block of 12: Siegel Auction Galleries, 1977 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1977, Sale 510, lot 125B

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 422

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; three stamps with minor surface disturbances on the face



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$21,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is the only recorded top plate block of the 10¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue. This block was originally part of a complete right pane of 100 when it was offered in Part 23 of the Colonel Green sales (Hugh C. Barr, 10/15-18/1945, lot 48). It remained a complete pane until it was broken up following the 1974 Rarities of the World sale, yielding this top plate block and a bottom plate block (last offered in the Curtis collection, Sale 1084, lot 3426). This top plate block of 12 was reoffered in the 1977 Rarities of the World sale before becoming part of the Chapin collection. Overall for Scott 161, the Chapin census records only three complete plate blocks—this the only top—but the third plate block is a bottom position without gum and with small surface scuffs (last offered in the Curtis collection, Sale 1084, lot 3427). ■



LOT 123° ★

The unique imprint and plate number strip of the 30¢ 1873 Continental Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Gray Black (165), horizontal strip of five from top of left pane with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 22” plate number, disturbed original gum, hinge remnants, intense shade

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 429

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; reinforced perf separations, one stamp tiny thin

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Listed but unpriced

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is the only recorded complete imprint and plate number multiple of the 30¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue. No plate blocks are known, and the only other multiple with a plate number is a block of six without imprint (Siegel Sale 1014, lot 1411). This strip appeared in Siegel Sale 408 in 1972 (lot 282). As this strip vividly demonstrates, Continental Bank Note Co. used the National plate to print 30¢ stamps in 1873, leaving the National imprint unchanged. ■



LOT 124° ★

One of three recorded strips of Scott 166 showing the full imprint and plate number—no full plate blocks are known

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Rose Carmine (166), horizontal strip of five from top of right pane with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 23**” plate number, right stamp Mint N.H., others original gum, lightly hinged, brilliant color on fresh paper

PROVENANCE

John W. Kaufmann sale, 5/28/1988, lot 349, described as Scott 155 (incorrectly)

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 381A as Scott 155 (incorrectly)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; two stamps natural gum skips

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$14,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is one of only three recorded complete imprint and plate number strips of the 90¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue. One of the others is offered in lot 125; the third comes from the bottom position (Curtis collection, Sale 1084, lot 3436). No complete plate blocks are known of the 90¢ National or Continental issues. The Chapin book records the unique plate number block of four without imprint (2012 Rarities of the World, lot 172). There is also a block of four with imprint only (Whitman collection, Sale 968A, lot 202). As this strip beautifully demonstrates, Continental Bank Note Co. used the National plate to print 90¢ stamps in 1873. ■

LOT 125° ★

One of three recorded strips of Scott 166 showing the full imprint and plate number—no full plate blocks are known

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

90¢ Rose Carmine (166), horizontal strip of five from top of right pane with “**NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK**” imprint and “**No. 23**” plate number, original gum, hinge remnants, bright color

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 431B (1984 supplement)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; light creases in selvage, center stamp has small faint thin spot

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$14,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is one of only three recorded complete imprint and plate number strips of the 90¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Co. issue. One of the others is offered in lot 124; the third comes from the bottom position (Curtis collection, Sale 1084, lot 3436). No complete plate blocks are known of the 90¢ National or Continental issues. The Chapin book records the unique plate number block of four without imprint (2012 Rarities of the World, lot 172). There is also a block of four with imprint only (Whitman collection, Sale 968A, lot 202). As evidenced by this imprint and plate number strip, the National plate was used by Continental Bank Note Co. to print 90¢ stamps in 1873. ■

LOT 126° ★★田

The unique top
plate block of the
2¢ Vermilion 1875
Continental Issue

ESTIMATE
\$3,000-4,000



DESCRIPTION

2¢ Vermilion (178), block of 20, top two rows of left pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 162” plate number and guide arrow, plate block is Mint N.H. as are other stamps except for some strengthening between selvage and top left stamp

PROVENANCE

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7/1968, Sale 327, lot 163

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 445

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; bottom row with natural horizontal gum creases, minor perf separations, small nick in selvage at upper left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$9,325.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We record only four complete imprint and plate number blocks of the 2¢ Vermilion 1875 Issue (the Chapin census records only three), with this the only block from the desirable top position. The other three, including one plate block of 14 and two plate blocks of 27, are all from the bottom positions. ■

American Bank Note Co. 1879-88 Issue

LOT 127° ★田

A rare plate block of the 1¢ from an
early American Bank Note Co. printing
on an intermediate soft paper, using
the Continental plate

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000



DESCRIPTION

1¢ Dark Ultramarine (182), block of twelve from bottom of right pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 307” plate number, original gum, hinge remnants, choice centering, radiant color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 6/20-21/1979, Sale 547, lot 237

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 31, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 386 (as Scott 156)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1960) as Scott 156, Dark Ultramarine shade

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; few perf separations sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Unlisted in Scott on this paper; Scott value \$4,250.00 as Scott 182 plate block

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

When the American Bank Note Co. took over Continental in 1879, some of the Continental plates were used before new plates with American imprints were made. The American printings from Continental plates can be distinguished by the soft porous paper and shade. The plate block offered here is printed on an intermediate soft paper attributed to American. This plate block is listed in the Chapin census as Scott 156 on “intermediate paper, late printing.” To reflect current classification criteria, we have decided to offer it as an early American printing on intermediate soft paper, Scott 182. ■

LOT 128° ★田

One of three recorded top position plate blocks of Scott 183, and the only top position plate block from Plate 391

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500



DESCRIPTION

2¢ Vermilion (183), block of twelve from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 391” plate number, few stamps Mint N.H., others original gum, some hinge remnants, radiant color

PROVENANCE

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 460

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; perf separations reinforced with hinge slivers, few creases or wrinkles in selvage at left

SCOTT VALUE (2019)

\$2,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

There are eight plate blocks of Scott 183 recorded in the Chapin census. Among these there are only three recorded top plate blocks, including one in a pane of 100 which may or may not be intact. The Wampler collection contained a bottom plate block from Plate 391, which was not included in the Chapin census, bringing the total count to nine plate blocks with three known from the top position. The other top position plate block outside of the pane has the Continental Bank Note Co. imprint, so if the pane is intact, then the example offered here is the only top position plate block with the American imprint. ■



LOT 129° ★田

An attractive top plate block of Scott 184, with the old Continental Bank Note Co. imprint

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Green (184), block of fourteen from top of left pane with “PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 267” plate number and guide arrow, right two stamps and some selvage hinge remnants, virtually all others Mint N.H., deep rich color

PROVENANCE

H. R. Harmer sale, 6/25/1975, lot 383

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 469

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; few minor perf separations in selvage sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,900.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

When the American Bank Note Co. took over Continental in 1879, some of the Continental plates were used before new plates with American imprints were made. The American printings from Continental plates can be distinguished by the soft porous paper and shade. This is one of six top plate blocks of Scott 184 listed in the Chapin census with the old Continental imprint. ■

LOT 130° ★田

The finer of two recorded plate blocks of the 5¢ Taylor American Bank Note Co. Issue, and the only one known from the top position

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Blue (185), block of twelve from top of left pane with "AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY" imprint, "No. 325" plate number and guide arrow, original gum, few small hinge remnants, one or two may be Mint N.H., phenomenal centering is especially evident on the bottom row, remarkably deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 485 (illustrated on page 20). The 1984 supplement to the census notes this is ex Wunderlich, but we are unable to find any confirmation

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; few small hinge slivers mostly added as preventive measure to stabilize the block, few trivial perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$12,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Only two plate blocks of Scott 185 are known. The only recorded top position plate block is offered here. The other plate block, a bottom position from Plate 325, was offered in the 1998 Wampler sale held by Shreves Philatelic Galleries. ■

LOT 131° ★★田

A gorgeous Mint Never-Hinged plate block of Scott 189

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Red Orange (189), Mint N.H. block of twelve from bottom of left pane with "PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK" imprint and "No. 31" plate number, radiant color

PROVENANCE

As pane of 100:

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Hugh C. Barr sale, 10/15-18/1945, lot 56

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1973 Rarities of the World, 3/22/1973, Sale 428, lot 99

As plate block of 12:

Richard Wolfers sale, 9/11/1975, lot 1A

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)



CENSUS

Chapin census no. 510 (p. 27)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; expertly sealed tear in selvage below third stamp from left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Unpriced in Scott as Mint N.H.; \$8,500.00 as hinged

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

When the American Bank Note Co. took over Continental in 1879, some of the Continental plates were used before new plates with American imprints were made. The American printings from Continental plates can be distinguished by the soft porous paper and shade. In the case of the 15¢, new plates were never made, so they all show the Continental imprint. The distinguishing factors are color and paper. ■

LOT 132° ★田

A remarkably rare plate block of the 30¢ Black American Bank Note Co. Issue, of which perhaps four exist

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000



DESCRIPTION

30¢ Full Black (190), block of twelve from bottom of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint, “No. 405” plate number and guide arrow, original gum, hinge remnants, intense shade and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke sale, 5/18/1954, lot 57

H. R. Harmer sale, Feb. 1957, to Chapin

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 515 (illustrated on page 21)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1957)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; thin in selvage below second stamp from left, some reinforced perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

No Scott 190 plate blocks are known with the Continental imprint—the known examples come from Plate 405 (American imprint). The Chapin census lists four plate blocks plus a pane of 100 offered in the 11/13/1944 Green sale, which was not illustrated. If that pane was broken, it is possible its two plate blocks are included in the census. We have not offered one since the 1992 Rarities of the World sale. ■

LOT 133° ★

One of three recorded multiples of the 90¢ Carmine American Bank Note Co. Issue with the full imprint and plate number

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000



DESCRIPTION

90¢ Carmine, Imperforate (191b), horizontal strip of five from top of right pane with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint and “No. 23” plate number, original gum, hinge remnants, large margins all around, rich color

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Eugene Costales sale, 2/18-21/1946, lot 434

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1996 Rarities of the World, 5/21/1996, Sale 777, lot 154

John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross through Shreves, 2002)

CENSUS

Chapin census no. 520

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some small thins in selvage, few light creases including one ending in a small tear below fourth stamp

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The same plate was used for all 90¢ Bank Note stamps starting in 1870, and the imprint was never changed to reflect Continental or American Bank Note Co. printings. The Chapin census lists the strip offered here, plus a top imprint and plate number strip of six of the perforated stamp in the Rose subshade (ex Caspary). A third has since come to light, a bottom imprint and plate number strip of five, which was offered in our 2012 sale of the Frelinghuysen collection. However, this remains the only imperforate imprint and plate number strip extant. ■



LOT 134° ★田

An attractive top position
plate block of twelve of the
3¢ Vermilion 1887 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Vermilion (214), block of twelve from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 421” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged, brilliant color

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some perf separations sensibly and expertly reinforced, including the vertical perforations between third and fourth columns

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,500.00

LOT 135° ★田

An impressive top plate block of
twelve of the 5¢ Indigo 1888 Issue

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Indigo (216), block of twelve from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint, letter “K”, “No. 540” plate number and guide arrow, several stamps in top row Mint N.H., others original gum, choice centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1983 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1983, Sale 618, lot 149

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 6, to William H. Gross



CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; few small hinge slivers where few perf separations sensibly reinforced, small hinge thins at top of selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,750.00



LOT 136° ★田

One of two recorded top position plate blocks of the 90¢ Purple 1888 Issue—an outstanding 19th century multiple from the last of the Large Bank Note Company issues

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Purple (218), block of twelve from top of right pane with “NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. NEW YORK” imprint, “No. 23” plate number and guide arrow, first and third stamps in top row lightly hinged, other ten stamps Mint N.H., deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Harmer, Rooke sale, 11/13-18/1944, lot 58

Daniel F. Kelleher sale, 5/2/1995, lot 729A

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; small tear at top edge of left selvage tab (does not affect the plate block)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$24,300.00 as plate block of twelve and a pair

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Last Large Bank Note Stamp

The 1888 American Bank Note Co. Issue in new colors (Scott 215-218) was the last of the Large Bank Note series that spanned two decades from 1870 until 1890, when the Small Bank Note Issue was released. The same plate was used for all 90¢ Bank Note stamps starting in 1870, and the imprint was never changed to reflect Continental or American Bank Note Co. printings.

The series of sales of the Colonel Edward H. R. Green collection included two lots described as complete panes of the 90¢ 1888. The first was offered as lot 58 in Part 17 (Harmer Rooke sale, 11/13-18/1944), described as “sheet of 100 (right pane)... imprint #23. Centering fair to very fine, full gum. A beautiful sheet of the greatest rarity. It is remarkable to find that such a sheet is still in existence.” The sheet was not photographed in the catalogue.

In Part 25 of the Green sales, held by Eugene Costales (2/18-21/1946), lot 511 was described as a 90¢ 1888 sheet of 100 with “Imprint and Pl. #23.” Costales, one of the premier philatelic authorities of the period and editor of the Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue for many years, commented, “We know of only one other sheet of this stamp which does not compare with the brilliance and exceptional condition of this one.” This second sheet was photographed in the catalogue. The largest recorded multiple, a top right corner selvage plate block of 20, comes from this second sheet and was offered in our Sale 1092 in 2015. A bottom plate block of twelve, ex Eno, Hetherington and Wampler, also comes from the photographed sheet.

There are two other plate blocks that likely come from the sheet in the Green sale that was not illustrated: the plate block offered here, and a bottom plate block of ten offered in our Sale 869 in 2003. ■

**American Bank Note Company
1890-93 Issue**

LOT 137° ★田

**One of the finest plate blocks of the
6¢ 1890 Issue we have encountered**

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

6¢ Brown Red (224), block of twelve from top of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 23” plate number, eleven stamps Mint N.H., position 10 lightly hinged, well-balanced margins, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke sale, 5/18/1954, lot 76
Siegel Auction Galleries, 1988 Rarities of the World, 4/23/1988, Sale 692, lot 277
Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; few minor perf separations at top and bottom

**SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE
(2019)**

\$3,070.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We have offered only two other plate blocks from the top position since keeping computerized records. Both were Mint N.H., but one has perforations touching the design. The other is a plate block of 16 with centering comparable to the one offered here. Wampler had one from the bottom position, and Dr. Fogelson did not have any. The Philatelic Foundation has not certified any other 6¢ 1890 plate blocks from the top position. ■



LOT 138° ★★田

**A remarkably rare Mint Never-
Hinged top position plate block of
the 8¢ 1890-93 Issue**

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Lilac (225), Mint N.H. block of ten from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint, letters “Z Z” and “No. 268” plate number, choice centering, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 9, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1990)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

**SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE
(2019)**

\$3,250.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

An exhaustive review of our auctions since 1994 found only one other Mint N.H. plate block, from the bottom position. The Philatelic Foundation has certified one other as Mint N.H., from the bottom position. ■



LOT 139° ★田

A plate block of the 90¢ 1890 Issue with wonderful visual appeal

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

90¢ Orange (229), block of ten from bottom of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 25” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged, radiant color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1992 Rarities of the World, 10/3/1992, Sale 745, lot 650

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some perf separations sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$27,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Last 90¢ Denomination

The 90¢ stamp printed by the American Bank Note Co. in 1890 was the last issue of this denomination. When the Columbian commemorative issue was produced in 1893, followed by the 1894 Bureau regular issue, the 90¢ was replaced by dollar values. The practical value of a 90¢ stamp was greatly diminished when the basic domestic letter rate was reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ in 1883.

Plate 25 was the only plate used to print the 90¢ 1890 Issue. Plate blocks are exceedingly rare. Our 2014 Curtis auction contained two, and prior to that one has to go back to 2003 to find another offered in our auctions. ■



Lot 140



Lot 141



Lot 142

1893 Columbian Issue

LOT 140° ★田

Top plate block of the 1¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$200-300

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Columbian (230), block of eight from top of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint, letters “V V” and “No. 194” plate number, top stamps Mint N.H., bottom stamps with small hinge slivers where few minor perf separations sensibly reinforced, rich color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 2

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; few small faults in selvage, natural gum wrinkle affects three stamps

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$700.00

LOT 141° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the 2¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$200-300

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Columbian (231), Mint N.H. block of six from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint and “No. 185” plate number, rich color, attractive margins and centering

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$750.00

LOT 142° ★★田

Gem Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 3¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Columbian (232), Mint N.H. block of eight from bottom of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint, letter “L” and “No. 57” plate number, rich color and proof-like impression, almost perfect centering throughout

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,000.00



Lot 143



Lot 144



Lot 145

LOT 143° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged bottom plate block of the 4¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Columbian (233), Mint N.H. block of eight from bottom of left pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.**” imprint, letter “**D**” and “**No. 18**” plate number, exceptionally well-centered throughout, pastel color on fresh paper, stunning in every respect

PROVENANCE

William S. Floyd, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 10/23-24/2001, lot 408, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1992)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is easily one of the finest Mint N.H. plate blocks of the 4¢ Columbian we have ever encountered. It is exceedingly difficult to find a plate block of any denomination of the Columbians with all stamps showing choice centering. ■

LOT 144° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 5¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Columbian (234), Mint N.H. block of eight from top of right pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.**” imprint, letter “**B**” and “**No. 6**” plate number, choice centering and margins, deep rich color on post-office fresh paper

PROVENANCE

William S. Floyd, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 10/23-24/2001, lot 411, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,250.00

LOT 145° ★田

Bottom plate block of the 6¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Red Violet, Columbian (235a), block of six from bottom of right pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.**” imprint and “**No. 104**” plate number, original gum, five stamps Mint N.H., only the top center stamp hinged, rich color

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,150.00



Lot 146



Lot 147

LOT 146° ★★田

Gem Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 8¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Columbian (236), Mint N.H. block of eight from top of right pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY**” imprint, letters “**I I**” and “**No. 130**” plate number, lovely centering with wide margins, wonderful depth of color, post office fresh in every respect

PROVENANCE

Roland E. Anderson, Ivy, Shreve & Mader sale, 9/18/1992, lot 565

William S. Floyd, Shreves Philatelic Galleries,
10/23-24/2001, lot 415, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,600.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 8¢ Columbian was added to the set in March 1893 for the new registration fee. Power Search failed to find another Mint N.H. top plate block in condition equal to or even approaching the quality of this superb block. ■

LOT 147° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 10¢ Columbian Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Columbian (237), Mint N.H. block of six from top of left pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY**” imprint and “**No. 100**” plate number, choice centering and margins, intense shade, very fresh

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00



Lot 148



Lot 149

LOT 148° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged corner margin plate block of the 15¢ Colombian

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Colombian (238), block of ten from bottom left corner of sheet with full corner-margin selvage and “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint, letter “M” and “No. 58” plate number, original gum, stamps Mint N.H., reinforced perf separations in ungummed part selvage, exceptionally deep color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; some perf separations mostly confined to selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$14,200.00 as plate block of eight and two singles (all Mint N.H.)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Apart from a pane of 50 containing 34 Mint N.H. stamps, this is the largest Mint N.H. multiple we have offered since keeping computerized records. We have offered two others, from the left corner and right corner selvage positions, in our 2013 “World’s Fair” and 2015 Hall sales respectively. ■

LOT 149° ★田

A scarce top plate block of the 30¢ Colombian Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Colombian (239), block of six from top of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint and “No. 59” plate number, original gum, four stamps Mint N.H., two at the bottom barely hinged, vibrant color, wide margins

PROVENANCE

Eliot H. Weisman, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 5/8/1998, lot 1168, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

Professional Stamp Experts (1998)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

While plate blocks of the 30¢ Colombian are more available compared to the dollar denominations, prime top positions without reduced selvage are very scarce. Of the handful of top plate blocks located in Power Search, only one (ex “MLG” collection) had selvage that was not reduced or narrow. ■



Lot 150



Lot 151

LOT 150° ★田

Choice bottom plate block of eight of the 50¢ Colombian Issue

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Colombian (239), block of eight from bottom of right pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.**” imprint, letter “**S**” and “**No. 77**” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged, exceptionally intense shade, wide margins, the bottom row particularly well-centered

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$22,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 50¢ Colombian, depicting the “Recall of Columbus,” is based on a painting by Augustus Goodyear Heaton, which hangs in the Capitol in Washington D.C. The vignette was engraved by Charles Skinner and the frame and lettering by Douglas S. Ronaldson. The 50¢ represents the beginning of the plate block rarities for the issue. 243,750 stamps were printed from a single plate of 100 subjects, which was divided into panes of 50 for shipment and sale at post offices. This quantity is only 40% of the quantity printed for the 30¢ and a small fraction of the quantity printed for the other lower denominations. From this supply there remain few full plate blocks of eight.

It also appears that the entire supply was perforated in an orientation that cut off the top selvage, as we and Lewis Kaufman do not record any 50¢ top plate blocks. In fact, we have never seen a 50¢ stamp with any kind of top selvage. Nearly all the other denominations are known with both top and bottom selvage, but never both from the same sheet (the \$4.00 is also only known with bottom selvage). ■

LOT 151° ★田

A scarce top plate block of the \$1.00 Colombian Issue

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Colombian (241), block of six from top of right pane with “**AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.**” imprint and “**No. 93**” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged, vivid color

PROVENANCE

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 195, to Weill

Arthur J. Kobacker, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 9/25/1991, lot 519

Bought privately from Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine appearance; faint vertical crease at left and two trivial thin specks

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$50,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The \$1.00 Colombian, depicting “Isabella Pledging Her Jewels,” is based on a painting by Antonio Munce-Degrain. The vignette was engraved by Robert Savage, the frame by Douglas S. Ronaldson and the lettering by George H. Seymour. 55,050 stamps were printed and an unknown number were destroyed and never issued. The \$1.00 is very rare as a top plate block. Most plate blocks are from the bottom position, and many have narrow selvage. Notable name sales such as Fogelson, Eno, “MLG” and Wampler, did not contain any top plate blocks. The Weill Stock sale contained a sheet of 100, with two bottom plate blocks. ■



Lot 152

LOT 152° ★田

**A superb bottom plate block of the \$2.00
Columbian Issue—one of the two finest of only
five available plate blocks—from the Lilly and
Kobacker collections**

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Columbian (242), block of six from bottom of right pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY,” imprint and “No. 105” plate number, original gum, lightly hinged, outstanding centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 196, to Weill

Arthur J. Kobacker, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 9/25/1991, lot 520

Bought privately from Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; small tear in selvage, Lilly sale mentions “almost invisible thin speck” which might exist but is all but undetectable

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$175,000.00



\$2.00 Columbian vignette is based on *Return of Columbus in Chains to Cadiz*, an 1841 painting by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, reported owned by Albert Talbot of Providence, Rhode Island

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

How the Knife Cuts

The \$2.00 Columbian, depicting “Columbus in Chains,” is based on an 1841 painting by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. The vignette was engraved by Charles Skinner and the frame and lettering by Douglas S. Ronaldson. 45,550 stamps were printed from Plate 105, and an unknown number were destroyed and never issued.

For the Columbian series, all of the 1¢ stamps and most but not all of the 2¢ stamps were printed from 200-subject plates, with horizontal guide arrows between the two panes of 100. The perforating machine simultaneously applied horizontal perforations and cut the 200-stamp sheets into panes of 100, normally leaving a trace of the guide arrow on the straight edge of each pane. Some of the 2¢ stamps and all of the 3¢-\$5.00 stamps were printed on smaller presses from plates of 100 subjects, with no guide arrows. When the perforating machine applied horizontal perforations to sheets from the 100-subject plates, the cutting blade, in the same position, removed either the top or bottom sheet margin (and plate number), depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, reducing by half the potential number of Columbian plate blocks that might have been available to collectors. This is also why so many Columbian stamps are reperforated at top or bottom rather than at the sides—10 stamps from every 100-subject sheet (or pane) would have a straight edge at either top or bottom. The 100-subject sheets were then divided into panes of 50 for distribution and sale at post offices. The undivided full sheets of 100 were only available from the Philatelic Agency in Washington D.C.

All of the values printed from 100-subject plates are known with both top and bottom plate blocks except for the 50¢ and \$4.00, from which only bottom plate blocks are known. As explained, depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, either the top or bottom selvage was cut away and a straight edge was left in its place. For the 50¢ and \$4.00, it appears that the entire supply was fed into the perforator in the same manner, preserving the bottom selvage and eliminating all top plate blocks (or any kind of top selvage). It is interesting that top and bottom plate blocks of the other dollar values exist.

The \$2.00 Columbian is one of the great rarities of plate block collecting. Only six are recorded, including one in the Miller collection:

- 1 Bottom left plate no. 105 and “AA” block of eight, “MLG” collection (Siegel Sale 971, lot 1163)
- 2 Bottom right plate no. 105 block of six, lightly hinged, tiny sealed tear in selvage, ex Lilly and Kobacker, **offered in this sale**
- 3 Bottom left plate no. 105 block of six, disturbed original gum, ex Col. Green (Sale 27), Eno and “World’s Fair” collection (Siegel Sale 1055, lot 59)
- 4 Top right plate no. 105 block, part of a full sheet of 100, sheet with separations, right plate block intact, discovered in Germany (Mohrmann sale, 2016)
- 5 Top left plate no. 105 block with perf separations, part of a full sheet of 100, sheet and plate block with separations, discovered in Germany (Mohrmann sale, 2016)
- 6 Bottom left plate no. 105 block of six, original gum, Miller collection, The New York Public Library, **unavailable to collectors.** ■



Lot 153

LOT 153° ★田

A brilliant and fresh bottom plate block of the \$3.00 Columbian Issue—one of only three plate blocks recorded and the finest in terms of centering and overall condition

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

\$3.00 Columbian (243), block of six from bottom of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint and “No. 106” plate number, original gum, barely hinged, exceptional centering, fresh color and paper

PROVENANCE

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 197, to Weill

Arthur J. Kobacker, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 9/25/1991, lot 521

Bought privately from Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; Lilly sale mentions “pinpoint thin speck” which might exist, but is all but undetectable and a “light gum wrinkle” which is utterly inconsequential

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$275,000.00



\$3.00 Columbian vignette is based on *Columbus Describing His Third Voyage*, an oil painting by Francisco Jover y Casanova, reported to be in a museum in Spain

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Best of the Three \$3.00 Columbian Plate Blocks

The \$3.00 Columbian, depicting “Columbus Describing Third Voyage,” is based on a painting by Francisco Jover y Casanova, reported to be in a museum in Spain. The vignette was engraved by Robert Savage and the frame and lettering by Douglas S. Ronaldson. 27,652 stamps were printed from Plate 106, and according to Luff 2,937 were destroyed.

For the Columbian series, all of the 1¢ stamps and most but not all of the 2¢ stamps were printed from 200-subject plates, with horizontal guide arrows between the two panes of 100. The perforating machine simultaneously applied horizontal perforations and cut the 200-stamp sheets into panes of 100, normally leaving a trace of the guide arrow on the straight edge of each pane. Some of the 2¢ stamps and all of the 3¢-\$5.00 stamps were printed on smaller presses from plates of 100 subjects, with no guide arrows. When the perforating machine applied horizontal perforations to sheets from the 100-subject plates, the cutting blade, in the same position, removed either the top or bottom sheet margin (and plate number), depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, reducing by half the potential number of Columbian plate blocks that might have been available to collectors. This is also why so many Columbian stamps are reperforated at top or bottom rather than at the sides—10 stamps from every 100-subject sheet (or pane) would have a straight edge at either top or bottom. The 100-subject sheets were then divided into panes of 50 for distribution and sale at post offices. The undivided full sheets of 100 were only available from the Philatelic Agency in Washington D.C.

All of the values printed from 100-subject plates are known with both top and bottom plate blocks except for the 50¢ and \$4.00, from which only bottom plate blocks are known. As explained, depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, either the top or bottom selvage was cut away and a straight edge was left in its place. For the 50¢ and \$4.00, it appears that the entire supply was fed into the perforator in the same manner, preserving the bottom selvage and eliminating all top plate blocks (or any kind of top selvage). It is interesting that top and bottom plate blocks of the other dollar values exist.

The \$3.00 Columbian is one of the great rarities of plate block collecting. Only three are recorded:

- 1 Top right plate no. 106 block of six, reinforced perf separations, ex Crocker (1938) as plate block of 10, offered in Eugene Klein auction (1940) as plate block of six and block of four with the option to keep it together (photo shows the intact block of ten), Siegel 1988 Rarities sale in its present form, “World’s Fair” collection (Siegel Sale 1055, lot 60)
- 2 Bottom left plate no. 106 block of six, lightly hinged and Extremely Fine centering, ex Lilly and Kobacker, **offered in this sale**
- 3 Bottom left plate no. 106 block of six, narrow selvage, no gum, top left stamp slight thin, ex Franklin J. Willock (Harmer, Rooke sale, 1/13/1953, lot 429), 1980 Greg Manning, 2004 Shreves Philatelic Galleries. ■



Lot 154

LOT 154° ★田

Bottom plate block of the \$4.00 Columbian Issue—one of only three plate blocks recorded (all bottoms) and the finest of the three—a highlight of the Gross collection and of 19th century United States philately

ESTIMATE \$300,000-400,000

DESCRIPTION

\$4.00 Columbian (244), block of six from bottom of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint and “No. 107” plate number, original gum, five stamps Mint N.H., top right stamp narrow hinge remnant, gorgeous centering and margins, vivid color on bright and extraordinarily fresh paper

PROVENANCE

Colonel Stillwell (sold by order of U.S. Trust Company), Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/31/1972, Sale 413, lot 244

Arthur J. Kobacker, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 9/25/1991, lot 522

Bought privately from Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$635,000.00

Portrait of Columbus from a painting by Lorenzo Lotto



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

A Superb \$4.00 Columbian Plate Block

The \$4.00 Columbian, depicting “Isabella—Columbus,” is based on an unknown portrait of Queen Isabella and a portrait of Columbus from a painting by Lorenzo Lotto. The vignette was engraved by Alfred Jones and the frame and lettering by George H. Seymour. 26,350 stamps were printed from Plate 107, and according to Luff 3,357 were destroyed.

For the Columbian series, all of the 1¢ stamps and most but not all of the 2¢ stamps were printed from 200-subject plates, with horizontal guide arrows between the two panes of 100. The perforating machine simultaneously applied horizontal perforations and cut the 200-stamp sheets into panes of 100, normally leaving a trace of the guide arrow on the straight edge of each pane. Some of the 2¢ stamps and all of the 3¢-\$5.00 stamps were printed on smaller presses from plates of 100 subjects, with no guide arrows. When the perforating machine applied horizontal perforations to sheets from the 100-subject plates, the cutting blade, in the same position, removed either the top or bottom sheet margin (and plate number), depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, reducing by half the potential number of Columbian plate blocks that might have been available to collectors. This is also why so many Columbian stamps are reperforated at top or bottom rather than at the sides—10 stamps from every 100-subject sheet (or pane) would have a straight edge at either top or bottom. The 100-subject sheets were then divided into panes of 50 for distribution and sale at post offices. The undivided full sheets of 100 were only available from the Philatelic Agency in Washington D.C.

All of the values printed from 100-subject plates are known with both top and bottom plate blocks except for the 50¢ and \$4.00, from which only bottom plate blocks are known. As explained, depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, either the top or bottom selvage was cut away and a straight edge was left in its place. For the 50¢ and \$4.00, it appears that the entire supply was fed into the perforator in the same manner, preserving the bottom selvage and eliminating all top plate blocks (or any kind of top selvage). It is interesting that top and bottom plate blocks of the other dollar values exist.

The \$4.00 Columbian plate block is of the utmost rarity. Only three examples are recorded:

- 1 Bottom left plate no. 107 block of ten with left selvage, ex Crocker
- 2 Bottom right imprint and plate no. 107 block of six, tiny surface scuff and tiny thin speck, Extremely Fine centering, ex Lilly and “World’s Fair” collection (Siegel Sale 1055, lot 61)
- 3 Bottom left imprint and plate no. 107 block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., sound and Extremely Fine, ex Col. Stillwell and Kobacker, **offered in this sale.** ■



Lot 155

LOT 155° ★田

**The unique top plate block of the \$5.00
Columbian Issue—one of only four plate blocks
extant and the only block from the premium
top position—a highlight of the Gross collec-
tion and one of the most important of all
United States plate blocks**

ESTIMATE \$200,000-300,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Columbian (245), block of six from top of left pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.” imprint and “No. 108” plate number, original gum, five stamps Mint N.H., bottom right stamp barely hinged, intense shade, attractive centering and margins

PROVENANCE

As block of 10:

William H. Crocker, Harmer, Rooke sale, 11/23-25/1938, lot 417, as a block of ten described as “immaculate mint condition and with full original gum”

As block of 6:

Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 199, to Jacques Minkus

Bought privately from Harry Hagendorf (Columbian Stamp Co.)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1991)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; Lilly sale mentions “negligible gum wrinkle” which is utterly inconsequential

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$290,000.00



Portrait taken from medal, possibly Spanish; also used for commemorative half-dollar issued for the Exposition

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The High Value of the Columbians

The \$5.00 Columbian, depicting “Columbus” is based on a portrait taken from a medal, possibly of Spanish origin. The same portrait design was used for the commemorative half-dollar issued for the 1893 Columbian Exposition. The vignette was engraved by Alfred Jones, the frame by George Skinner and Douglas S. Ronaldson, and the lettering by Ronaldson alone. A total of 27,350 stamps were printed from Plate 108, and according to Luff 5,506 were destroyed.

For the Columbian series, all of the 1¢ stamps and most but not all of the 2¢ stamps were printed from 200-subject plates, with horizontal guide arrows between the two panes of 100. The perforating machine simultaneously applied horizontal perforations and cut the 200-stamp sheets into panes of 100, normally leaving a trace of the guide arrow on the straight edge of each pane. Some of the 2¢ stamps and all of the 3¢-\$5.00 stamps were printed on smaller presses from plates of 100 subjects, with no guide arrows. When the perforating machine applied horizontal perforations to sheets from the 100-subject plates, the cutting blade, in the same position, removed either the top or bottom sheet margin (and plate number), depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, reducing by half the potential number of Columbian plate blocks that might have been available to collectors. This is also why so many Columbian stamps are reperforated at top or bottom rather than at the sides—10 stamps from every 100-subject sheet (or pane) would have a straight edge at either top or bottom. The 100-subject sheets were then divided into panes of 50 for distribution and sale at post offices. The undivided full sheets of 100 were only available from the Philatelic Agency in Washington D.C.

All of the values printed from 100-subject plates are known with both top and bottom plate blocks except for the 50¢ and \$4.00, from which only bottom plate blocks are known. As explained, depending on how the sheet was fed into the perforator, either the top or bottom selva was cut away and a straight edge was left in its place. For the 50¢ and \$4.00, it appears that the entire supply was fed into the perforator in the same manner, preserving the bottom selva and eliminating all top plate blocks (or any kind of top selva). It is interesting that top and bottom plate blocks of the other dollar values exist.

The \$5.00 Columbian is perhaps the most iconic value of the series. Only four plate blocks are recorded, including three blocks of six and one block of eight:

- 1 Bottom left plate no. 108 block of 8, part disturbed original gum, perf separations reinforced, small flaws, ex Col. Green, Col. Stillwell (Sale 413, lot 249), “MLG” collection (Sale 971, lot 1164)
- 2 Top left plate no. 108 block of 6, ex Crocker as plate block of 10, ex Lilly as plate block of 6 (Sale 327, lot 199), 5 stamps Mint N.H., sound, **offered in this sale**
- 3 Bottom right plate no. 108 block of six, top left stamp small tear, small tear in bottom left selva, ex Moody (H. R. Harmer Part 2, lot 614), Dr. Guillermo Guinle H. R. Harmer 6/15/1953, “Ambassador” (Sale 300, lot 294), Kobacker (Christie’s RL, lot 522) and Sale 836 (lot 1617), illustrated in Luff book
- 4 Bottom right plate no. 108 block of six, narrow selva, ex T. Charlton Henry (Harmer, Rooke 12/14/1960, lot 606), “World’s Fair” (Sale 1055, lot 62). ■

1894-98 First Bureau Issue



LOT 156° ★★田

**Rare wide top plate block of the 2¢ Pink Type I
1894 Unwatermarked Bureau Issue**

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Pink, Type I (248), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 20 block of six, all six stamps have choice centering, radiant color as fresh as the day it was printed

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; few minor perf separations sensibly reinforced in ungummed part of selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$750.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We have offered only one Mint N.H. top position plate block since keeping computerized records, with selvage significantly narrower than the example offered here. Another top position is contained in an intact pane of 100. ■

LOT 157° ★田

**A rare wide top plate block of the 2¢ Carmine
Type II 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau Issue**

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Type II (251), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 126 block of six, bottom stamps Mint N.H., deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves sale, 2/11/2005, lot 16, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; thin spot in top center selvage, few perf separations in ungummed selvage sensibly reinforced, top right stamp with blue “RWB” backstamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We have offered only two other wide top plate blocks since keeping computerized records. Both are hinged and have similar centering. ■



LOT 158° ★田

The finest wide top plate block of the 5¢ 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau we have encountered
ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Chocolate (255), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 162 block of six, original gum, lightly hinged, each stamp with gorgeous centering, lovely warm color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1991)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We have offered only two other top position plate blocks since keeping computerized records. Both were offered in our 2009 “Whitpain” auction. Fogelson had one with narrower selvage, and W. Parsons Todd had one with similar selvage. Based on centering and selvage size, the example offered here is the finest we have encountered. ■



LOT 159° ★田

A desirable full top plate block of the 2¢ Type II 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue
ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Type II (266), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 169 block of six, original gum, lightly hinged, choice centering throughout, radiant color

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; bottom left stamp natural wood fiber inclusion above left “2”

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$525.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

We have offered only two from the top position since keeping computerized records. Only one of those had wide selvage comparable to the example offered here. ■





LOT 160° ★★田

**A gem Mint N.H. full top plate block of the
3¢ 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue**

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Purple (268), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 448 block of six, choice centering throughout, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$825.00

LOT 161° ★田

**A desirable wide top plate block of the
4¢ 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue**

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Dark Brown (269), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 195 block of six, original gum, tiny hinge slivers applied as a preventive measure, adherence on gum of top left stamp, choice centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$775.00



LOT 162° ★

The only recorded imprint and plate number multiple of the 6¢ 1895 Bureau Issue with “USIR” watermark

ESTIMATE \$30,000-40,000

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Dull Brown, USIR Watermark (271a), top “(BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING)” imprint and plate number 248 pair, original gum, lightly hinged (mostly in selvage), right stamp with clear “R” of watermark reading up, also extends into selvage, left stamp with “U” of watermark reading up and also into selvage, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1964 Rarities of the World, 3/27/1964, Sale 267, lot 66, acquired by Cunliffe at that sale or shortly thereafter

Robert H. Cunliffe, Spink Shreves Galleries, 6/26/2008, lot 656, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1959)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Listed but unpriced as an imprint and plate number multiple

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The “USIR” (United States Internal Revenue) watermark error occurred when a supply of paper reserved for revenue stamp production was used for printing the 6¢ and 8¢ postage stamps. The 6¢ “USIR” Watermark error is considerably rarer than the 8¢, especially in original-gum condition. We record less than ten original-gum copies, and only one other in a multiple, which is a pair with straight edge at left containing one example of the error. ■

LOT 163° ★

A rare imprint and plate number strip of three of the 8¢ 1895 Issue with “USIR” watermark, which is the largest multiple available to collectors

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Violet Brown, USIR Watermark (272a), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 58 strip of three, original gum, lightly hinged, plate number selvage with clear “I” of watermark just extends into center selvage, “I” of watermark straddles left and center stamps, “R” of watermark is mostly on the right stamp but also extends into the center stamp, all three stamps have the watermark error, rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1991 Rarities of the World, 4/20/1991, lot 605

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 11/5/2004, lot 605, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1987)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; two perforations separated at right between stamp and selvage (not mentioned on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$20,000.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The “USIR” (United States Internal Revenue) watermark error occurred when a supply of paper reserved for revenue stamp production was used for printing the 6¢ and 8¢ postage stamps. Our records contain four wide top imprint and plate number strips of three available to collectors, plus one with narrow selvage from the bottom position. The unique plate block of six is contained in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. ■



LOT 164° ★★田

The first Mint Never-Hinged top imprint and plate block of the 10¢ 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue we have offered since keeping computerized records

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Dark Green (273), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 55 block of six, lovely color, typical centering for multiples of this issue

PROVENANCE

W. Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, 9/19/1977, Sale 517, lot 216
Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 29, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is an extremely rare plate block in Mint N.H. condition. Our computerized records contain only one other, from the left position (perfs touch design). A review of name sales also failed to find another. If we expand the criteria to include hinged plate blocks, there are perhaps three or four others, all with narrower selvage. ■

LOT 165° ★田

A scarce imprint and plate number block of the 50¢ 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Orange (275), bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 75 block of six, original gum, few hinge marks but appears lightly hinged overall, radiant color

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; few minor perf separations sensibly reinforced at top left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,500.00





LOT 166° ★

An incomparable matched set of top imprint and plate number strips of the dollar-value 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue, including a Type I-II combination strip of the \$1.00

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00-\$5.00 1895 Issue (276-278), three full or wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number strips of three: **\$1.00 Plate 76**, full top selvage, original gum, lightly hinged, **left stamp Type I and right two stamps Type II**, choice centering and detailed impression on bright paper; **\$2.00 Plate 84**, wide top selvage, original gum, barely hinged—we see no evidence of hinging but certificate states otherwise—choice centering and bright color; **\$5.00 Plate 85**, wide top selvage, original gum, lightly hinged, remarkably choice centering and rich color

PROVENANCE

Raymond Fox, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/18/2000, Sale 829, lots 310-312 (featured on front cover of catalogue)

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 12/7/2001, lots 394-396, to Mr. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (each with 1988 certificate, \$1.00 and \$2.00 as Mint N.H. and \$5.00 hinged in selvage only; also with 2000 certificates stating previously hinged)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$17,750.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This is a rare opportunity to acquire a matched set of top imprint and plate number strips of this issue. Since keeping computerized records, we have offered only one \$1.00 1895 Type I-II combination plate block (1967 Rarities of the World) and three top imprint and plate number strips. Only five \$2.00 1895 plate blocks are recorded (Scott value \$85,000.00), and only one \$5.00 1895 plate block is known (Scott value \$200,000.00). The matched set offered in this sale is a perfect way to show the First Bureau Issue dollar values with imprints and plate numbers. This set was featured on the cover of our Sale 829 when it was offered on behalf of Raymond Fox. ■





Lot 167

LOT 167° ★田

The finest imprint and plate number block of the \$2.00 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue, of which only five are recorded

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Dark Blue (277a), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 84 block of six, bottom side stamps hinge remnants, tiny hinge slivers are barely noticeable and placed as a preventive measure, unusually choice centering throughout, rich color

PROVENANCE

Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer 1/19/1971, lot 306

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1986 Rarities of the World, 4/5/1986, lot 187

“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/21/2009, lot 1167, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1971)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$85,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

A Gem Quality “Little Jemmy” Plate Block

The \$2.00 regular issue designed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1894 was the first stamp to depict this Founding Father and the nation’s fourth president, James Madison, whose diminutive stature earned him the unflattering nickname “Little Jemmy.” This was also the first \$2.00 regular issue (preceded by the Columbian \$2.00 stamp).

The die was engraved by Lyman F. Ellis and George F. C. Smillie. It was printed from one printing plate—Plate 84. Lewis Kaufman’s records contain five plate blocks of this stamp (all described as the Dark Blue shade), but only three are free of serious condition problems, which are noted below:

- 1 Full top plate block of 6, 1986 Rarities of the World sale and “MLG” collection, **offered in this sale**
- 2 Bottom plate block of 6, 1985 Rarities of the World sale, ex Wampler and “MLG” collection
- 3 Wide top plate block of 6, 1967 Rarities of the World sale, illustrated in Durland book
- 4 Top plate block of 6, regummed, ex Simon (1975 Siegel sale)
- 5 Full top plate block of 6, selvage partly separated and rejoined, October 1974 Siegel sale and more recently in the 2008 “Newport” sale (Weiss). ■



LOT 168° ★田

The unique top left corner position block of four of the \$2.00 imperforate 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Dark Blue, Imperforate (277b), the unique top left corner sheet margin block of four, original gum, bottom stamps and top right stamp Mint N.H., top left stamp barest trace of what may be hinging, wide margins other sides, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1984 Rarities of the World, 4/14/1984, Sale 632, lot 380

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; top left stamp with small thin spot at top just touches design (not mentioned on certificate)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,500.00 as a block of four

LOT 169° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the 2¢ Type III 1895 Watermarked Bureau Issue

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Type III (267), Mint N.H. wide top "BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING" imprint and plate number 219 block of six, choice centering with well-balanced margins, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$325.00



1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue

LOT 170° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged imprint and plate block of four of the 4¢ Trans-Mississippi Issue

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Trans-Mississippi (287), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 599 block of four, well-centered

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 4, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some slight oxidation

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,550.00



LOT 171° ★★田

An attractive 5¢ Trans-Mississippi Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Trans-Mississippi (288), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 618 block of four, radiant color, crisp impression

PROVENANCE

“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/21/2009, Sale 971, lot 1227, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; small hinge mark in ungummed part of selvage (easily trimmed and so counted as Mint N.H.)

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,600.00



LOT 172° ★★田

**An extraordinary Mint Never-Hinged
8¢ Trans-Mississippi wide top plate block**

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Trans-Mississippi (289), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **609** block of four, gorgeous centering throughout with wide margins on each stamp, deep rich color and detailed impression

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 6, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,400.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 8¢ Trans-Mississippi is one of the most difficult denominations of the set to obtain in such superb condition. We have offered only one Mint N.H. top plate number block of six since keeping computerized records. Of the plate blocks of four we have offered, several have issues such as gum wrinkles, or have poor centering. This example is the finest we have ever offered. ■



LOT 173° ★★田

**A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged plate block of
the 10¢ Trans-Mississippi Issue**

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Trans-Mississippi (290), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **620** block of four, well-balanced margins, detailed impression

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,600.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The full imprint and plate number is contained within the selvage adjoining two stamps of the Trans-Mississippi Issue, so generations of collectors saved this issue in plate blocks of four, not six. We have never offered a Mint N.H. plate block of six from the top position since keeping computerized records. We have offered only one plate block of six from the bottom position, in 1999. Lilly owned a top left corner plate block of ten, and a few full panes are also known.



The great name auctions containing plate blocks, such as Colonel Green, Eno, Sinkler, Todd, the Weill Stock, Kobacker, Wampler and Fogelson, either had a plate block of four of the 10¢ Trans-Mississippi or none at all. We have sold only five other Mint N.H. top imprint and plate number blocks of four since keeping computerized records. We found only three that compare favorably to the superb plate block of four offered here. ■



LOT 174° P田

The unique plate block of the \$2.00 Trans-Mississippi plate proof on card—
an important commemorative issue rarity

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Trans-Mississippi, Plate Proof on Card (293P4), top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 613 block of four, wide margins, bright color, detailed impression

PROVENANCE

As a vertical plate block of six:

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Harmer, Rooke sale, 11/13-18/1944, lot 112

As a plate block of 4:

Harmer, Rooke sale, 10/9-11/1956, lot 149

“Vanguard” collection, Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, 4/26/2001, Sale 11, lot 3321, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

Professional Stamp Experts (2001)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some thinning of card on back, tiny scuff just below and touching the imprint at left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$30,000.00 as a block of four; unpriced as a plate block

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

A Surprisingly Rare Plate Proof

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) plate proofs of the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue (or of any BEP commemorative issue) should not be confused with the more readily available 1893 Columbian plate proofs, which were printed by a private bank note company. The Trans-Mississippi plate proofs are great rarities. In fact, of the nine denominations, only the 2¢ and \$2.00 Trans-Mississippi are found in plate proof form outside government archives—both are on card (no India paper proofs are known). We do not know of *any* other BEP commemorative plate proofs in private hands.

The only source of the \$2.00 Trans-Mississippi plate proofs is a vertical block of six with imprint and plate number, sold in Part 17 of the Colonel Green sales (Harmer, Rooke & Co., 11/13-18/1944). The description notes “In the almost 50 years since the Bureau issued this stamp no plate proofs have ever been recorded, a magnificent item and of course unique.” Shortly after the Green sale, the bottom pair was removed. The block was offered in a Harmer, Rooke sale (10/9-11/1956, lot 149), and the pair appeared in one of our auctions decades later (Sale 564, 6/12-13/1980). We have been unable to locate any other examples.

The 2¢ Trans-Mississippi plate proof is equally rare—we have found six singles and no multiples. At one point the vignettes for the 2¢ and \$2.00 were switched, so perhaps this is the reason why plate proofs of these two denominations were released. ■



Lot 175



Lot 176



Lot 177



Lot 178



Lot 179

1901 Pan-American Issue

LOT 175° ★★田

1¢ Mint Never-Hinged top plate block

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Pan-American (294), Mint N.H. top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1116 block of six with plate printers’ black initials in the imprint selvage, engraved lines through plate printers’ green initials in the plate number selvage

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 9, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$475.00

LOT 177° ★★田

Gem 5¢ Mint Never-Hinged top plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,500-2,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Pan-American (297), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1140 block of six with plate printers’ black initials in left selvage, choice centering

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,600.00

LOT 176° ★★田

4¢ Mint Never-Hinged top plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Pan-American (296), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1145 block of six, choice centering throughout

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; tiny hinge slivers in ungummed selvage, some slight offset on gum includes tiny adherence on top right stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00

LOT 178° ★田

Beautiful 8¢ bottom plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Pan-American (298), bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1150 block of six, lightly hinged, choice centering throughout, rich colors

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; perf separations at top left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,800.00

LOT 179° ★★田

10¢ Mint Never-Hinged bottom plate block

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Pan-American (299), Mint N.H. full bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1151 block of six, well-balanced margins, radiant colors and crisp impressions

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 14, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,500.00

1902-08 Second Bureau Issue



LOT 180° ★★田

Superb Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the 2¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine (301), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1763 block of six, gorgeous centering, radiant color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$425.00

LOT 181° ★田

Wide top plate block of the 3¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Bright Violet (302), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1586 block of six, top center stamp single hinge mark, other five stamps and selvage Mint N.H., well-balanced margins, intense color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$750.00



LOT 182° ★田

Wide top plate block of the 4¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Brown (303), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1799 block of six, top stamps and selvage lightly hinged, bottom stamps Mint N.H., choice centering with wide margins, bright color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$825.00



LOT 183° ★★田

Full top plate block of the 8¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Violet Black (306), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1497 block of six, attractive centering, intense shade and impression on bright paper causes the design to really “pop” off the paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,150.00





LOT 184° ★★田

Full top plate block of the 13¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

13¢ Purple Black (308), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 3831 block of six, wide margins, intense color and impression

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,150.00

LOT 185° ★田

The finest known wide top plate block of the 15¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Olive Green (309), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1607 block of six, bottom center stamp and selvage hinge remnants, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 22, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; few minor perf separations at top of selvage sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Plate blocks of the 15¢ 1902 are notoriously difficult to obtain from the top position, especially with such wide selvage. Power Search found only three from the top position—two have selvage significantly smaller than the block offered here, and the one with comparable selvage has thin spots in two stamps. Todd had two, but one has a piece out of the top right corner stamp. This brings our



total count to four wide tops. The Fogelson collection, which specialized in top positions, did not contain any. Those waiting for this plate block in Mint N.H. condition will have a long wait; we have offered only one, from the right position, in our 2003 “Silver Lake” sale. The Philatelic Foundation has certified one wide Mint N.H. top plate block of ten, but its whereabouts is unknown. ■



LOT 186° ★田

The finest known top plate block of the 50¢ 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Orange (310), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **1602** block of six, lightly hinged, choice centering throughout, radiant color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

W. Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/10/1978, Sale 521, lot 692

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 23, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1978)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,250.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Wide Selvage Makes the Difference

The 50¢ is the first denomination of the 1902 Issue printed from a single plate—number 1602. Top plate positions, which are the most desirable, tend to have narrow selvage. The example offered here is the exception. Power Search found only two from the top position, both with narrow selvage. Todd had two others with wide selvage, but one has disturbed gum and another has a piece out of the selvage. The example offered here may well be the finest full top plate block of this issue in existence. ■



LOT 187° ★田

A stunning full top plate block of the \$1.00 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Black (311), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” im-
print and plate number **1629** block of six, lightly hinged, hinge rem-
nant in ungummed selvage, intense shade and detailed impression

PROVENANCE

W. Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/10/1978, Sale 521, lot 473

“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/21/2009, Sale 971,
lot 1376, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1980)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine, as are all top position plate blocks

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$27,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Black Dollar

Lewis Kaufman records only seven available plate blocks of the \$1.00 1902 Issue, including six from the top position and one from the bottom. In addition, there is a top plate block in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. ■



LOT 188° ★田

The only available top position plate block of the \$2.00 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Dark Blue (312), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **1630** block of six, few small hinge remnants mostly in selvage, deep rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

W. Parsons Todd, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/10/1978, Sale 521, lot 475
“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/21/2009, Sale 971, lot 1377, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; few minor perf separations sensibly reinforced by small hinges, enlarged staple holes at top, pencil notation on back of two stamps

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$40,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Best of Five and the Only Available Top Position

Lewis Kaufman records only four plate blocks of Scott 312 in private hands (each of six stamps).

- 1 Top plate block (only top position available), **offered in this sale**
- 2 Wide bottom plate block, small thin in one stamp, 1967 Rarities of the World sale (Sale 313, lot 105)
- 3 Bottom plate block, few small faults, 2017 Rarities of the World sale (Sale 1159, lot 216)
- 4 Bottom plate block, one stamp minor gum glazing, paper spot in margin of top center stamp, perf separations in selvage, ex Wampler
- 5 Top plate block, Miller collection, The New York Public Library, **unavailable to collectors.** ■



Lot 189

LOT 189° ★田

One of two plate blocks of the \$5.00 1902 Issue available to collectors—one of the most outstanding plate blocks of United States 20th century philately

ESTIMATE \$100,000-150,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Dark Green (313), top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” **im-print and plate number 1620** block of six, bottom stamps original gum, small hinge slivers, top stamps small part original gum, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Col. Edward H. R. Green, Part 24, Irwin Heiman sale, 1/8-10/1946, lot 703

Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke & Co., 5/18/1954, lot 145

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1977 Rarities of the World, 3/23/1977, Sale 510, lot 178

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24/1998, lot 150, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; perf separations sensibly reinforced by hinge slivers

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$180,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Top Value and Rarest of Second Bureau Plate Blocks

Only four plate blocks of the \$5.00 1902 Issue are recorded, including one in the National Postal Museum (top position) and another in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library (extra wide bottom position). The only other plate block available to collectors, with similar size selvage and also from the top position, was offered in our sale of the W. Parsons Todd collection in 1977. ■



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)
\$11,000.00

LOT 190° ★田

A beautiful block of four of the \$5.00 1902 Issue

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Dark Green (313), Block of four with horizontal guideline, choice centering for this difficult issue, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; bottom right stamp with small backstamp

LOT 191° ★★田

A stunning Mint Never-Hinged plate block of fourteen of the 5¢ 1908 imperforate

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500



DESCRIPTION

5¢ Blue, Imperforate (315), Mint N.H. wide top “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint and **plate number 4075** block of fourteen, huge margins all around, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Weill Brothers' Stock, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 10/12/1989, lot 278
James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 25, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; bottom left stamp tiny natural inclusion

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$9,350.00 as plate block of six and eight Mint N.H. singles

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 5¢ was issued as an imperforate stamp to be used by private vending machines. Only 34 sheets—13,500 stamps—were issued. 10,000 were sent to the Indianapolis post office and most were used in vending machines. A small quantity was saved in imperforate form, primarily by collectors who heard about the issue and were able to obtain small quantities at post offices in Indianapolis, Washington D.C. and New York. ■



LOT 192° ★田

The largest recorded multiple of the
2¢ Shield Issue imperforate horizontally

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Type I, Vertical Pair, Imperforate Horizontally (319d), block of six containing two strips of three, hinge remnants at top and bottom, large margins at top and bottom where imperforate, radiant color

PROVENANCE

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lots 965 and 966

Caroline Prentice Cromwell, Irwin Heiman, 11/7-8/1957, lot 157, the catalogue notes ex Sperling, Hawkins and Helme

Roger S. Brody, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 12/6/2002, lot 105, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; light horizontal crease between top stamps, bottom two stamps small thin spots from hinge removal, bottom right stamp with H. F. Colman backstamp, signed in pencil "E. Stern"

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

Unpriced as strips of three; \$15,000.00 as two pairs

Digital reconstruction of Gross block of 6 with right margin strip and block of 4 at left in their original positions in discovery block of 25. There can be only 10 possible error pairs in total.

Note: the different shades are the result of varying images and do not accurately reflect the items' color.

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

One of the Rarest 20th Century Errors

All examples of the 2¢ Shield Imperforate Horizontally error (Scott 319d) come from a block of 25 stamps bought at the Washington, D.C. post office. The block of six offered here and the strip of three with the selvage and guide arrow at right indicate that the discovery block came from the upper half of the lower right pane—a digital reconstruction with an additional block at left is shown below. We have located three pairs, one strip of three, two blocks of four (one with two stamps removed from top, shown below) and this block of six, for a total of 25 stamps. Since this error must be collected in pairs (at a minimum), there can only be ten examples—the three recorded blocks reduce the number of available examples to seven. ■



Lot 193



Digital reconstruction of the error pane of 50, showing the plate block at bottom and all but one pair. The block and two pairs from the top of the pane are evidence that the margin was trimmed off, which means there can only be one plate block. The left pane was either fully perforated or destroyed.

Note: the different shades are the result of varying images and do not accurately reflect the items' color.



Plate block

1904 Louisiana Purchase Issue

LOT 193° ★田

The unique plate block of the 2¢ Louisiana Purchase imperforate horizontally—a fantastic 20th century error plate block

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Louisiana-Purchase, Imperforate Horizontally (324a), bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 2156 block of four, small hinge remnant in imprint selvage, wide margin at top where imperforate, bright color

PROVENANCE

As a pane of 50 :

A. W. Weigel, purchased at Cleveland post office Station B within six weeks of issue (sold privately to Worthington for \$100 and divided into blocks and pairs)

As a plate block of 4 (26 stamps offered in Worthington sale):

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 981

Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 731

Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 3/8/1940, Sale 117, lot 299

Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke sale, 7/9/1950, lot 155 to Weill (for Phillips)

Benjamin D. Phillips (collection sold privately to the Weills, 1968)

Dr. Charles E. Test, “Westport” collection, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 2/2/1994, lot 38, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1994)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$75,000.00—based on a sale 25 years ago

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The One and Only Plate Block

According to *Sloane’s Column* (2/8/1958), a pane of 50 stamps was found at the post office in Cleveland, Ohio. The stamp was issued on April 30, 1904, and the error was found within six weeks of issue. The pane was sold by a “girl” at the window of Station B to A. W. Weigel, whom Sloane describes as a “postal carrier” who also had philatelic knowledge. In fact, Weigel operated the Ohio Stamp Company and was secretary-treasurer of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club. The error pane was purchased shortly after Weigel’s fortuitous post office find by famed collector George H. Worthington of Cleveland, reportedly for \$100. Worthington held the pane until 1917, when his collection was sold by J. C. Morgenthau & Co. The pane had been divided prior to the sale, to allow multiple collectors to obtain an example of the variety. In the Worthington auction, 26 of the 50 stamps were offered; the remaining 24 stamps were sold privately.

Sloane and other writers have always stated that top and bottom plate blocks exist, presumably based on the layout of the plate, not on any personal encounter with both plate blocks. However, the top plate block has never been seen, and for good reason—it does not exist. We have been able to painstakingly reconstruct the pane, except for one pair. As the reconstruction shows, the top plate block can no longer exist, because the top sheet selvage with the imprint was trimmed off.

As for the left half of the error sheet, it has been written that the female postal clerk remembered selling it, but it is more likely that it was never released or was fully perforated. We base our theory on the perforating method.

The sheets of 100 were perforated in two steps. First, the vertical rows of perforations were applied with the perforating wheels set at the correct width for the wider horizontal dimensions of the stamp. A cutting blade replaced the wheel of pins at the center of the sheet, so that the act of perforating the sheet along the vertical axis resulted in the division of the sheet into two panes (each with a straight edge along the guide line).

Second, each pane of 50 was perforated in the horizontal direction, using a different setting for the narrower height of the stamp design. Therefore, while it is possible that both panes were left imperforate horizontally, it is more likely that one pane was fully perforated and the other (the right half) was not.

Another possibility is that one or both panes were marked as defective by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing examiner, but only one was removed from distribution. This scenario might explain why the top selvage was trimmed off the error pane sold in Cleveland. Perhaps the discoverer, A. W. Weigel, a knowledgeable philatelist, did not want to give postal officials any justification for reclaiming the sheet, so he trimmed off the top margin with the examiner’s mark. ■



LOT 194° ★田

A beautiful plate block of the 3¢ Louisiana Purchase with plate printer's initials

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Louisiana Purchase (325), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 2101 block of six, plate printer's initials in top left selvage—very unusual for this issue as most initials were confined to the next stamp over which is the first position on the sheet, gorgeous centering throughout, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$950.00

LOT 195° ★田

Top right corner selvage plate block of eight of the 5¢ Louisiana Purchase

ESTIMATE \$500-750



DESCRIPTION

5¢ Louisiana Purchase (326), full top right corner “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 2099 block of eight, small hinge slivers, beautiful centering, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

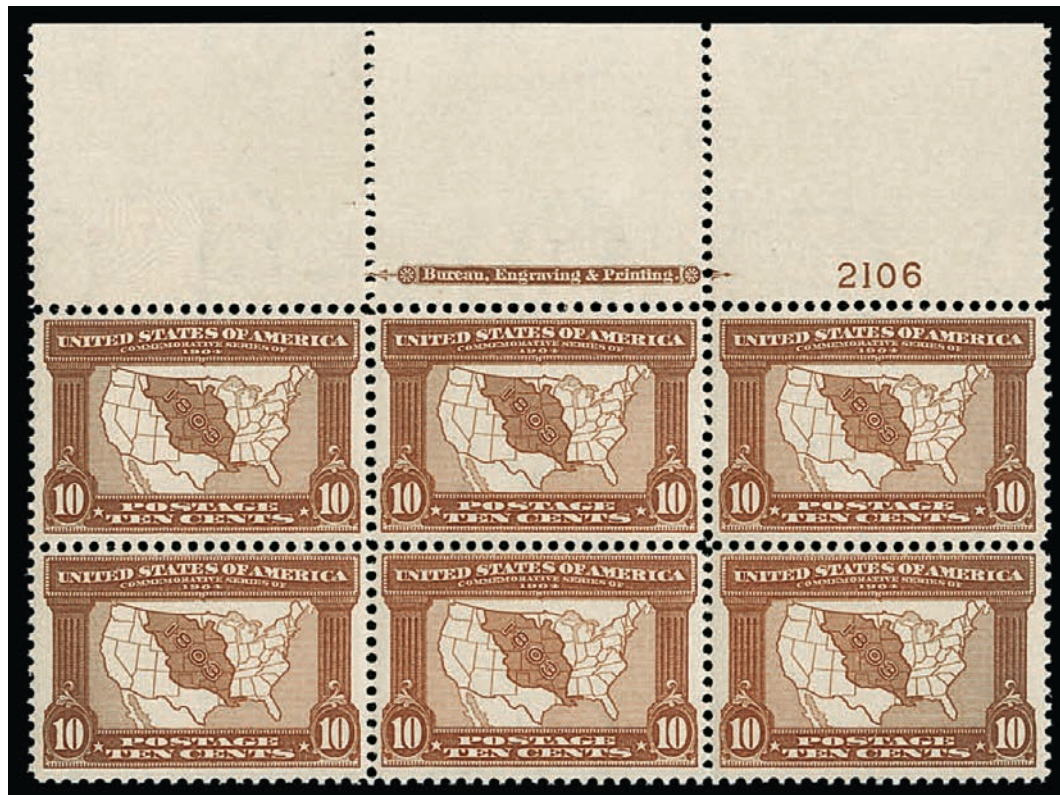
Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; small hinge slivers sensibly reinforce some perf separations

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,400.00 as plate block of six and two singles



LOT 196° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the
10¢ Louisiana Purchase

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Louisiana Purchase (327), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 2106 block of six, gorgeous centering throughout, bright color and crisp impression

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Extraordinarily Wide Selvage

Top position plate blocks of the 10¢ Louisiana Purchase Issue are very difficult to obtain, especially in Mint N.H. condition and with wide selvage. A Power Search review indicates the last we offered was in 2012, but the perfs on that block touch the design. Our 2007 “Saddleback” auction contained one, but its perfs almost touch the design. One has to go back to our 2002 Drucker sale to find a plate block comparable in quality to the one offered here. ■

1907 Jamestown Issue

LOT 197° ★★田

1¢ Jamestown Mint Never-Hinged plate block

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Jamestown (328), Mint N.H. top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 3542 block of six, well-balanced margins, detailed impressions

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$825.00



LOT 198° ★★田

2¢ Jamestown Mint Never-Hinged plate block

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Jamestown (329), Mint N.H. bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 3603 block of six, choice centering throughout, radiant color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 34, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$900.00



LOT 199° ★★田

5¢ Jamestown Mint Never-Hinged plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Jamestown (330), Mint N.H. top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 3554 block of six, deep rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

“MLG” collection, Siegel 4/21/2009, Sale 971, lot 1390, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,750.00



**Third Bureau Issue—Washington Franklin Series
1908-09 Issue**

LOT 200° ★★田

3¢ 1908 Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Deep Violet (333), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4925** block of six, deep rich color, unusually choice centering, bright and fresh

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$650.00



LOT 201° ★★田

5¢ 1908 Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Blue (335), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4959** block of six, wide margins and well-centered, post office fresh

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,050.00



LOT 202° ★田

6¢ 1908 wide top plate block

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Red Orange (336), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4937** block of six, top center stamp lightly hinged, others Mint N.H., wide margins and well-centered, bright color with just slight traces of oxidation along top framelines

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$750.00





LOT 203° ★田

8¢ 1908 top plate block

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Olive Green (337), top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4922** block of six, bottom center stamp barest trace of hinging, others Mint N.H., beautiful centering and rich color

PROVENANCE

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 203, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$525.00



LOT 204° ★★田

10¢ 1908 Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Yellow (338), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4940** block of six, vivid color, attractive centering and margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice; slightly short gumming at top of top row

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,500.00



LOT 205° ★田

A rare and highly select 50¢ 1908 full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Violet (341), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4956** block of six, top center and top right stamps lightly hinged, others Mint N.H., exceptional depth of color, wide margins and well-centered

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$6,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Scott 341 was produced from only one plate, number 4956, which had plate number blocks at top and bottom. Lewis Kaufman records only six full top and four bottom plate blocks available to collectors. There is another top position in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. ■



LOT 206° ★田

One of the finest known full top plate blocks of the \$1.00 1908 Issue

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Violet Brown (342), full top “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint and plate number **4957** block of six, stamps at top center and top right hinged, others Mint N.H., outstanding centering with wide margins, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; a few minor reinforced perf separations in selvage only at top left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$20,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Dollar Washington Plate Block Rarity

Excluding the Bluish Paper Issue, this is one of the rarest of the Washington-Franklin plate blocks. Lewis Kaufman records only seven top and five bottom plate blocks. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing experienced difficulty with paper shrinkage while printing the 1908 Issue—the Bluish Paper experiment of 1909 was intended to correct the problem—so this plate block’s centering is exceptionally choice.

This is one of the two finest top plate blocks among the small population available to collectors (one top position is in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library). Other top plate blocks either have slightly reduced selvage, a fault or only Fine centering. The only example that matches the quality of this block was in the Dr. Frederick Fogelson collection. ■

1909 Bluish Paper Issue

LOT 207° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the
1¢ Bluish Paper Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Green, Bluish (357), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 4889 block of six, intense shade on nicely blued paper, attractive centering

PROVENANCE

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 53, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,850.00



LOT 208° ★★田

A superb Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of
the 2¢ Bluish Paper Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Bluish (358), Mint N.H. top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 4863 block of six, exceptionally choice centering, rich color on blued paper with characteristic intense watermark

PROVENANCE

Weill Brothers’ Stock, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 10/12/1989, lot 195

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 54, to Mr. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1990)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,750.00





LOT 209° ★田

One of three recorded top plate blocks of the 13¢ Bluish Paper Issue

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

13¢ Bluish Green, Bluish (365), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 4948 block of six, lightly hinged, deep rich color on nicely blued paper, unusually wide margins for this issue

PROVENANCE

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/9-11/1971, Sale 389, lot 636, to Louis Grunin

Louis Grunin, Siegel Auction Galleries, 11-30/1971-12/1/1971, Sale 404, lot 163

“Southern Cross” collection, Greg Manning Auctions, 3/22-23/1993, lot 958

“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4-21/2009, Sale 971, lot 1604, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$60,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Bluish Paper Experiment

The Bluish Paper stamps were first produced in early 1909 to remedy problems in manufacturing and handling. The first problem was the effect of paper shrinkage on the perforation process, which the Third Assistant Postmaster General’s report specifically noted as the reason for the experimental paper. The second reason is found in a letter dated February 16, 1909, from the Third Assistant Postmaster General, A. L. Lawshe, to the BEP director, Joseph E. Ralph, which states that the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps would be placed on sale at the Washington, D.C., post office, to determine if “they display less tendency to curl than the stamps made of the regular wood pulp paper.”

Paper shrinkage was the result of a necessary step in the printing process. In intaglio printing the sheet of paper was moistened before the impression was made, because the dampened paper picked up more of the ink in the recessed lines of the metal plate. After the sheet dried, the paper would shrink slightly, causing the rows of individual stamp subjects to fall out of alignment with the fixed rows of perforation pins. Postal officials reported that 9% of stamps were unsatisfactory due to paper shrinkage. The curling and splitting problem occurred after the sheets were perforated and divided into panes. As the gum dried, it pulled along the grain of the paper, causing each row of stamps to curl. Down the line, panes had a tendency to split apart along the perforations, making it difficult to package them for distribution or handle them at post offices.

On February 1, 1909, the BEP director notified the Third Assistant Postmaster General that a supply of 1¢ and 2¢ stamps had been printed on an experimental rag paper stock, which the BEP developed to resolve the production and handling problems. The experimental paper—10,000 sheets in total—had 30% to 35% rag cloth added to the wood-pulp mixture. Ultimately, the rag stock did not prove to be an effective remedy and was discontinued. Better results were subsequently obtained by modifying the spacing of the six outside vertical rows on the plates (known as “Star” plates). The stamps’ distinctive grayish paper was first described as having “a bluish cast.” The report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909) described the experimental stamps as having a “slightly bluish tinge,” and the moniker Bluish Paper entered philatelic lexicon permanently.

All Bluish Paper stamps were printed from plates of 400 subjects on the Hoe & Company four-plate intaglio press, which increased the speed of production through simultaneous tasking. The Hoe press had four positions and rotated. For this reason there are at least four plate numbers for each Bluish Paper stamp. Each sheet of 400 was divided into four panes.

Lewis Kaufman records seven plate blocks of the 13¢ Bluish Paper—three from the top, three from the left and one from the bottom. In addition to these plate blocks, there is one complete pane of 100 in private hands (plate number 4942 upper left, ex Weill Brothers’ Stock) and another complete pane (plate number 4945 upper right) is in the “Postmaster General’s Collection” at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, which is the pane reported by Boggs from the Post Office Department files. ■

LOT 210° ★★田

**Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the
15¢ Bluish Paper Issue**

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Pale Ultramarine, Bluish (366), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 4952 block of six, attractive centering and margins, characteristic intense watermark

PROVENANCE

Max L. Simon, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/27-28/1965, Sale 292, lot 482 (as a block of 8)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine; light overall toning

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$30,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Although Lewis Kaufman records 24 plate blocks of the 15¢ Bluish Paper, top positions are rare and very desirable, particularly with Mint N.H. gum. We doubt there are more than a half-dozen Mint N.H. plate blocks extant in total, from all positions on the plate. ■



LOT 211° ★★田

**One of the finest known Mint Never-Hinged full
top plate blocks of the 2¢ Lincoln on Bluish paper**

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Lincoln, Bluish (369), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 4978 block of six, wide margins, the top row with particularly choice centering, deep rich color on deeply blued paper

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; small natural inclusion bottom left stamp

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Mint N.H. full top plate blocks of the 2¢ Lincoln on Bluish are rare and typically off center. This is among the finest we have ever encountered. ■



1910-11 Issue

LOT 212° ★★田

8¢ 1910 Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Olive Green (380), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint, **plate number 5238 and star** block of six, wide margins and choice centering

PROVENANCE

Rudolph G. Wunderlich, Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/9-11/1971, Sale 389, lot 666, to Grunin Louis Grunin, Siegel Auction Galleries, 11-30/1971-12/1/1971, Sale 404, lot 199
Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,200.00



LOT 213° ★★田

10¢ 1910 Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Yellow (381), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint, **plate number 5200 and star** block of six, vivid color, wide margins, fresh

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice; a few perf separations in selvage at top left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,250.00



LOT 214° ★田

Choice full top plate block of the 15¢ 1910 Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,500-2,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Pale Ultramarine (382), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and **plate number 4951** block of six, hinge remnants bottom middle stamp, other five stamps Mint N.H., outstanding centering, fresh color and paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,500.00



1913 Panama-Pacific Issue

LOT 215° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block
of the 2¢ Panama-Pacific Issue

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Panama-Pacific (398), Mint N.H. top plate number
6311 block of six, well-centered, rich color

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1991)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$625.00



LOT 216° ★田

Choice top plate block of the 10¢
Orange Yellow Panama-Pacific Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Orange Yellow, Panama-Pacific (400), top plate
number 6139 block of six, stamps Mint N.H., lightly
hinged in selva only, well-centered with wide
margins, vibrant color, very fresh

PROVENANCE

Joseph E. Lessin, Shreves Philatelic Galleries,
5/31/2002, lot 534, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,250.00 for hinged



LOT 217° ★★田

10¢ Orange Panama-Pacific Issue
Mint N.H. wide top plate block

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Orange, Panama-Pacific (400A), Mint N.H. extra wide top **plate number 6130** block of six, some reinforced perf separations in ungummed part of selvage only at top right, radiant color, well-centered with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Joseph E. Lessin, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 5/31/2002, lot 537, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$18,000.00

LOT 218° ★田

Top plate block of the 2¢ Panama-Pacific Perf 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Panama-Pacific, Perf 10 (402), top **plate number 7034** block of six, stamps Mint N.H., lightly hinged in selvage, radiant color, fresh

PROVENANCE

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 72, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,950.00



LOT 219° ★田

Full top plate block of the
5¢ Panama-Pacific Perf 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Panama-Pacific, Perf 10 (403), full top plate number 6129 block of six, bottom left stamp lightly hinged, others Mint N.H., deep rich color, wide margins and choice centering

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 116, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,800.00



LOT 220° ★田

A superb plate block of the
10¢ Panama-Pacific Perf 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Panama-Pacific, Perf 10 (404), left plate number 6139 block of six, barely hinged if at all, radiant color, outstanding centering throughout with wide margins

PROVENANCE

William L. Moody III, H. R. Harmer sale, 11-8/1950, lot 884

"Southern Cross" collection, Greg Manning Auctions, 3/22-23/1993, lot 977

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00



1912-23 Issues

LOT 221° ★田

Full top plate block of the 7¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

7¢ Black (407), full top **plate number 6919** block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., bottom center stamp lightly hinged, wide margins, intense shade

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,200.00



LOT 222° ★田

Full top plate blocks of the
1¢ and 2¢ 1912 Issue with
Kansas City Roulettes

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Green, 2¢ Carmine, Ty. I, Kansas City Roulettes (408 variety, 409 variety), full top **plate number 6013 and 6464** blocks of six, 1¢ Mint N.H., 2¢ five stamps Mint N.H., bottom center hinge remnant, both with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1¢—1982)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice; each with purple “C.A.S.” in circle back-stamp

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

In December 1914 the Kansas City post office had an over-supply of imperforate stamps, originally intended for vending machines. The supply of stamps was rouletted with women’s dressmaking tracing wheels, and official approval for their release was given by the Post Office Department in Washington. ■



LOT 223° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 9¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

9¢ Salmon Red (415), Mint N.H. full top **plate number 6915** block of six, wide margins and fresh color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,100.00



LOT 224° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 10¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

12¢ Claret Brown (417), Mint N.H. full top **plate number 6910**, block of six, wide margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,050.00



LOT 225° ★田

Full top plate block of the 15¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Gray (418), full top **plate number A 5850** block of six, bottom center stamp hinge remnant, other stamps Mint N.H. or lightly hinged, choice centering and margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; few minor perf separations in top of selvage reinforced with tiny hinge slivers

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$850.00

LOT 226° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the 15¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Gray (418), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **A 5766** block of six, intense shade, attractive margins and centering

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,400.00



LOT 227° ★田

Full top plate block of the 20¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

20¢ Ultramarine (419), full top plate number **6908** block of six, lightly hinged, beautiful centering and margins

PROVENANCE

Weill Brothers' Stock, Christie's RL, 10/12/1989, lot 302

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,000.00



LOT 228° ★田

A superb and extremely rare full top plate block of the 50¢ 1914 Single-Line Watermarked Issue, Scott 421

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Violet (421), full top **plate number 7049** block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., only the top center stamp hinged, deep rich color, truly outstanding centering with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

50¢ Perf 12 Single-Line and Double-Line Watermarks

There is a simple way to differentiate between the two 50¢ Violet Perf 12 1914 Issues, Scott 421 (single-line watermark) and Scott 422 (double-line watermark), without even looking at the watermark. Scott 421 almost always has printing ink offset on the gum (unless it is regummed), and Scott 422 never does.

As a measure of rarity, the Wampler collection had a hinged top plate block of Scott 421, and the Fogelson collection did not have a plate block (both sales were held by Shreves Philatelic Galleries). Our sale of the vast “MLG” collection also did not contain one. The only other top plate block we have offered with full or nearly full selvage was in our 2015 Curtis sale. Lewis Kaufman records only five full top plate blocks available to collectors (excluding the top position in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library). ■



LOT 229° ★田

Full top plate block of the 50¢ 1914 Double-Line Watermarked Issue, Scott 422

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Violet (422), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **A 5749** block of six, hinge remnants straddling two stamps at bottom and between selvage, rich color, well-centered with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; perf separations reinforced between bottom two left stamps and in selvage, negligible light creases in selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,750.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

50¢ Perf 12 Double-Line Watermarked Issue

There is a simple way to differentiate between the two 50¢ Violet Perf 12 1914 Issues, Scott 421 (single-line watermark) and Scott 422 (double-line watermark), without even looking at the watermark. Scott 421 almost always has printing ink offset on the gum (unless it is regummed), and Scott 422 never does. Lewis Kaufman records only nine full top and five bottom plate blocks. ■



LOT 230° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the 5¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Blue (428), Mint N.H. wide top **plate number 7237** block of six, choice centering with wide margins, rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$650.00



LOT 231° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 6¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Red Orange (429), Mint N.H. full top “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint, **plate number 5425 and star** block of six, wide margins and outstanding centering

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; color slightly oxidized

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$875.00



LOT 232° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 9¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

9¢ Salmon Red (432), Mint N.H. full top **plate number 6907** block of six, attractive margins and centering, vibrant color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,150.00

LOT 233° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 15¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Gray (437), Mint N.H. full top plate number 6825 block of six, choice margins and centering, fresh color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,150.00



LOT 234° ★田

Full top plate block of the 20¢ 1914 Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

20¢ Ultramarine (438), full top plate number 6909 block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., only the top center stamp hinged, much better centering than usual for this issue, bright color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00





LOT 235° ★田

**A rare full top plate block of the 50¢ 1915
Perf 10 Issue, Scott 440**

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Violet (440), full top **plate number 7057** block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., top center stamp hinge remnant, wide margins and choice centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$13,000.00



Female employees operating perforating machines at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing



LOT 236° ★田

A rare full top plate block of the \$1.00 1915 Perf 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Violet Black (460), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **A 5782** block of six, four stamps Mint N.H., center stamps lightly hinged, wide margins, the top row with particularly choice centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; natural diagonal gum bend

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$11,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Change from Perf 12 to 10

In 1914, six years into production of the Washington-Franklin series, the perforations were altered to gauge 10 on all sides. The change was made in response to complaints from postmasters and users that the Perf 12 stamps separated too easily, a problem encountered on earlier coil stamps. The weakened and separated sheets made it difficult for local postmasters to properly account for stock, and businesses lost time putting stamps on parcels when multiples fell apart.

The Bureau had previously experimented with Perf 8.5 stamps for coils to resolve the same problem. These were found to be too hard to separate, so the Bureau settled on Perf 10 for the new gauge. Johl notes that the first machine was set to gauge 10 on September 4, 1914, and that the last machine was set on November 4 of the same year.

Lewis Kaufman records only twelve top and six bottom plate blocks available to collectors (excluding the top position in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library). Plate 5782 was the only plate prepared for each of the \$1.00 Franklin issues (Scott 423, 460, 478 and 518). ■



LOT 237° ★田
Full top plate block of
the 2¢ Type I 1915 Issue
ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Pale Carmine Red (461), full top plate number 7265 block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., only the top center stamp and selvage above hinged, attractive margins and centering, rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES	SCOTT VALUE (2019)
Very Fine	\$1,500.00



LOT 238° ★★田
Mint N.H. full top
3¢ 1916 plate block
ESTIMATE
\$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Violet (464), Mint N.H. full top plate number 7253 block of six, wide margins and well-centered, post office fresh, deep rich color and bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES	SCOTT VALUE (2019)
Very Fine and choice	\$2,500.00



LOT 239° ★★田
Mint N.H. 4¢ 1916 full
top plate block
ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Orange Brown (465), Mint N.H. full top plate number 7331 block of six, wide margins and well-centered, deep rich color on bright fresh paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES	SCOTT VALUE (2019)
Very Fine and choice	\$1,100.00



LOT 240° ★★田
Mint N.H. 6¢ 1916
full top plate block
ESTIMATE
\$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

6¢ Red Orange (468), Mint N.H. full top plate number 7137 block of six, wide margins and very choice centering, bright color showing just a bit of oxidation

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES	SCOTT VALUE (2019)
Very Fine and choice	\$2,500.00

LOT 241° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the 8¢ 1916 Issue

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Olive Green (470), Mint N.H. full top “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint and plate number **A 5724** block of six, wide margins and wonderfully well-centered, post-office fresh color and paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,050.00



LOT 242° ★田

Choice full top plate block of the 9¢ 1916 Issue

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

9¢ Salmon Red (471), full top plate number **6915** block of six, four stamps Mint N.H., hinge remnant straddling two stamps, beautiful centering and margins, bright color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$750.00



LOT 243° ★★田

A rare Mint Never-Hinged bottom plate block of the 15¢ 1916 Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

15¢ Gray (475), Mint N.H. bottom plate number **6809** block of six, fresh color, well-centered with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,250.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 15¢ 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10 is exceedingly difficult to find as a plate block in Mint N.H. condition. A review of our records reveals that we have never sold one from any position since 1993. We are aware of only two full top plate blocks in Mint N.H. condition—formerly in the Fogelson and Wampler collections. ■



DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange Red, Perf 10 (476A), Mint N.H. bottom **plate number 6917** block of six from lower right pane, centered to left

PROVENANCE

As pane of 100 (Plate 6917 Lower Right):

Percy McGraw Mann, pane of 100, Plate 6917, discovered in 1917

The Philatelic Foundation certificate 547 (1947) to Robson Lowe

Jack E. Molesworth, resubmitted the pane to P.F. in 1960 (reportedly acquired from New Jersey collector James Hughes)

R. D. Brown, Arizona collector (from Jack Molesworth, pane broken into blocks and singles by 1972), sold to Nagel

As plate block:

Lawson Nagel, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1993 Rarities of the World, 11/20/1993, Sale 755, lot 272

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 252, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

One of four recorded plate blocks—the only bottom position

American Philatelist (March 1961, full pane pictured on front cover)

Opinions V, The Philatelic Foundation, 1988

Ken Lawrence, “The Stamp of Controversy,” 2015 *Linn’s* online

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (pane—1947, 1960; plate block—1972)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine; a few minor telescoped perfs at bottom

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$80,000.00

LOT 244° ★★田

**The unique bottom plate block of the
30¢ 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10 Issue**

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Missing Watermark

The 30¢ Orange Red Perf 10 Unwatermarked Issue, Scott 476A, was discovered in 1917 and was reported to the philatelic press by stamp dealer Percy McGraw Mann, who is also known for his role in selling William Robey’s Inverted Jenny sheet to Colonel Green through fellow dealer Eugene Klein. An early believer in the stamp was Benjamin K. Miller, who acquired a margin block of four in 1918 (*Rarity Revealed: The Benjamin K. Miller Collection*, Trepel-Lawrence, p. 126). A comprehensive analysis and survey of the issue was written by Ken Lawrence and included a concise summary of the production history of the 30¢ Franklin stamps (“The Stamp of Controversy,” *Linn’s* 7/1/2015). We quote:

Stamps of the 30¢ Franklin design were first issued in April 1914, primarily to use on parcels after dedicated parcel post stamps had been phased out. Four 400-subject plates were prepared and sent to press—Nos. 6899, 6911, 6914 and 6917. At that time, gauge 12 was the perforation standard, and stamp paper included single-line watermarks. Those stamps are listed as Scott 420. A few months later, the same plates went back to press. By the time those prints were finished and issued in September 1914, gauge 10 had become the perforation standard, listed as Scott 439. A third printing in June 1916, about two months before the change to unwatermarked paper, replenished the depleted inventory with another Scott 439 batch. The fourth printing of the same four plates occurred from March 13 to 17, 1917, after the switch to unwatermarked paper. The BEP had begun to replace worn-out gauge 10 perforating wheels with new gauge 11 wheels at that time, but did not complete the changeover until May 10. It’s likely that some of the printed sheets were finished on one or more old perforators, yielding stamps now listed as Scott 476A...

Official Bureau records do not specifically identify a printing of the 30¢ value on unwatermarked paper that was perforated gauge 10. However, in the past 100 years two panes of 100 each (200 stamps in all) have surfaced—both of which have been certified by The Philatelic Foundation—clearly attesting to the existence of such a variety. The first pane discovered was a lower right pane from Plate 6917, which was first certified by the P.F. in 1947. This pane had plate blocks at the bottom (offered here) and at right. The second pane discovered was an upper right pane from Plate 6911 with plate blocks at the top (ex Fogelson) and at right (ex Hall). These four plate blocks come from these two panes, and the bottom and top positions are each unique. A bottom Plate 6914 single has been certified, obviously from a different pane. ■

LOT 245° ★★田

**One of the finest centered blocks of the
30¢ 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10 Issue**

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000



DESCRIPTION

30¢ Orange Red, Perf 10 (476A), Positions 32-33/42-43, Mint N.H. block of four from the discovery Plate 6917 pane of 100, vivid color, exceptional centering for this issue—the vast majority of known examples are off center

PROVENANCE

As pane of 100 (Plate 6917 Lower Right):

Percy McGraw Mann, pane of 100, Plate 6917, discovered in 1917

The Philatelic Foundation certificate 547 (1947) to Robson Lowe

Jack E. Molesworth, resubmitted the pane to P.F. in 1960 (reportedly acquired from New Jersey collector James Hughes)

R. D. Brown, Arizona collector (from Jack Molesworth, pane broken into blocks and singles by 1972), sold to Nagel

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (pane—1947, 1960; block—1988)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$23,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Exceptionally Choice 30¢ Unwatermarked Perf 10

The history of the 30¢ 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10, Scott 476A, is provided in the description of lot 244, the bottom plate block from Plate 6917 (Lower Right pane). This block of four originates from the same pane, which was discovered in 1917 and certified in 1947.

Two complete panes of 100 of Scott 476A have been certified by The Philatelic Foundation and subsequently broken up into singles, blocks and four plate blocks. Many of the stamps from the lower right pane of 100 from Plate 6917 are centered to the left. This block is exceptional for that pane, as all four stamps are well-centered with wide margins. Position 32, the upper left stamp in this block, is very choice. Interestingly, one of the finest centered stamps from the Plate 6911 pane of 100 is also from Position 32 (graded VF-XF 85 by The Philatelic Foundation). ■



LOT 246° ★田

Bottom plate block of the 50¢ 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10 Issue—a stellar example of one of the rarest 20th century plate blocks

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Light Violet (477), bottom **plate number 7057** block of six, bottom stamps Mint N.H., top stamps lightly hinged, deep rich color, choice margins and centering

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1993 Rarities of the World, 11/20/1993, Sale 755, lot 273

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice, bottom left stamp light pencil notation on gum

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$65,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

A Brief Concurrence of Paper and Perforation

The 50¢ Franklin on unwatermarked paper with 10-gauge perforations was available in post office stocks for a very brief period in 1917, because it was released shortly before the introduction of the new Perf 11 series. Its predecessors—the 50¢ Perf 12 on single and double-line watermarked paper (Scott 421 and 422), and the Perf 10 on single-line watermarked paper (Scott 440)—were available for much longer periods of time.

Lewis Kaufman records only seven plate number blocks of Scott 477, including top 7040, top 7049 (ex Fogelson), top 7057 (in the Miller collection, The New York Public Library), bottom 7057 (offered here, 1993 Rarities sale), bottom 7057 (ex Todd and Wampler), right 7040 (ex Curtis) and right 7057. ■



LOT 247° ★田

One of the finest known full top plate blocks of the \$1.00 1916 Unwatermarked Perf 10 Issue—rarely found with such a wide top margin

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Violet Black (478), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **A 5782** block of six, five stamps Mint N.H., only the bottom center stamp hinged, nearly perfect centering, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Weill Brothers’ Stock, Christie’s Robson Lowe, 10/12/1989, lot 305
Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$11,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Selvage Size Matters

Plate 5782 was the only plate used to print the \$1.00 Franklin (Scott 423, 460, 478 and 518). Lewis Kaufman records 13 available top plate number blocks of Scott 478 (plus four bottom plate blocks), but not all of these are full tops as several have reduced selvage (there is a top position in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library). ■



LOT 248° ★田

**A choice bottom plate block of the \$1.00 Violet Black 1916 Unwatermarked
Perf 10 Issue**

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Violet Black (478), bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING”
imprint and plate number A 5782 block of six, five stamps Mint N.H.,
top center stamp hinge remnant, remarkably precise centering, bright
and fresh

PROVENANCE

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 252,
to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$11,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Remarkable Centering

Plate 5782 was the only plate used to print the \$1.00
Franklin (Scott 423, 460, 478 and 518). Lewis Kaufman
records 13 available top plate number blocks and four bot-
tom plate blocks of Scott 478 (there is a top position in the
Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library).
This bottom plate block has particularly choice centering
and is one of the finest of the small number known. ■



LOT 249° ★田

Top plate block of the \$2.00 Madison Perf 10

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Dark Blue (479), top plate number 8015 block of six, lightly hinged, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$4,000.00

LOT 250° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the \$5.00 Marshall Perf 10

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Light Green (480), Mint N.H. wide top plate number 8016 block of six, fresh color on bright white paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00





Lot 251

LOT 251° ★/★★田

A spectacular imperforate block of 36 with the double 5¢ Carmine transfer errors from the upper left quadrant of the sheet

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Carmine, Imperforate, Error (485), Positions UL 74/84 Plate 7942, **double error** in a block of 36 with left **sheet margin and full arrow**, the **errors are Mint N.H.**, one stamp in the surrounding block of 12 lightly hinged, very fresh

CERTIFICATION

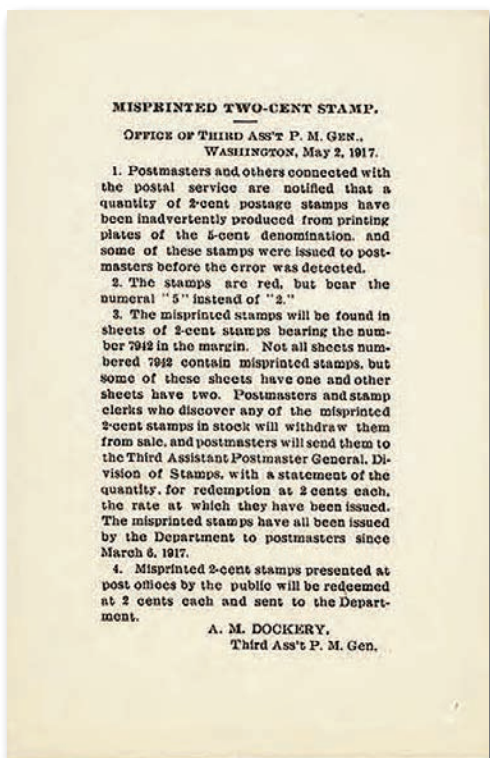
The Philatelic Foundation (1991)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$28,000.00 as two Mint N.H. singles



May 2, 1917, official notice from Third Assistant Postmaster General recalling 5¢ errors

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Wrong Value Produced the Wrong Color

During the course of production of the normal 2¢ plate—Plate 7942—three subjects were noted to be weakly transferred: Positions 74 and 84 in the upper left quadrant, and Position 18 in the lower right. The plate was sent back to the siderographer, who burnished out the three entries and re-entered them. Instead of the 2¢ transfer roll, he mistakenly used the 5¢ transfer roll for the 2¢ plate. The sheets were printed in the normal 2¢ Red color, but three stamps in each sheet of 400 were 5¢ stamps, which were normally printed in blue—that is how the 5¢ Red errors came to be.

The misentered plate and the sheets produced from it passed unnoticed, and the 5¢ error stamps were issued to the public. The largest number of sheets to reach collectors were perforated 11 (Scott 505). A smaller number were perforated 10 (Scott 467). The rarest of the errors are the imperforate stamps (Scott 485). On May 2, 1917, the Third Assistant Postmaster General sent out a printed notice informing postmasters of the error and recalling the “misprinted” sheets, but by then the red cats were out of the bag.

The largest group of sheets discovered at one time were all imperforate, but they never made it to collectors. 755 imperforate sheets of 400 stamps (2,265 errors) were on their way to a company for private perforating when they were found in the Chicago post office and returned to Washington, D.C., for destruction. Three of the Chicago sheets were kept for the National Philatelic Collection.

Philip H. Ward, Jr. later reported that he bought two sheets from John Klemann, a New York dealer, who said he acquired them from Joseph Leavy, curator of the national collection, but Klemann may have been lying about his source, since he was involved in the purchase and sale of the New York find of imperforate sheets—48 sheets of 400, also intended for private perforating. The hoard was found in a New York post office and bought in two stages (25 and 23) by Edgar Nelton, a stamp dealer. He and a partner named George Tuttle sought financing from Klemann and accepted becoming one-quarter partners (whether it was one-quarter each or together is unclear). Sometime later, Klemann reported to his partners that he sold most of the sheets to Col. Edward H. R. Green. Years later, Nelton’s account reflected his bitterness over what he considered to be a poor financial outcome from the discovery and Klemann’s role in the sale. It does not take much imagination to see that Klemann told his partners one thing and did another, taking more than his share by underreporting profits.

An excellent series of articles on the 5¢ error by Kevin Lowther was published in 2012 in the *U.S. Specialist* and is available online to members. We recommend it to anyone who wants to know more about this fascinating episode of philatelic history—and we recommend this block as an impressive example of the double error in a large multiple. ■



LOT 252° ★田

Full top plate block of the 2¢ Deep Rose, Type Ia

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Deep Rose, Type Ia (500), full top **plate number 10208** block of six, lightly hinged, deep rich color, attractive margins and centering

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine centering; top right stamp small picked out inclusion at bottom

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Full top plate blocks of Scott 500 from the experimental Type Ia plate are very rare. We have offered a couple dozen top plate blocks, as well as complete panes, and nearly all have narrow selvage and are typically off center. ■



LOT 253° ★田

Wide top plate block of the \$1.00 Perf 11 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Violet Brown (518), wide top “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint and **plate number A 5782** block of six, stamps Mint N.H., hinged only in the selvage, well-centered with wide margins, bright and fresh

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,300.00



LOT 254° ★田

Rare 1917 2¢ Double-Line Watermarked Perf 11 Plate Block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine (519), bottom “**BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING**” imprint and **plate number 4848** block of six, four stamps Mint N.H., center stamps hinge remnant, rich color, attractive margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1977)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine-Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This stamp was created in 1917 when a small excess supply of the imperforate, double-line watermarked Scott 344 was returned by the New York City post office to the BEP for credit. Rather than issue a credit, the BEP perforated the sheets, using the then current Perf 11 gauge and returned them to the New York City post office for sale. ■

LOT 255° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged full top plate block of the \$2.00 Orange Red & Black

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Orange Red & Black (523), Mint N.H. full top **plate numbers 8179/8177 and arrow** block of eight, choice centering and margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; some slight oxidation, natural crease in selvage

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$22,500.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The \$2.00 and \$5.00 1918 Issue are the first bicolored dollar-denominated postage stamps issued by the United States. Both were released just three months after the famous 1918 24¢ Inverted Jenny, but the early printings were issued in small quantities, since stocks of the earlier \$2.00 and \$5.00 issues were still on hand.

According to Johl, the \$2.00 Orange Red & Black was a color error on the part of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The official description and order for the bicolor stamps specified “Red and Black” for the \$2.00. When subsequent printings appeared in 1920 and philatelists brought the matter to the attention of the Bureau, they were told “this stamp has always been this color” (Johl, p. 306). From studies of Bureau and Post Office records, it is clear that the originally intended color was not issued until November 1920 (Scott 547), and that the earlier Orange Red stamps were mistakes. The quantity issued has been variously estimated at between 47,000 and 68,000. ■

LOT 256° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the \$5.00 Deep Green & Black Franklin Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,500-2,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Deep Green & Black (524), Mint N.H. top **plate numbers 8179/8178 and arrow** block of eight, deep rich colors, much better centering than typically seen in this issue

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,500.00





LOT 257° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged wide top plate block of the 2¢ Carmine Type V Imperforate Offset Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Ty. V, Imperforate (533), Mint N.H. wide top **plate number 11893** block of six, vivid color, large margins all around

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,800.00

LOT 258° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate blocks of the 1¢ and 2¢ Rotary Perf 11 x 10 Issue, Imperforate Horizontally

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500



DESCRIPTION

1¢ Green, 2¢ Carmine Rose, Rotary Perf 11 x 10, Vertical Pair, Imperforate Horizontally (538a, 540a), Mint N.H. top **plate nos. 13611 and 13740** blocks of six, vivid colors, wide margins and well-centered

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

1¢ Extremely Fine; 2¢ Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,625.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

In 1919 a plan was launched to salvage the leading or trailing scraps left over from rotary press printings by turning them into sheet stamps for distribution. Coil waste was perforated 10 in one direction on the rotary press perforator. It was then perforated 11 in the other direction, using the line perforator normally used for flat-plate printings, producing Scott 538, 539 and 540. The unfinished horizontally imperforate sheets (Scott Nos. 538a and 540a) were acquired by Edward C. Worden, who sold them through J. M. Bartels in 1922. ■



LOT 259° ★田

Top plate block of the 2¢ Carmine Rose Type II, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine Rose, Type II, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 (539), top plate number **7463** and “**S20**” block of four, lightly hinged, rich color, centered to left but with perfs clear, virtually all Scott 539 stamps are off center and most more severely than this block

PROVENANCE

Max L. Simon, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/27-28/1965, Sale 292, lot 583

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 290, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1963)

CONDITION NOTES

Sound and Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$17,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Valuable Stamp Waste

At the beginning or end of a coil-stamp print run from the 170-subject rotary plates, some leading or trailing paper was left over that was too short for rolling into 500-stamp rolls. In 1919 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing devised an economical plan to salvage this waste by converting the leftovers from coil stamps into sheet stamps.

This was accomplished by creating panes with perforations from the coil perforator in one direction and applying perforations in the other direction on the line perforator normally used for flat-plate sheet and booklet stamps. Fully perforated rotary waste stamps have either compound gauge perforations—in this case, 11 by 10—or are Perforated 11 all around.

The 2¢ Type III design was produced on the rotary press in large quantities. The Type II is scarce as a Perf 10 horizontal coil (Scott 491), and the sheet stamps made from the Type II horizontal coil waste (Scott 539) are also quite rare.

Achieving a precisely perforated product was difficult since coil waste sheets were put through two different perforating machines and the coil waste had a natural tendency to curl. Plate blocks of Scott 539 are very rare and invariably off center. We located four with Power Search, and none of them were centered. ■



LOT 260° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the 2¢ Carmine Rose Type III, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine Rose, Ty. III, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 (540), Mint N.H. top plate number 13657
block of four, vivid color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,450.00

LOT 261° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the 2¢ Carmine Rose Type III, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 Issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine Rose, Ty. III, Rotary Perf 11 x 10 (540), Mint N.H. top plate number 14031 and star block of six, interpane margin at left with joint line, glowing color, well-centered

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,960.00 as a plate block of four and two singles



LOT 262° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the \$2.00 Carmine & Black Franklin Issue

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

\$2.00 Carmine & Black (547), Mint N.H. top plate nos. 8179/8177
block of eight, deep rich colors, outstanding centering with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block; natural gum creases

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$6,000.00

1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary Issue

LOT 263° ★★田

A superb Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the 5¢ Pilgrim Tercentenary

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

5¢c Pilgrim Tercentenary (550), Mint N.H. top plate number F 12427 block of six, outstanding centering with wide margins, deep rich colors, post office fresh in every respect

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves sale, 9/30/2005, lot 84, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$675.00



1922-29 Fourth Bureau Issue



LOT 264° ★★田

Gem Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the \$5.00 1922 Issue

ESTIMATE \$1,500-2,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Carmine & Blue (573), Mint N.H. top plate nos. F14326/F14327 block of eight, deep rich colors, outstanding centering with wide margins

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine Gem plate block

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,600.00



LOT 265° ★★田

Remarkable wide top plate block of the \$5.00 Carmine Lake & Dark Blue 1922 Issue, missing the vignette plate number and marginal markings

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

\$5.00 Carmine Lake & Dark Blue (573a variety), Mint N.H. wide top block of eight with Carmine Lake frame plate number F14327 only, missing the Dark Blue vignette plate number F14326, the \$5.00 denomination and the Dark Blue marker, deep rich colors, choice centering with wide margins

PROVENANCE

First surfaced in a May 1975 Richard Wolffs sale
Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 6/21-22/1996, lot 847, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1982)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Missing Vignette Plate Number

This is one of only two recorded plate blocks of the \$5.00 1922 Issue missing the vignette plate number, and it is by far the finer of the two (the other has faults). Close examination detects only a single dot of blue ink in the selvage at left, without a trace of the plate number, the \$5.00 denomination or the usual blue markers at center. The reason for the error is unclear. It has been speculated that foreign matter adhered to the plate, causing the blue plate number to fail to print, but we disagree, since the other blue markings normally found in the selvage are also missing. The existence of two examples also supports the conclusion that this numberless vignette plate was used briefly, and then the number was added before additional sheets were printed. ■



LOT 266° ★田

Plate blocks of 20 of the four highest 1922 Issue denominations, signed by postal officials

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

50¢-\$5.00 1922 Issue (570-573), plate number blocks of 20 of the 50¢, \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00 stamps, as follows:

50¢ top "F14044" plate number with selvage at right, interpane margin at left, with pencil "#3" and signed "L A Hill Director" and "Irving Glover, Acting P.M.G. Nov. 11/22", lightly hinged

\$1.00 bottom plate numbers 14268 with arrow and siderographer's initials "J. L. H." at left and "J. W. G." at right, selvage signed "L A Hill Director", "Herbert Work Postmaster General Feby. 12, 1923" and "Irving Glover, 3rd Asst. P.M.G.", lightly hinged

\$2.00 bottom plate numbers 14306 with arrow and "J.C.F." siderographer's initials at left, signed "L A Hill Director", "Irving Glover, 3rd Asst. P.M.G. 3/20/23" and "H. S. N. P. M. G.", lightly hinged

\$5.00 top arrow, marker and double plate numbers F14326/F14327, signed "L A Hill Director", "H. S. N. P. M. G." and "Irving Glover, 3rd Asst. P.M.G. 3/20/23", the signatures are outside of the plate block of eight, lightly hinged, deep shades

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1984 Rarities of the World, 4/14/1984, Sale 632, lot 452

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; 50¢ filled-in thin spot above plate number; \$1.00 light diagonal crease in selvage and tear around one perf in left selvage; \$2.00 two stamps natural paper wrinkle, few perf separations sensibly reinforced in selvage; \$5.00 small flaw in stamp below red plate number

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Each was signed on the date of issue. The signatures on the first day of issue help to document the colors as they appeared on the initial printing. A similar set is in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. ■



LOT 267° ★★田

Mint Never-Hinged plate block of Scott 578

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Green, Rotary (578), Mint N.H. top **star and plate number 14661** block of four, choice centering for this difficult rotary press issue, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine and choice

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,750.00



LOT 268° ★田

A beautiful plate block of Scott 579

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

2¢ Carmine, Rotary (579), top **plate number 14456 and star** block of four, showing full guideline along perforations at left, top left stamp small spot on gum that by today's standards would be called previously hinged, choice centering for this difficult rotary press issue, rich color

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 243, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; slight indentation on gum of bottom left stamp from erased pencil notation

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$550.00



LOT 269° ★★田

Stunning plate block of the 7¢ Kansas overprint

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

7¢ Kans. Overprint (665), Mint N.H. top right corner **plate number 18740** block of four, gorgeous centering throughout, intense shade and impression

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 265, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$700.00

LOT 270° ★★田

A superb plate block of the 8¢ Kansas overprint

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Kans. Overprint (666), Mint N.H. top left corner **plate number 18191** block of four, beautiful centering with well-balanced margins, wonderful color

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 266, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$925.00



LOT 271° ★★田

A gorgeous plate block of the 1½¢ Nebraska overprint

ESTIMATE \$200-300

DESCRIPTION

1½¢ Nebr. Overprint (670), Mint N.H. bottom left corner **plate number 19192** block of four, unusually choice centering, deep rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 138

F. Christian Killien, M.D., Spink Shreves Galleries, 3/10-12/2010, lot 817, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$95.00



LOT 272° ★★田

A 3¢ Nebraska plate block with remarkable color and centering

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

3¢ Nebr. Overprint (672), Mint N.H. bottom left corner **plate number 18803** block of four, phenomenal centering, intense color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

F. Christian Killien, M.D., Spink Shreves Galleries, 3/10-12/2010, lot 819, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$350.00





LOT 273° ★★田

A superb plate block of the 4¢ Nebraska overprint

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Nebr. Overprint (673), Mint N.H. bottom right corner **plate number 18038** block of four, beautiful centering throughout, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 269
F. Christian Killien, M.D., Spink Shreves Galleries, 3/10-12/2010, lot 820, to Mr. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2005)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$375.00



LOT 274° ★★田

A select plate block of the 5¢ Nebraska overprint

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Nebr. Overprint (674), Mint N.H. top right corner **plate number 18907** block of four, superior centering, rich color and detailed impression

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 141
F. Christian Killien, M.D., Spink Shreves Galleries, 3/10-12/2010, lot 821, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$400.00



LOT 275° ★★田

A beautiful plate block of the 7¢ Nebraska overprint

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

7¢ Nebr. Overprint (676), Mint N.H. top left corner **plate number 18740** block of four, beautiful centering, intense shade

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 271, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$500.00



LOT 276° ★★田

A stunning 8¢ Nebraska plate block—one of the most difficult to obtain in such superb condition

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

8¢ Nebr. Overprint (677), Mint N.H. bottom left corner **plate number 18191** block of four, each stamp with well-balanced margins, wonderful warm color

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 143, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$550.00

LOT 277° ★★田

A phenomenal 9¢ Nebraska plate block

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

9¢ Nebr. Overprint (678), Mint N.H. top left corner **plate number 18742** block of four, choice centering throughout, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 144, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$675.00



Air Post Issues

LOT 278° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of twelve of the 24¢ 1918 Air Post

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500



DESCRIPTION

24¢ Carmine Rose & Blue, 1918 Air Post (C3), Mint N.H. top arrow, double plate nos. 8493/8492 and two "TOP" block of twelve, as perfect centering as this issue can achieve, bright and fresh

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,000.00

LOT 279° ★★田

A Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 24¢ 1918 Air Post showing the Fast Plane variety with the vignette flying past its allotted space

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000



DESCRIPTION

24¢ Carmine Rose & Blue, 1918 Air Post (C3), Mint N.H. top arrow, double plate nos. 8493/8492 and two "TOP" block of twelve, vignettes shifted strongly to the left, the so-called "fast plane" variety where the wing breaks through the outer frame of the design, well-balanced margins

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1989)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; top left and top right stamps natural gum skips (not noted on accompanying certificate)



LOT 280° ★田

A phenomenal bottom-margin block of four of the 24¢ 1918 Air Post Grounded Plane variety—one of the finest that exists

ESTIMATE \$20,000-30,000

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Carmine Rose & Blue, 1918 Air Post, Grounded Plane Variety (C3 variety), bottom selvage block of four, vignette shifted down with wheels extending below the mid-point of “Cents”—this is known as the Extreme Grounded Plane variety—pristine gum described by the P.F. as “previously hinged,” an opinion with which both Professional Stamp Experts and we disagree—in our opinion, it is Mint N.H., bright fresh colors on brilliant paper

PROVENANCE

“Saddleback” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/22/2007, Sale 935, lot 176

Jay Hoffman, Siegel Auction Galleries, 5/8-9/2008, Sale 956, lot 535, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2003) as previously hinged, and harshly describing bottom left stamp with a small internal crease

Professional Stamp Experts (2003) as Mint N.H., lower left stamp with a light natural wrinkle, which is more accurate

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Lieutenant Boyle’s Grounded Plane

The world’s first regular government airmail service was inaugurated in the United States on May 15, 1918. Planes were scheduled to take off simultaneously from New York and Washington, D.C., each stopping at Philadelphia on the three-city relay route. The plane out of the nation’s capital was piloted by Lieutenant George Boyle, who had limited flying experience, but whose future father-in-law was the well-connected head of the Interstate Commerce Commission. With a crowd of onlookers and dignitaries, including President Woodrow Wilson and the First Lady, the north-bound flight took off from Potomac Park field, behind schedule and headed south. The young pilot, wondering why things on the ground did not look quite right, crashed the plane in a farmer’s field in Maryland, and the mail was carried back to Washington on wheels for the next day’s flight.

The Grounded Plane stamps, in which the wheels of the plane break through the top of “Cents”, come from portions of three sheets. The discovery sheet was owned and broken up by John Klemann of Nassau Stamp Company. A second sheet was discovered in 1946 and sold in the Thomas A. Matthews sale (H. R. Harmer 11/4/1964), where it was purchased by Georges A. Medawar, publisher of *Sanabria Airmail Catalogue*. In *Linn’s* 4/21/1986, specialist Joseph R. Kirker, Jr. published his research revealing the existence of a third source of this variety. All known sheets are from the first printing, which produced the world famous Inverted Jenny error. The first printing has selvage at bottom and left, and was trimmed to remove the top and right selvage; therefore, a plate block cannot exist. ■



LOT 281° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 16¢ 1923 Air Post

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

16¢ Dark Blue, 1923 Air Post (C5), Mint N.H. full top plate number 14829 block of six, choice centering, deep rich color and detailed impression on bright paper

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,000.00

LOT 282° ★★田

One of the finest Mint Never-Hinged plate blocks of the 24¢ 1923 Air Post in existence

ESTIMATE \$3,000-4,000

DESCRIPTION

24¢ Carmine, 1923 Air Post (C6), Mint N.H. full top plate number 14840 block of six, perfectly centered, intense shade and proof-like impression on bright paper

PROVENANCE

James H. Gray, Jr., Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 9/30/2005, lot 153, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; absolutely flawless

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,500.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Top position plate blocks are extremely difficult to obtain in Mint N.H. condition with superior centering. We have offered only nine Mint N.H. top position plate blocks since keeping computerized records, and none compare favorably to the example offered here. The Fogelson collection, known for its quality top plate blocks, had one in lightly hinged condition. ■



LOT 283° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged
matched set of top plate blocks
of the Graf Zeppelin issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

65¢-\$2.60 Graf Zeppelin (C13-C15), Mint N.H. full top **plate number blocks** of six, 65¢ plate number F 20079, \$1.30 plate number F 20087, \$2.60 plate number 20090, choice centering throughout with well-balanced margins, rich colors

PROVENANCE

Dr. Frederick S. Fogelson, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 2/11/2005, lot 287, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; \$1.30 and \$2.60 few small natural gum skips as often found on this issue

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$15,200.00

Special Delivery Issues



LOT 284° ★田

A magnificent plate block of ten of the 10¢ 1888 Special Delivery with extra wide top selvage

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Blue, Special Delivery (E2), wide top left corner block of ten with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 552” plate number, stamps Mint N.H., lightly hinged only in gummed part of selvage, choice centering with wide margins, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

“Southern Cross” collection, Greg Manning Auctions, 3/22-23/1993, lot 1105

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1983)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$19,800.00 as hinged plate block of eight and two Mint N.H. singles

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Speedy Messenger

The second Special Delivery stamp, Scott E2, was made from two plates—numbered 552 and 73. Plate 552 was made first and was numbered in the series of 1882; Plate 73 was numbered in the series of 1890. There are perhaps ten known of the 1888 Issue, Scott E2, of which about half come from top positions. The same plates were used to print the Orange Special Delivery issue, Scott E3, which was issued in conjunction with the 1893 Columbian Issue. The plate block offered here is one of the finest we have ever encountered. ■



LOT 285° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 1893 10¢ Columbian Special Delivery Issue

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Orange, Special Delivery (E3), Mint N.H. wide bottom corner selvage block of eight with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 552” plate number, choice centering, radiant color

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; tiny hinge reinforcements on the ungummed face side, tiny perf thin in selvage at lower left

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$16,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1893 Columbian Special Delivery Issue

There are perhaps a dozen plate blocks known of the 1893 Issue, Scott E3, which is an extension of the Columbian Issue commemoratives. Two plates were used to print this issue—the same two plates that were used to print Scott E2. Our informal survey of the records of The Philatelic Foundation and auction catalogues found ten, plus two contained in a pane which may no longer be intact. The plate block offered here is one of only two we could find from the bottom right position of Plate 552. ■



LOT 286° ★★田

A rare Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 10¢ 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau Special Delivery Issue

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Blue, Special Delivery (E4), Mint N.H. wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **77** block of six, better centering than normally seen on plate blocks of this issue, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1966 Rarities of the World, 2/24/1966, lot 146

Eliot Weisman, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 5/8/1998, lot 1300, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1990)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; small hole at top of left selvage next to the plate outline

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$29,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The First Bureau Special Delivery Issue

There are perhaps a dozen plate blocks known of the 1894 Issue, E4. Only one plate number was used for this issue—Plate 77. This was issued concurrently with the 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau Issue (Scott 245-263). The difficulties experienced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing during their early attempts at producing postage stamps are well known to collectors. Poor centering and numerous unpunched perforations are the norm for this issue.

Our informal survey of the records of The Philatelic Foundation and auction catalogues found ten plate blocks. Only one other is in Mint N.H. condition; it also has wide selvage, but the perforations touch the design on the bottom stamps. ■



LOT 287° ★田

A beautiful wide top plate block of the 10¢ 1895 Watermarked Bureau Special Delivery Issue

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Blue, Special Delivery (E5), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 1257 block of six, bottom center stamp and ungummed selvage lightly hinged, deep rich color, proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 401, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00

LOT 288° ★田

A rare plate block of Scott E5 from Plate 882, showing dots in curved line above messenger

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Blue, Special Delivery, Dot in Curved Frame Above Messenger (E5a), wide bottom “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 882 block of six, top stamps lightly hinged, others Mint N.H., gorgeous centering, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Siegel Auction Galleries, 1995 Rarities of the World, 6/5/1995, Sale 767, lot 309, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$5,000.00 as normal plate block without premium for the variety



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Only stamps from Plate 882 show the dots in frame that are found on the earlier American Bank Note Co. stamps (Scott E1-E3). The Bureau of Engraving and Printing removed the dots from the transfer rolls used to make the Special Delivery plates, except for Plate 882, which was made from a transfer roll with the dots left intact. This is one of only two plate blocks from this plate we have been able to locate with assistance from Lewis Kaufman. ■



LOT 289° ★田

Beautiful top plate block of the 10¢ Helmet of Mercury Special Delivery issue

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Green, Special Delivery (E7), full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number **4916** block of six, bottom center stamp single hinge mark, others Mint N.H., wide and balanced margins, deep rich color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,075.00

LOT 290° ★田

A superb wide top plate block of the 10¢ Perf 10 1914 Special Delivery

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Ultramarine, Special Delivery (E9), wide top plate number **5854** block of six, lightly hinged, gorgeous centering, remarkably fresh color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1992)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,000.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Scott E9 is known both with and without an imprint. It was issued concurrently with Scott 424-440. Only one plate was used with the imprint. Plate blocks with such full selvage are rare, especially from the desirable top position. We have offered only three others since keeping computerized records, including one with faults and one with gum wrinkles. The example offered here, in superb condition, is a true rarity. ■



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

This plate block is extremely rare in Mint N.H. condition. This is the first Mint N.H. plate block we have offered since keeping computerized records, and The Philatelic Foundation has never certified one. ■

LOT 291° ★★田

An exceedingly rare Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 10¢ 1916 Perf 10 Unwatermarked Special Delivery issue

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Pale Ultramarine, Special Delivery (E10), Mint N.H. full top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint and plate number 5520 block of six

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$7,250.00

LOT 292° ★田

A scarce wide top plate block of the 10¢ Perf 11 Unwatermarked Special Delivery issue with Type VII imprint

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Ultramarine, Special Delivery (E11), wide top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” Type VII imprint and plate number 5520 block of six, lightly hinged, choice centering with wide margins, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; bottom left stamp trivial natural inclusion

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$725.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 1917 Perf 11 Unwatermarked Special Delivery stamps were printed from plates with and without the Bureau Type VII imprint. Plate blocks with the imprint and plate number are much scarcer than those with just the number. ■

Postage Due Issues

LOT 293° ★★田

**A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged
plate block of the 30¢ 1884
Unwatermarked Postage Due**

ESTIMATE \$2,000-3,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Red Brown (J20), Mint N.H. block of ten from top of pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 332” plate number, rich color and crisp impression

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,250.00 as hinged



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Since we started keeping computerized records, we have offered only two other Mint N.H. plate blocks of this issue—one top and one bottom. ■



LOT 294° ★★田

**The only recorded 30¢ 1891 Bright
Claret Postage Due plate block—in
Mint Never-Hinged condition**

ESTIMATE \$4,000-5,000

DESCRIPTION

30¢ Bright Claret (J27), Mint N.H. block of ten from top of pane with “AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY” imprint and “No. 332” plate number, brilliant color in the distinctive Bright Claret shade

PROVENANCE

Louis Grunin, Siegel Auction Galleries, 11/30/1971, Sale 404, lot 761

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 428, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; a few reinforced perfs in ungummed selvage, light crease in selvage well above the imprint and plate number

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

According to George Arfken's book on Postage Due stamps, in 1891 the American Bank Note Co. switched to a new kind of ink, which included aniline dye. The color is significantly brighter than the older Postage Due issues, and, unlike the older issues, it fluoresces under ultraviolet light. When questioned at the time, the Third Assistant Postmaster General Haven responded in a letter “the changes... are due partly to inappreciable differences in the fibre of the paper... and to mistakes in the mixing of the ink preparatory to printing.”

The high denomination Postage Dues were not used very often. When American Bank Note Co. turned over plates, transfer rolls and stamps on hand to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) in

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$8,700.00 as hinged

1893, there was an ample supply of stamps. The BEP did not release their own 30¢ Postage Due stamps until 1895, after trying to exhaust the existing supply of American Bank Note Co. stamps. It is not known how many were printed in the new Bright Claret color, but it seems reasonable to assume that quantities were extremely limited.

Our exhaustive search of auction records and The Philatelic Foundation failed to find another plate block. The Todd collection, which was probably the most comprehensive plate block collection ever formed, contained a top imprint and plate number strip of six. The Philatelic Foundation has only certified a bottom imprint and plate number strip of six. ■



LOT 295° ★田

A rare plate block of the 1916 1c Perf 10 Unwatermarked Postage Due, Scott J59

ESTIMATE \$5,000-7,500

DESCRIPTION

1c Rose (J59), top “BUREAU, ENGRAVING & PRINTING” imprint, **plate number 5510 and star** block of six, top center stamp lightly hinged, other five stamps and selvage Mint N.H., typical centering for this difficult issue, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 4/24-25/1998, lot 456, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2001)

CONDITION NOTES

Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$30,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Perf 10 and Unwatermarked—A Rare Concurrence

Scott J59 was issued concurrently with its regular issue counterparts, Scott 462-478. These issues were printed on unwatermarked paper. Similar to Scott 476A, a small supply of 1c and 2c Postage Due stamps were also printed on the unwatermarked paper. Perforations were soon changed from gauge 10 to 11, so only a small quantity was printed. It is generally found with poor centering.

Our review of major plate block and Postage Due auctions, including Chapin, Cole, Kobacker, Simon, Todd, and Wampler, revealed only three plate blocks, plus a bottom position in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. The ex-Cole/Drucker plate block and the plate block from our 2012 Rarities sales have been broken into singles, tragically. The remaining plate blocks are:

- 1 Top Plate 5510 block of 6, ex Wampler, **offered in this sale**
- 2 Right Plate 5510 block of 8, ex Grunin
- 3 Top Plate 5522 block of 6, ex Curtis and Siegel 2003 Rarities of the World sale
- 4 Bottom Plate 5541 block of 6, Miller collection, The New York Public Library, **unavailable to collectors.** ■

Offices in China Issues



LOT 296° ★田

Full top plate block of the 12¢ on 6¢ Offices in China

ESTIMATE \$300-400

DESCRIPTION

12¢ on 6¢ Offices in China (K6), full top plate number 7837 block of six, lightly hinged, choice centering throughout

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; some oxidation mostly at top

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$800.00

LOT 297° ★田

Attractive plate block of the 2¢ on 1¢ 1922 Offices in China

ESTIMATE \$400-500

DESCRIPTION

2¢ on 1¢ Offices in China (K17), full top plate number F11729 block of six, top center stamp lightly hinged, others Mint N.H., deep rich color

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$850.00



Parcel Post Issues

LOT 298° ★★田

A beautiful Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 4¢ Parcel Post

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

4¢ Parcel Post (Q4), Mint N.H. full top “FOUR” imprint and plate number 6346 block of six, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 6/21/1996, lot 1092, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; each stamp with few natural gum skips



SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,650.00



LOT 299° ★★田

A Mint Never-Hinged top plate block of the 5¢ Parcel Post

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

5¢ Parcel Post (Q5), Mint N.H. full top plate number 6216 block of six, choice centering throughout, brilliant color

PROVENANCE

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 6/21/1996, lot 1093 to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; top right and top center stamps small natural gum skips

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$1,550.00



LOT 300° ★田

Choice plate block of the 10¢ Parcel Post

ESTIMATE \$500-750

DESCRIPTION

10¢ Parcel Post (Q6), full top **plate number 6163** block of six, tiny hinge reinforcement at top of selvage at left, otherwise Mint N.H., radiant color

PROVENANCE

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 6/21/1996, lot 1094 to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; top left and top right stamps natural gum skips

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$975.00 as hinged; \$1,600.00 as Mint N.H., which it could be if the selvage were slightly reduced by three perf holes

LOT 301° ★★田

A phenomenal Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 20¢ Parcel Post, the first postage stamp in the world to depict an airplane

ESTIMATE \$7,500-10,000

DESCRIPTION

20¢ Parcel Post (Q8), Mint N.H. full top plate number 6192 block of six, superior centering throughout, brilliant color and crisp impression

PROVENANCE

“Southern Cross” collection, Greg Manning Auctions, 3/22-23/1993, lot 1180

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$10,000.00



HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The 20¢ Parcel Post stamp depicts a plane flying over a town, with the label “Aeroplane Carrying Mail.” The stamp was first issued on December 16, 1912, which is almost six years before the first regular government flight to carry mail, on May 15, 1918. It is the first postage stamp anywhere in the world to depict an airplane. The design was probably chosen to promote the potential of airmail, at a time when efforts were being made to persuade Congress to authorize the first airmail service appropriation. Mint N.H. plate blocks of this issue are scarce, especially from the top position; most of the examples we have encountered have small flaws. ■



LOT 302° ★田

A beautiful top plate block of the 25¢ Parcel Post

ESTIMATE \$750-1,000

DESCRIPTION

25¢ Parcel Post (Q9), full top plate number 6173 block of six, stamps Mint N.H., hinge remnants in selvage, well-proportioned margins, rich color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

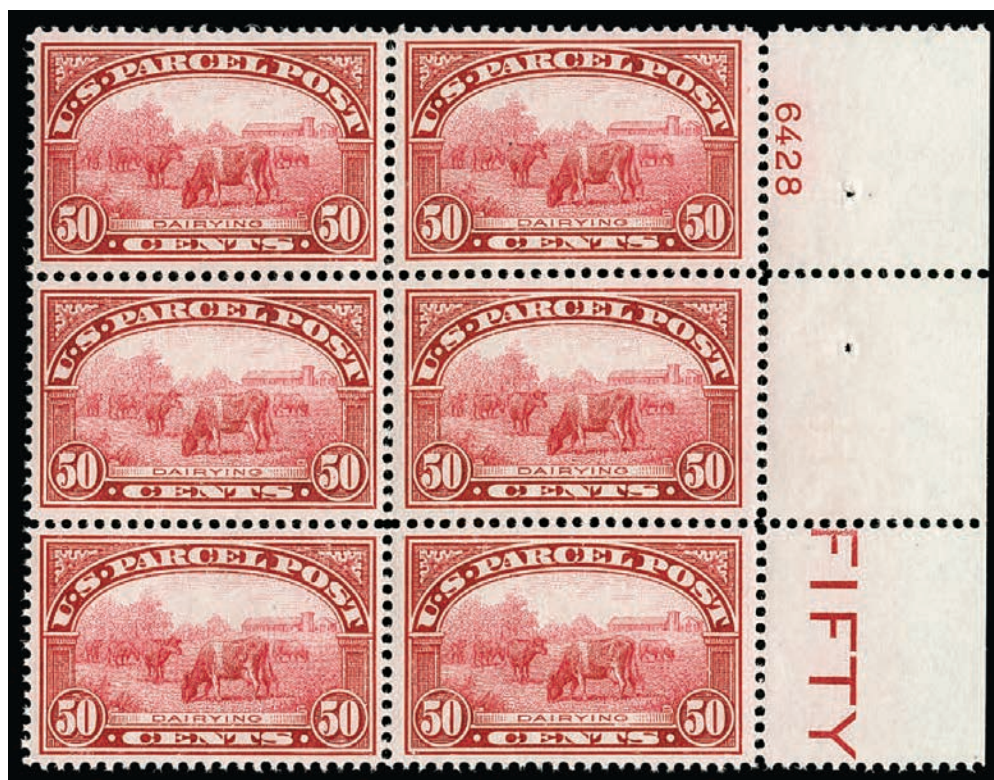
Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 554, to Mr. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine-Extremely Fine; few perf separations in selvage reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$2,450.00



LOT 303° ★★田

Probably the finest Mint Never-Hinged plate block of the 50¢ Parcel Post
in existence

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

50¢ Parcel Post (Q10), Mint N.H. full right “FIFTY” and plate number **6428** block of eight, unusually choice centering throughout, brilliant color and crisp impression on bright paper

PROVENANCE

H. R. Harmer San Francisco, 12/8/1980, lot 353

“MLG” collection, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/21-23/2009, Sale 971, lot 2188, to William H. Gross

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; faint natural gum bend of little consequence, one or two trivial perf separations at top center

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$27,500.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Pastoral Scenes on the Parcel Post Issue

Since the new Parcel Post service was intended to compete with private express companies in transporting farmers' products, the three high values pictured scenes of rural agricultural industry. The 50¢ value paid tribute to American dairy farmers with a bucolic scene of grazing cows.

The Parcel Post issues were printed from plates of 180, consisting of four panes of 45. According to Johl, the uniform color of the twelve denominations confused postal clerks, who complained that they were forced to examine the stamps in detail to ensure they had the correct values. In response, on January 27, 1913, large capital letters were added to the margins near each plate number. At the top and bottom of each plate, the imprint is in the selva next to the plate number; on the sides it is separated by stamp-size blank selva for some values, depending on the length of the imprint. The plate block offered here comes from the upper right pane. ■



LOT 304° ★田

A beautiful 75¢ Parcel Post full top plate block

ESTIMATE \$1,000-1,500

DESCRIPTION

75¢ Parcel Post (Q11), full top **plate number 6287** block of six, stamps
Mint N.H., gorgeous centering, brilliant color on bright paper

PROVENANCE

Paul Cheyney (collection sold privately to Mr. Gross)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine; perf separations in selvage sensibly reinforced

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$3,000.00



LOT 305° ★田

A spectacular full top “ONE DOLLAR” imprint and plate number block of the \$1.00 Parcel Post Issue

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

\$1.00 Parcel Post (Q12), full top “ONE DOLLAR” and plate number **6262** block of six with interpane margin and guide arrow at right, lightly hinged, well-proportioned margins with beautiful centering throughout, deep rich color and proof-like impression

PROVENANCE

Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke sale, 2/7-9/1950, lot 846

Shreves Philatelic Galleries, 6/21/1996, lot 1103, to William H. Gross

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1979)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

SCOTT CATALOGUE VALUE (2019)

\$20,000.00

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

“ONE DOLLAR”

The Parcel Post issues were printed from plates of 180, consisting of four panes of 45. According to Johl, the uniform color of the twelve denominations confused postal clerks, who complained that they were forced to examine the stamps in detail to ensure they had the correct values. In response, on January 27, 1913, large capital letters were added to the margins near each plate number. At the top and bottom of each plate, the imprint is in the selva next to the plate number; on the sides it is separated by stamp-size blank selva for some values, depending on the length of the imprint. This top position plate block comes from the upper left pane, with the guide arrow at right.

We have offered only two others with the “ONE DOLLAR” imprint since keeping computerized records. Both were offered in our sale of the “MLG” collection; one has perforations almost touching the design. The plate block offered here is the finest we have encountered. ■

Balance of the Gross Multiples Collection

LOT 306° ★田

Exceptionally comprehensive and valuable balance of the William H. Gross Plate Block collection, with issues from 1895 to 1931

ESTIMATE \$15,000-20,000

DESCRIPTION

Balance of the William H. Gross Collection of Plate Blocks, 229 plate blocks neatly arranged on stockpages, the most impressive feature is that they are nearly all **top positions with a high percentage displaying wide selvage**, emphasis is on Regular Issues, with strength in Washington-Franklin series, including a nearly complete run of the 1917-19 Perf 11 Issue, also an excellent showing of the 1922 Issue to the \$2.00, better Air Post including the \$1.30 Graf Zeppelin, and other Back-of-Book, centering varies slightly, though many are Very Fine or Extremely Fine, many also Mint N.H., Scott value \$69,090.00, a PDF and spreadsheet inventory of the entire collection are available from our website

End of Sale

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their assistance in providing information and images for this catalogue:

Brian Bleckwenn, The Philatelic Foundation

The Collectors Club of New York

Gordon E. Eubanks, Jr.

Debbie Friedman

Harry (Sonny) Hagendorf, Columbian Stamp Company

Lewis Kaufman, The Philatelic Foundation

Michael Laurence

Ken Lawrence

Hugh J. McMackin

Michael Perlman

David Petruzelli, The Philatelic Foundation

Chad Snee

Scott Tiffney, Director of Information Services/Librarian, American Philatelic Research Library



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PROVENANCE	
★田	Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (sold privately in 1928 through Perry)
	Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman (bought from Nassau Stamp Co. and sold privately to Ward in 1931)
	Frederick Wellington Ayer (sold privately to Duveen through Phillips)
	Stephen D. Bechtel, Sr. (collection sold privately in 1993; block sold privately to Zoellner)
CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES	
★田	Alfred R. Brigham, Daniel F. Kelleher, 12/1/1950, Sale 449, lot 29
	Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/15/1955, lot 129
	Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 186
	Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/19-21/1956, lot 105
★	John C. Chapin (collection sold privately to Shreves and then to William H. Gross, 2002)
	Roland H. Cipolla II, Barry Reiger sale, 4/5/1983, lot 20
	James Ludovic Lindsay, the 26th Earl of Crawford (bought privately; estate sold to Nassau Stamp Co. in 1915)
	Henry J. Duveen (listed in Phillips's November 1922 book)
★田	Herbert R. Duckwall (sold privately to Colson)
	Robert S. Emerson, Daniel F. Kelleher, 10/19/1937, Sale 394, lot 7
	Amos Eno, Harmer, Rooke sale, 7/9/1950, lot 250, to Neinken
	Sen. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen (bought privately from Colson), Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/28/2012, Sale 1020, lot 2, to William H. Gross
★田	Henry C. Gibson, Sr., Ward sale, 6/14-15/1944, lot 33, to Brigham
	Col. Edward H. R. Green (Storrow collection), Harmer, Rooke sale, 5/26-28/1943, lot 105
	Louis Grunin, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/14-15/1976, lot 2089, to Klein
	T. Charlton Henry, Harmer, Rooke sale, 12/14-16/1960, lot 279 (as Scott 78), to Weill (for Phillips, listed in inventory as 78a)
田	Arthur Hind, Phillips-Kennett sale, 11/20-24/1933, lot 110
	Ryohei Ishikawa, Sotheby Parke Bernet sale, 6/24/1980, Sale 46, lot 103
	Ryohei Ishikawa, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/28-29/1993, lot 4, to William H. Gross
	Walter C. Klein, Christie's Robson Lowe sale, 9/27/1988, lot 45, to Zoellner
田	Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., Siegel Auction Galleries, 2/7-8/1968, Sale 327, lot 18
	A. K. McDaniel (sold privately in 1919 through Elliott Perry)
	William L. Moody III, H. R. Harmer sale, 11/27/1950, lot 183, to Jessup
	Mortimer L. Neinken (sold privately to Ishikawa)
P	Saul Newbury, Siegel Auction Galleries, Part 2, 10/17/1961, Sale 244, lot 97,
	Benjamin D. Phillips (bought from Weills out of Ward estate, 1964; Phillips collection sold privately to Weills, 1968)
	A. T. Seymour, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/23/1970, Sale 373, lot 6
	Wharton Sinkler, Eugene Klein sale, 5/17/1940, Sale 117, lot 50, to Ward
P田	Order of U.S. Trust Company, H. R. Harmer sale, 5/27-28/1969, lot 207, to Klein
	Dr. J. Paul Wampler, Shreves sale, 4/24-25/1998, lot 3, to Gross
	Philip H. Ward, Jr. (bought from Gibson, estate sold to Weills in 1963)
	Sir Nicholas Waterhouse, Puttick & Simpson sale, 11/11-14/1924, lot 216
P田	Alan B. Whitman, Siegel Auction Galleries, 1/7/2009, Sale 968, lot 34, to William H. Gross
	George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 40
	Robert Zoellner, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/8-10/1998, Sale 804, lot 21, to William H. Gross
	Siegel Auction Galleries, 1966 Rarities of the World, 2/24/1966, Sale 296, lot 20
P田	Siegel Auction Galleries, 1969 Rarities of the World, 3/25/1969, Sale 350, lot 30
	Siegel Auction Galleries, 1996 Rarities of the World, 5/21/1996, Sale 777, lot 5, to William H. Gross
CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES	
P田	Stanley B. Ashbrook, <i>Special Service</i> , #20, pp. 137-144
	Stanley B. Ashbrook, <i>The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857</i> , 1938 edition, Vol. 1, p. 141 and fig. 16-Q, p. 143
	Dr. Stanley M. Bierman, "Philip H. Ward, Jr.: An Aristocrat of Philately," <i>Chronicle</i> 124, November 1984
	Lester G. Brookman, <i>United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century</i> , Vol. I
P田	Lester G. Brookman, <i>The 1847 Issue of United States Stamps</i> , 1942
	John C. Chapin, <i>A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882</i>

Mortimer L. Neinken, *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861*, fig. 11-P, p. 128

Jonathan W. Rose, *Classic United States Imperforate Stamps*, p. 45

Jonathan W. Rose, *First United States Perforated Stamps—The 1857 Issue*, p.

Philip H. Ward, Jr., “United States Early Unused Blocks 1847-1869,” 1960 *Congress Book*

National Philatelic Museum, 1951, p. 358

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Worthington)

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1926 (Lapham)

TIPEX 1936 exhibition (Ward)

ANPHILEX 1971 “Aristocrats of Philately” (Weill)

INTERPHIL 1976 “Aristocrats of Philately” (Weill)

ANPHILEX 1996 Invited Exhibits (Gross)

Collectors Club of New York “Aristocrats of United States Philately” exhibit, December 2000 (Gross)

World Stamp Show 2016 Court of Honor (Gross)

TIPEX 1936 (Lapham)

World Stamp Show 2016 Court of Honor (Gross)



Col. Edward H. R. Green, his wife Mabel, and their Boston terrier



Hiram E. Deats (1870-1963) as a young man in his office

Credit: Hunterdon County Historical Society



Rep. Ernest R. Ackerman
(1863-1931)



John R. Boker, Jr.
(1913-2003)



Stephen D. Bechtel
(1900-1989)

The next owner, who probably bought it in the Rarities sale, was Stephen D. Bechtel, president of the Bechtel

Klemann reported his acquisition of the Earl of Crawford's collection in the November 1915 edition of *The Philatelic Gazette*. The Nassau Stamp Company scored a hat-trick of major stamp purchases in the year 1915: the C. E. Chapman U.S. collection in April, the Henry J. Crocker U.S. collection in August, and the Earl of Crawford's U.S. collection in November.

Klemann's announcement of the Earl of Crawford acquisition specifically mentioned the "only known copy of the Annapolis." At the time it was generally believed that only one Annapolis provisional envelope existed, because the April 8 envelope was hidden in Ferrary's collection (the Luff book pictures the March 20 envelope). Klemann also noted that the collection had still not reached America. It must be remembered that ocean transportation was the only means available to convey the collection between continents, and the German U-boat campaign in 1915 threatened merchant vessels, even those flying neutral flags.

Despite the dangers lurking in the North Atlantic waters, the 47 albums and



Alfred H. Caspary (1877-1955)



James Ludovic Lindsay
The 26th Earl of Crawford
(1847-1913)



Warren H. Colson
(1882-1963)



John C. Chapin
(1920-2008)

John C. "Jack" Chapin served with the U.S. Marine Corps as a second lieutenant rifle platoon leader in the South Pacific, receiving two Purple Hearts for his valor. Long interested in military history—

The top sheet-margin block of nine in this sale is today regarded as one of the two finest multiples of the 12¢ 1851 Imperforate with original gum. The corner block of ten, ex Gibson and last sold in our sale of the "Sevenoaks" collection (Sale 799, lot 147), is the only comparable block. While that block of ten was ensconced in the Gibson, Ward and Phillips collections, the block of nine offered here reposed first in the Alfred H. Caspary collection (where he obtained it, we do not know). In the 1956 Caspary sale, Ezra D. Cole bought the block of nine, presumably as agent for its next owner of record, the Indianapolis pharmaceutical magnate, Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., whose multi-million dollar collection was sold through Siegel in a series of ten auctions held from February 1967 through Decem-



Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. (1893-1966)



Alfred R. Brigham
(1874-1948)



Henry J. Duveen
(1854-1919)

As Ayer's collection was being dispersed, another collector was assembling a worldwide stamp collection of historic impor-



Sen. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen (1916-2011)



Henry G. Lapham (1875-1939)



Robert S. Emerson
(1876-1937)

Emerson, a former judge and practicing attorney, died in 1937, three years before Knight's collec-



Henry C. Gibson, Sr.
(1885-1987)



Arthur Hind (1856-1933)



Benjamin D. Phillips
(1885-1968)

The 10¢ block buyer in that sale, Henry C. Gibson, Sr., was the scion of a wealthy Philadelphia family and an accomplished banker and businessman in his own right. Gibson began collecting stamps and covers around 1910. His interest in the 1847 Issue and classic multiples developed early, and his acquisition of the famous 10¢ 1847 Rush cover in the 1910 Seybold auction was followed by other major acquisitions, including the purchase of the 10¢ 1847 Bible block. Gibson was only 27 when he owned both of the greatest 10¢ 1847 pieces extant. He exhibited his 1847s, including the 10¢ block, at the New York International Philatelic Exhibition in

Although he was unable to attend the meeting, Gibson showed his 1847s at the Collectors Club of New York on February 21, 1929. His proxy speaker was Elliott Perry, an expert in the 1847 Issue. An account of the evening's presentation appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (April 1929, pp. 91-92), in which praise was heaped upon Gibson's collection—the collection was contained in one Oriel Album but is so choice that it is believed that his good friend of these stamps contained in only one volume which could be favorably compared with it has ever been made." Details of the items shown specifically mention the 10¢ block of six, described it as "one of the premier pieces of American philately."

Two years later, in April 1928, Gibson authorized his dealer friend Ward to sell the 1847s through private transactions. Ward advertised

The better known of the two unused 5¢ 1856 Imperforate blocks is the Ayer block. Frederick Wellington Ayer (1855-1936) was president of the Eastern Manufacturing Co. of Brewer, Maine, and a noted antique collector and authority. Between 1892 and 1897 Ayer embarked on a philatelic buying spree, spending (by some reports) as much as \$750,000, some of it with borrowed money. When Fred's conservative banker father learned of his son's extravagant hobby spending, he presented Fred with a choice between liquidation or disinheritance. Fred chose the former. Beginning in 1897, portions of the Ayer collection were sold through various dealers, including Charles J. Phillips, H. Colson and the New England Stamp Company.

The interesting part of this description is the comment "only unused block known," which indicates that Phillips in 1933 was not aware of the sheet-margin



Wharton Sinkler
(1885-1967)



Philip G. Rust (1900-1986)



Ryohei Ishikawa

If Phillips did not fully appreciate the Brick Red block, someone in the roomful of bidders certainly did—Philip H. Ward, Jr., who bought the block for \$2,900. Whether he was bidding for himself or for a client is not known. Nonetheless, after the Hind sale, the Brick Red block was to become a part of Ward's domain for the rest of his life, although it was not always owned by Ward. It appears among a phenomenal group of blocks with specialized knowledge of the 1847 Issue. An account of the evening's presentation appeared in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* (April 1929, pp. 91-92), in which praise was heaped upon Gibson's collection—the collection was contained in one Oriel Album but is so choice that it is believed that his good friend of these stamps contained in only one volume which could be favorably compared with it has ever been made." Details of the items shown specifically mention the 10¢ block of six, described it as "one of the premier pieces of American philately."

Ward certainly had control of the collection, but he also believed Sinkler to be his good client and a member of the emerging force in the United States classics market—Philip G.

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Remarkable 1851 Issue Sheet

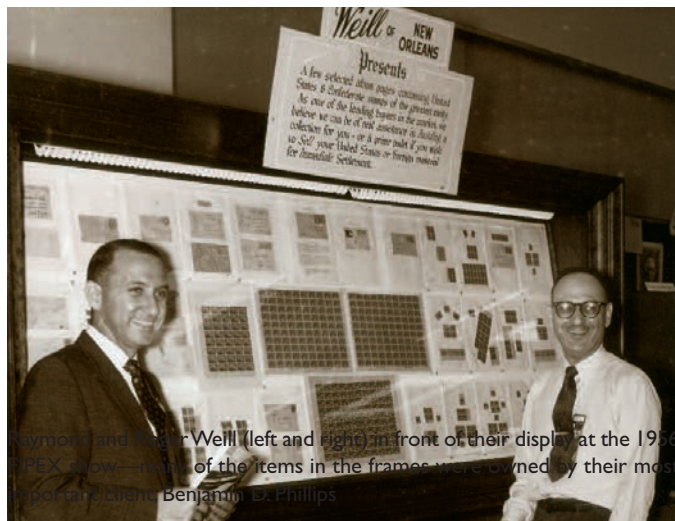
Complete sheets of early United States stamps are exceedingly rare, because they represent significant unredeemed value from the time they were valid for postage; and, as stamp collecting grew in popularity, surviving multiples were usually cut apart to supply the market for singles and smaller blocks.

The pane of 100 offered here is the first United States postage stamp listed in the Scott Catalogue that exists as a complete sheet. It comes from the period when stamps were imperforate. Since it was printed from Plate 1 (in the Late state), there are very few plates that could precede it. For the block, in the distant past we have offered two panes of the 1851 from plates that have slightly earlier documented use (both Scott 11A).

That is early state, before 199 of the 200 subjects were ready, there was no imprint on Plate 1. At the time of reworking the plate, the Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. imprint between the plate, the Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. imprint with the plate number ("No. 1") was added at the sides, which makes this the first plate number in United States stamp production.

In his 1938 two-volume work on the 1¢ 1851-60 stamps, Stanley B. Ashbrook showed a photograph of this pane (figure 16-Q, page 143) and made special mention of its importance (page 141):

Mr. Samuel W. Richey of Cincinnati possesses what is



Raymond and Roger Weill (left and right) in front of their display at the 1966 NYPEX show—many of the items in the frames were owned by their most important client, Benjamin D. Phillips



Roger and Raymond Weill (left and right) in their Royal Street store



Philip H. Ward, Jr.
(1886-1963)



Ward at center showing page with the Lord Crawford block

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Rarity of Classic Plate Numbers

Plate number strips and blocks have been popular with collectors for many years, but the presence of an imprint or plate number on a stamp or multiple issued prior to 1888 is unusual. The simple reason is classic issues rarely survived in sheets or multiples with intact imprints.

When Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Company made the first plates used to print the 1851 Issue stamps, they did not bother to add imprints or plate numbers until 1852. In 1855, when Toppan Carpenter laid down the first 10¢ plate for the new issue, imprints with the plate number 1 were engraved on the left and right sides, outside the boundary of the stamp subjects. The imprints, right or left, were only visible on a printed stamp from one of the adjacent positions if the extra paper in the sheet margin was kept intact. Furthermore, only the stamps in one row—Position 51L in the left pane and 60R in the right pane—were aligned with the “No. 1” part of the imprint.

Therefore, statistically, only 1 in 100 stamps printed had any chance of showing the plate number—of those, only the stamps that survived with at least 5 or 6 millimeters of the sheet margin could show the “No. 1.” Considering the odds, it is not surprising that very few 10¢ 1855 stamps exist with the plate number, and this strip is the only unused example known. As a measure of plate number stamps’ rarity, a used single from Position 51L1 was sold by the Siegel firm in 2012 for \$22,000 hammer.

The late John C. “Jack” Chapin, a World War II Marine veteran and historian, was a dedicated collector of classic plate number multiples (additional biographical information on page 189). In 1982 Chapin published a census of all classic plate number blocks known to him, and in 1984 he updated the census with an article in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*. Chapin never found a plate number block of the 10¢ 1855 Imperforate (Scott 13-16) or of the perforated 1857 Issue from Plate 1 (Scott 31-34). He illustrated the strip of three offered here as an example of an important classic plate number multiple that does not exist in block form.

Chapin did not own the strip when he published his book. In 1993, at the Ryohei Ishikawa auction held by Christie’s Robson Lowe, Chapin was intent on acquiring the strip he had coveted for many years, and successfully outbid others to add it to his outstanding collection.

In 2002 the Chapin collection was acquired intact by the Shreves in a sealed bidding process organized by Andrew Levitt, and then the collection was sold to Mr. Gross. ■

The plate block of six offered in this sale was part of the “Ambassador” collection—so named because the stamps were kept in an Ambassador stamp album. The collection was sold in a 1966 Siegel auction, and the block was bought by the Weills. Several years later they



Mortimer L. Neinken
(1896-1984)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

A Perfect Gesture of Love Preserved for Collectors

The custom of sending Valentines by mail spread rapidly during the 1850s after postage rates were lowered and good quality stationery became more available. This beautiful printed and hand-colored envelope with its identical original enclosure were mailed from Geneva to Niagara Falls in up-state New York in 1858.



Louis Grunin accepting the
Grand Prix National award at
INTERPHIL 1976

We cannot find any record of this cover prior to 1985 when it appeared in a Robert G. Kaufmann sale. The buyer was Louis Grunin, whose exhibit of 1847-1869 Issues had won the Grand Prix National at INTERPHIL in 1976. In that major international exhibition, the Hawaii collection formed by Thurston Twigg-Smith was excluded from competition, because it was owned by a corporation and not an individual. Left on the field were Grunin with his 1847-1869s and the Japanese tycoon, Ryohei Ishikawa, with his formidable exhibit of the 1¢ 1851-57 Issue.

In the final vote, Grunin’s panoramic exhibit of classics won against the single-stamp exhibit. Ishikawa was stung by the loss and immediately set out to build his own version of an 1847-1869 exhibit, which eventually earned him three Grand Prix awards in the different competitive classes. Grunin sold his off-cover material, 1847s and 1861-69s, and began to focus on 1851-57 Issue covers. The collection Grunin assembled over the next ten years is still revered as perhaps the greatest of its kind ever formed.

When the Grunin collection was sold in three auctions held by Christie’s Robson Lowe in 1987 and 1988, the 3¢ Valentine was offered in the second sale and captivated one of the leading collectors of postal history, David Jarrett. He acquired the Valentine for his collection of “propaganda” covers, in the category of Romance, and when the Siegel firm sold Jarrett’s collection in 2009, Mr. Gross bought the cover purely for its aesthetic appeal, as his Grand Prix win was three years behind him. ■

Jacobs got to experience the thrill of acquisition a second time, albeit vicariously, at the first Emerson auction, held by Kelleher on October 19, 1937—the year in which the Spanish Civil War raged, Hitler’s Germany was a rising threat, and Amelia Earhart disappeared over the South Pacific. When the 90¢ cover was offered as lot 119, Jacobs executed the winning bid of \$1,300 on behalf of Saul Newbury, a major collector and supporter of philately. Newbury financed the publication of Ashbrook’s groundbreaking two-volume work on the 1¢ 1851-57 Issue, and formed his collection of 1¢ stamps under Ashbrook’s tutelage.

Newbury exhibited the 90¢ 1860 cover at the May 1940 Centenary Exhibition held at the Collectors Club of New York to commemorate Great Britain’s first issue, at a time when the German Luftwaffe was bombing London. It was also one of the cornerstones of his U.S. 1840-1868 exhibit in 12 frames and 23 albums, which captured the Grand Award at the CIPEX show in 1947. Newbury died three years later, in 1950, and was inducted into



Saul Newbury
(1870-1950)



Sir Nicholas E. Waterhouse
(1877-1964)

The first collector associated with the Belgian Retaliatory Rate cover is Sir Nicholas E. Waterhouse, the son of Edwin Waterhouse, one of the founding members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1880. Nicholas was educated at Oxford and entered his father's firm in 1899. The company is better known today as Price-waterhouseCoopers.

Waterhouse formed and sold at least three United States collections. After the 1955 sale by Harmers of London, he was asked how it felt to disperse a collection which had occupied half of his life. He was quoted as answering that given the chance to live to be 150 years old, his fourth U.S. collection would be better than the one he had just sold (*Stamps Magazine*, August 1955).

The Belgian Retaliatory Rate cover was in the first Waterhouse auction, held in November 1924 by the British firm of Puttick & Simpson. In the Waterhouse catalogue photograph, the cover shows four small "MERTENS" handstamps above and below the stamps, which have since been erased. Mertens was a stamp firm in Brussels, and we presume they sold the cover to Waterhouse.

The buyer in the 1924 Waterhouse sale was Henry C. Gibson, Sr., who started his



Dr. Kapiloff (left) and Bob Siegel



George H. Worthington (left)—*New York Times* article (above) and exhibition catalogue entry (right) for Worthington's United States exhibit at the 1913 New York exhibition, which specifically mentions the 5¢ Brick Red unused block



11. **WORTHINGTON, Geo. H.**—Consists of Postmasters' Provisionals, Carrier stamps and United States Government issues, including Department and Newspaper stamps. Included in the Postmasters' stamps are three varieties of the Alexandria, 10c Baltimore on cover, two Brattleboros, two Millburys, 54 St. Louis stamps including reconstructed plates of all printings. The Carriers include such things as a pair of the Franklin Carrier, unused, with gum; the New York Carrier on rosy buff, unused; the 2c on 3c, used on cover; the 2c red in unused pair; a block of 19 unused of the Philadelphia Carrier 1c gold on black; the Baltimore and Philadelphia Carriers are complete. The Government issues consist of several thousand blocks and sheets, and contain such rare unused blocks as the 5c, 1847; 5c, 1857, brick red; 1861-66, block of twelve 3c pink; block of six 24c steel blue; 1867, 90c blue with grill; 90c, 1869; block of ten of the 4c Columbian error. The Premier Gravure issue of 1861 is complete. The 15c 1869, unused o. g., with picture inverted, and the 30c of the same issue, unused o. g., with flags inverted. The Special Printings are complete. All the Bureau Printings are represented by entire sheets. The Department stamps are all in blocks.



Robert Zoellner (1932-2014)

Bob Zoellner, a highly-regarded investor, together with his wife Victoria, formed the investment firm Alpine Associates in 1976, focusing on merger arbitrage, bankruptcy and other investment strategies. By the time of his death in 2014, the firm had \$1.7 billion in assets under management.

As a collector, Zoellner became the first person to actually complete a United States stamp collection, despite claims that Benjamin K. Miller or Wilbur H. Schilling, Jr., achieved that goal first (they never did). In the 1998 Zoellner sale at Siegel, the 12¢ block on cover sold to Mr. Gross, who outbid Joseph Hackmey and others for the privilege of owning the finest block on cover. ■

The first collector of record to own the block was the Cleveland industrial tycoon, George H. Worthington (1850-1924), who made much of his fortune in stone, streetcars and chewing gum. He partnered with another well-known stamp collector, John Vickers Painter, in ownership of stone quarries in Ohio—Painter is best known for his role in discovering the 4¢ Blue Columbian color error (see page 209). Worthington and his friend Dr. Beeman started manufacturing the wildly popular Beeman's Pepsin chewing gum, which led to ownership of a huge supply of the product's essential ingredient, chicle, and creation of the American Chicle Company. With dollars from these enterprises flowing into Worthington's coffers in the 1880s, he began collecting stamps on a trip to England.

At a time when Count Ferrary held many of philately's greatest rarities, Worthington managed to assemble a worldwide stamp and cover collection of truly historic importance, spending \$50,000 a year on acquisitions. He is reputed to be the first American to own a "Post Office" Mauritius cover. His United States collection included rare provisionals, an unused set of 1869 Pictorial Inverts, and magnificent blocks of classic issues.

Worthington displayed his collections in the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition in New York. The description of the United States exhibit specifically mentions "rare unused blocks," including the "5c, 1857, Brick Red." There is no record of the source of the Brick Red block. One could surmise that it came to Worthington from the Frederick W. Ayer collection, which was dispersed privately through dealers, starting in 1897 with Charles J.