

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB  
COLLECTORS CLUB NEW YORK  
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

January 14, 1944

My dear Elliott

In last letter acknowledging yours  
re 24¢ invert, I forgot to ask if you  
wanted a cheque in advance. I seem  
to remember a former occasion where  
it was necessary to have <sup>some</sup> payment.

In regard to the sheet of 3¢ 1851,  
I am sorry that it could not be of  
more assistance. There is definitely  
no hurry for its return and you did  
wisely not to send it during the crowded  
holiday period.

I must have several large blocks  
of the 3¢ 1851 in case you care to  
see them. I remember one of the  
you cancelled blocks that pleased  
Carroll Chase. It shows the widest  
and narrowest spacing on the 3¢ stamps.

Faithfully yours  
Harry L. Jefferys

January 11, 1943

Dear Harry Jefferys,

Check \$200 advance for purchase  
of airmail invert acknowledged with thanks. I hope it  
goes at a bargain price for you.

Robbie graduated on Friday and arrived home early  
Monday morning, with a soldier friend and the latter's  
sweetie - a nice girl. With a local girl who is very  
fond of Robbie we had a nice dinner party together last  
night. It seemed like old times to have the young folks  
around.

Robbie will have ten days before he starts back to  
Alabama and doesn't know where he will be sent next.  
Some of his class were made 2nd Lts. and some including  
him are now "flight officers" - whatever that is. It  
seems to be something like a 2nd Lt. but they are  
assigned to flight duty only.

He has been away ten months and has changed con-  
siderably. A bit taller and looks thinner and more like  
his brother Sherm than ever before. Of the four Perry  
cousins now in the service Robbie is the youngest and  
the first to attain officer rank. He will be twenty in  
March. All their school chums are in the service -  
one is in Italy now - and it is too much to expect that  
all of these boys will come back safe and sound. But,  
of course we hope for the best.

I shall be glad to see the 3c 1851 blocks when  
it is convenient for you to send them. There is a joker  
somewhere which I hope to find. Saw Milliken at the  
Club last Wednesday and he told of paying you a visit.

Sincerely,

February 25, 1944

Dear Harry Jefferys,

The 24c airmail which I bought for you yesterday at the Fifield sale of Col. Green's collection is enclosed. It is one of the best of the no gum copies, and tho perhaps not a wonderful bargain, it sold under what would be considered a fair price. It is certainly much better than the last copy which I ran to \$1,000 and that is why I stretched a little for it. Prices generally were so high yesterday that there seems to be no indication of a lower market in the near future.

The usual commission is 5%. Send me whatever you think the service is worth. Most of the bids I have had for auction material lately have been far too low for the present market, so the returns have been decidedly meagre. Looks as tho many stamps were being bought as a hedge against inflation, and almost any price now is a good buy if we are to have serious inflation.

Walter Scott told me that he himself took the gum off the "no gum" copies. They were found in an envelope stuck together and had to be soaked to separate them. Col. Green is said to have intended to prevent re-perforating of the straight edges by taking them to the Collectors Club and publicly burning them. Evidently these were what he got together and carried around in his pocket until they adhered.

Am making a little progress on the 3c 1851 blocks but not very much so far. I am definitely "rusty" on the 3c.

Sincerely,

The Fifield bill may be returned to me.

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

Dear Elliott February 25<sup>th</sup> 1944

I wrote to my niece Marjorie S. Eastwick to send you her 241867 covers. I only saw two of them and they were not "Hot". That's that. No word came this morning about the 24c airmail invest, it doubtless went too high. But as mentioned before, I can live without it. We may turn up some day.

The Congress with + Senator Barkley's grand speech were wonderful and most encouraging. It long has the country is realizing the dictatorship danger. We ought all to write a line to Senator Barkley.

I ran bumped up from a minor operation on the face. But that too will pass.

Yours  
Harry L. Jefferys

January 5, 1943

Dear Harry Jefferys,

Yours of the 2nd and also another letter since I wrote you. Yes, I would like to see any blocks of 3c 1851, especially if they contain the top row of any pane. May get the plate & sheet off to you today.

I think the perforated Franklin carrier on white paper was mentioned in my article in the Collectors Club Philatelist of January 1930. A very few copies were found in one lot about 25 years ago and one or two of them came into my hands afterwards. From the other items in the same lot I have always believed they were the first reprinting and were made by error.

Later than 1918 there were occasional references to this variety in the philatelic press and the number was stated to have been twenty copies or thereabouts, which was a great exaggeration. So far as I know none were known to exist until the much smaller lot was found about 1918 and no others have been found since.

It is my belief that not more than two copies have been offered for sale since 1918. One of these was the copy I had and I think the other went to John Luff, but I do not know if it is now in the Luff collection.

I have considerable amounts owing me but don't know when they will come in and if you wish to send me check for \$200 it may save me the trouble of scratching around at the last moment to be properly loaded at the sale of the 24c invert. I don't recall ever being asked for a deposit but that doesn't mean it might not happen.

Sincerely,

December 29, 1942

Dear Harry Jefferys,

Yours of the 25th. I shall attend the Green sale and try to buy the 24c invert for you there as you desire.

Henkels was certainly "all wet". Robey told me the story at the time and I had some collateral evidence that it was correct and that his sheet would be the only one to get out unless one had been sold before his and the sale was stopped until the three stocks had been searched.

Robey had been a customer of mine and had not been collecting long. When he got the sheet he notified five people including myself and I was the first one to answer. All he wanted was \$50,000 for the sheet. I had dinner with him at the Commodore when he brought it to New York and had it in my hands. New York was scared because the bottom had just dropped out of the 5c error and they thought Robey was wrong and there would be plenty of the sheets. My own customer was out of town and I was helpless.

None of the printed versions fully agree with what Robey himself told me at the time.

I have been holding the 3c 1851 sheet, thinking it would be better to wait until after the holidays to return it. We have not been able to get much from it but are grateful for the opportunity to try.

Christmas was very quiet. We expect the boys home in January and have been working on the house hoping to make it warmer and get along with less coal. So far we have had four different sizes and the present lot is bituminous. Having used it before I now some of the things NOT to do with it. But this ton is different from any we ever used before. It requires careful watching.

Paint, putty, oakum, calking compound, strom windows, sheet rock, rock wool, shingles and what not. If this keeps on I shall perhaps be able to qualify as a handy man to do almost anything in the line of repair work around a house. However, I rather enjoy it - all except the chapped hands.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year to Mrs. J and your good self,

Sincerely,

from the end at the East  
is always the lowest.

To add to it all the condition  
of my eye right makes  
work with the magnifying  
glass almost impossible.

In looking up something  
in one of my volumes out  
here I noted a vertical  
block of 10 (2 x 5) 341851  
reprint proofs on India,  
showing the re-entry of one  
of the positions. As a result  
it is off in spacing and  
alignment.

If you so dispose of my

Dear Elliott

You were kind enough to  
say I might send you my  
duplicate (not needed) 141851  
stamps and duplicate com-  
memoratives. These I am  
sending and have added  
other duplicate material,  
which you may also know  
where to place.

I am still keeping the 14  
1851 plate 1 & 3 stamps  
until I can get those two plates  
nearer completion. I have  
plated 175 positions on plate 1 &  
and 137 positions on plate 3.  
But that is a long way

Duplicate Material it will help in  
the cost of my 24¢ airmail inkst. I am quite  
glad to have it.

I hope you have good news of your boys.  
A daughter of my nephew Bob is expecting  
her first baby the last of this month and her father  
goes into the submarine service in a few days.  
There must be so many of these hard situations.

Faithfully yours

Harry L. Jeffries

March 6<sup>th</sup> 1914

1509 Arch Street,  
Norristown, Pa.,  
March 10, 1938.

Mr. Elliott Perry,  
Box 333,  
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Mr. Perry:

I wonder if you still have a Black Eagle left, STAMPS  
Feb. 5, page 193. Anyhow I will take a chance and enclose a dollar.

Better put me down for "Pat Paragraphs," that is \$1.25,  
therefore total cash enclosed is \$2.25.

You intrigue me on the 24-cent invert. Did you see Robey's  
story of the finding in GOSSIP a few weeks ago? The day after he  
"found" the sheet he wrote me and his story 20 years later is a bit  
changed. However, he still sticks to the part where he says he  
showed the sheet to the clerk and the latter demanded the return. I  
don't think a real stamp collector would do that. The part in his  
GOSSIP article that really attracted my attention was the statement,  
probably unnoticed by most people, was when he asked for a sheet of  
the 24¢ airplane stamp, the clerk "reached down under the counter for  
a sheet." Since when have stamp clerks been in the habit of keeping  
their stock under the counter?

I always leaned to the belief also that this stamp was  
printed on a flat bed press, with four panes to the sheet of 400? Am  
I wrong at this late date. If not, I never did hear that the Govern-  
ment ever picked up the other three panes. Did they?

Anyway, I wish I knew where to get "a very useful collector's  
guide" as I am interested in stamps and would like to learn something.

Can you help me?

Yours truly,

  
(Mal Ganser)

\$2.25  
OK

30.00  
30.00  
75

1509 Arch Street,  
Norristown, Pa.,  
March 14, 1938.

Mr. Elliott Perry,  
Box 333,  
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Mr. Perry:

Thanks for your letter and for the information on the  
24¢ invert. Hope we will get more some day. Just now I think things  
are popping. I some times think Robey is sorry he spoke--again.

Enclose \$1.00, as I will keep both items of Black  
Eagle match. Due to continued deflated buying power I have never been  
much of a customer of yours and feel guilty that I absorb your stamp  
knowledge with but little compensation to you. However, the spirit is  
willing even if the bank roll is weak.

Yours truly,

  
(Mal Ganser)

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March 1, 1944

Dear Harry Jefferys,

Check \$820.25 received O.K. yesterday, and many thanks for your generosity. This acknowledges payment for the 24c airmail invert in full. Title passed to me when the stamp was knocked down to my bid at the Fifield sale, and I am now transferring title to you. The bidding started at \$950 and I did not bid until it reached \$1,000,

Yes, you may send along the material you wish to dispose of and I will market it for you. If I have to make any charge it will be moderate.

The 3c 1851 blocks you loaned me for study are enclosed. We think we have gone as far as we can with them, and are certain that the guide relief system was used on all the 3c plates. No other will fit the facts we find. We find no evidence of other than perfect alignment in the vertical rows, and equal spacing between the stamps in those rows. The blocks agree with the 3c sheet.

BUT; how a single A or B relief could be entered in any top row on any plate is beyond our comprehension. It hardly seems possible that Dr. Chase could be mistaken yet he says the normal entry for the first five plates was a B relief in the top row and notes many B reliefs in the original or later state(s) of those plates. He also notes many A reliefs in the top row of those five plates.

In our opinion the C relief was on the same roll as A/B and was as close to A as A was to B. Apparently the "gash" showed on the C relief from the beginning. Unless it was desired not to have the gash show in the top row, where it would be most noticeable, we cannot understand why the C relief was not used invariably in the top row of all the plates.

What they apparently did when the top row of the first five plates was entered was to pick out the hard way of doing the job instead of the easy way which was used on the last four plates. It simply doesn't make sense.

The absence of a position dot for the bottom row on the 3c plates has never been adequately explained. Use of the A relief in the B entry in the 9th row explains it perfectly. No dot was used for the 10th row because no dot was needed there.

Sincerely,

March 11, 1938

Dear Hal Ganser,

\$1.25 rec'd and Uncle Ike is pleased to enroll your name among the GOOD COMPANY on the USPR list to receive Pat Paragraphs #30 to #35. Your membership also entitles you to a copy of #30 and #35 and these are being sent with #30 to #34 today. #35 is in preparation now.

Few Black Eagles left so your order is filled.

The "very useful collector's guide" referred to is the U.S. Stamp Catalog (Scott's) 1938 edition.

The "break" of the Robey 24c invert story just after my adv appeared was a coincidence - not premeditation. I am sure he could not have known my adv was to appear and I didn't know whether he was alive or not. Some of his story does not agree with what he told me in 1918 and I have other information that I expect to publish in the Pate "if and when" - as per adv.

Yes, I have long understood that two or three other sheets or panes of the invert were found by the Dept. and destroyed. I believe the stamp clerk who sold the sheet to Robey did see it at that time even tho the Robey stories of what happened may not agree.

I don't recall that Robey mentioned anything about the 400 subject - 4 pane - plate and sheet. But he did seem very positive that no other sheets than his would come on the market. The 400 subject plate of four panes is all news to me. Think of the difficulty in obtaining decent registration! Max John states (Collectors Club Philatelist, July 1935, page 168) "This stamp was printed and issued in sheets of 100 subjects." Max ought to know.

Yours for less bunkum and more facts,

Sincerely,

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB  
COLLECTORS CLUB NEW YORK  
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

Dear Elliott January 27<sup>th</sup> 1944

Thanks for your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
I am glad you did not bid any higher  
in the 24 of invert. I was not worth  
any more to me. I note that  
you say another one is coming up  
early in February and ask if I wish  
you to make a try for it. Please  
do so and maybe we will get  
a break. I should like to have  
real luck at an auction just  
once, never have had.

Keep my blocks of the 341851  
as long as you need. They just  
go back in the vaults when the come  
back.

It must have been hard to have  
Robby go back to his officer's duties  
& you must miss the boys terribly  
Sincerely yours  
Harry L Jefferys

February 14, 1944

Dear Harry Jefferys,

My second try for the B4c air-  
mail invert had the same result as the first. I  
quit bidding just short of \$1,000. Another copy  
comes up next week and I shall try again. Walter  
Scott offered to sell it to me short at \$1,500 so  
evidently he does not expect it to go that high.

I have been approached regarding another copy  
which I understand is for sale privately and am  
waiting word about it. Shall let you know if any-  
thing develops.

Have not made much progress with the 3c 1851  
items yet. Could not work on them this week end.  
Spent too much time down cellar trying to make some  
black stuff burn which was delivered as coal. By  
mixing it with some cement and gravel I think it  
would make very satisfactory concrete. I had a  
certain white house in Wash. D.C. is not obliged  
to use the remainder of the winter.

Sincerely,

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

Dear Elliott

January 6<sup>th</sup> 1944

Thanks for your letter of yesterday.  
I enclose my cheque \$200<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> in account  
of invert at auction as suggested.

I shall send you blocks of the 341851  
as soon as I get down again in the Vault.  
I know there are 3 blocks of 15 and other  
smaller ones. But I forget if any of them  
include a top row. Of course my reconstruction  
of left pane of plate 3 does.

I note what you say in regard to the Franklin  
Carrier perforated on white. Philip Ward  
in a letter mentioned that he had gotten  
one. But I did not ask if there was a  
price on it, as you know what his changes  
are.

Faithfully yours

Harry L. Jefferys

January 19, 1944

Dear Harry Jefferys,

Your 3c 1851 blocks just arrived  
and I shall try to work on them over the week end.

The 84c airmail invert started around \$970 and I  
ran it to \$1,000 and quit, thinking it not the bargain  
you wanted it at a higher price. Another copy comes  
up early in February. Do you wish me to try for it or  
what.

Bobbie goes back to Alabama tomorrow. This is the  
first time in a great many years - probably a hundred  
or more - that there has been a U.S. army officer in  
the Perry family. The last year has changed him some,  
as might be expected, but he surely is crazy about  
flying and all he wants is a fast pursuit plane, pre-  
ferably a P-51.

Fortunately he has had fine weather while he has  
been at home.

Sincerely,

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

December 25<sup>th</sup> 1945

Dear Elliott

I do not know if you expect to attend the Morgenthau auction sale of a section of the E. H. R. Green collection January 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> prox. You generally do get to those big auctions.

If & if & if, there is lot No. 268, being the 24¢ air plane inverted center, no gum and a straight edge.

A duplicate item sold in a recent auction at \$875 <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>

Do you know this is out of my line, but I should like to have it.

Many years ago when these interests came out I was offered one at 100K bottom. Before doing any thing I consulted Al Henkels and he said "Oh no, don't touch it" made to order &c &c. He was out of date & I never consult him again on any thing important.

If you get to the above sale and the above item goes for what you think is a bargain price, will you please get it for me.

Faithfully yours Harry L. Jefferys

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB  
COLLECTORS CLUB NEW YORK  
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE, PENNA.

Thursday evening, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

My dear Elliott

I found your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> in my return from the city this afternoon.

I am glad that you will attend the Green sale and will try to get the 24¢ & invest for me. I would like to have it.

I note what Philip Ward said in his column in the weeks about the 1¢ Franklin carrier perforated on white. He spoke as if you were posted on it. Is it an expensive item? I suppose that it is a reprint.

Best wishes from Mrs. J & me for the New Year.

Faithfully yours

Harry L. Jefferys

STAMPS  
A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF PHILATELY  
100 SIXTH AVENUE, NEW YORK N.Y.

October 9, 1933

Mr. Elliott Perry  
Box 333  
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Elliott:

I did not know you had any part in that 24¢ air mail invert find and it certainly was unfortunate that Ackerman did not fall for it as there was a beautiful chance to make a clean-up. However, I doubt if he would have been as liberal with you as Green was with Klein.

We have another version of this 24¢ airmail invert which I have had set for sometime for the C.C.P. It also appeared in Phillips' Classics so you undoubtedly have seen it. I enclose the proof of it herewith, which you can throw away when you are through with it as it is a duplicate.

I just got a letter from Francis C. Ryan of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. telling me how much he liked your article on Biscuit Grills and asking if we were going to reprint it as he would like to have a copy to mount in his collection. It certainly was a swell job and I was particularly pleased to have it for the Anniversary Number.

Sincerely yours,

Harry

L:B

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB  
COLLECTORS CLUB NEW YORK  
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

121 VALLEY ROAD  
ARDMORE PENNA.



February 15th 1944

My dear Elliott

Thanks for your letter of the 14th. I am sorry that the 24¢ invert has given you trouble. As you would say "I can live without it."

If you pick me up O.K. and if you don't, O.K.

I shall be thankful when Spring comes and we can keep a house warm without something to keep a furnace going.

Next fall we must all try and drive Washington out of New Dealers. Keep the 34'51 blocks as long as you want. Faithfully yours  
Harry L. Jeffers

H. L. LINDQUIST  
PUBLICATIONS

2 WEST 46TH STREET NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 18, 1938

Mr. Elliott Perry  
Box 333  
Westfield, N. J.

Dear Elliott:

I am glad to hear that all of your studies tend to confirm your theory. It certainly sounds most reasonable and logical to me.

I will be looking forward with interest to your article on the 24¢ airplane invert, and any additional light thrown on the subject should be welcomed rather than otherwise.

I sent Stan's book off to the printer with the exception of the Jefferys chapter and I am still waiting for his decision as to how he wants it handled. In previous letters he said definitely he thought Jefferys should see it before it went to the printer.

Sincerely yours,



HLL:B

October 10, 1933

~~Dear Harry Lindquist~~

Dear Harry Lindquist,

Thanks for the 24c air mail galley proof. Yes, I had read this before. My connection with the matter was before Robey went to Philadelphia and closed the deal there. I have always had a feeling that if I had shoved \$11,000 under his nose that night in New York he would have grabbed it. He did not talk to me as tho anyone in New York had offered \$12,000 - he seemed to be disgusted because nobody seemed to think the sheet was so wonderful as he did. They all expected there would be plenty more.

I am quite confident E.R.A. often tried to be generous with me and occasionally he succeeded. But he was so suspicious that whenever he got scared - and that was often - he'd be likely to do some fool thing that would make it hard for me. No doubt he well knew he had a good thing and was afraid if I got a few dollars ahead I would get away from him. Well, I did anyhow, and in such a way that he couldn't yawp one little yawp. Anything he said would have only convinced everybody that he had got a dose of his own medicine before he recognized the bottle.

I have the 1861-68 outline revised at last and am sending copy to Howard Jackson and to Ralph Houseman. Shall get another copy out for you and Frank Hollowoush.

All the preliminary work covering the contracts, essays, proofs, etc. was assigned to Brazer. Do I now understand that he will not do this for the book because he wants it for his own book that he expects Lippincott to publish? If so, who is to take over that part of the work? Frank Hollowoush? He has a fine lot of proofs etc.

I never heard of Francis C. Ryan of Poughkeepsie but if when he or ~~his~~ others ask for reprints of STAMPS articles we sure are ringing the bell.

Jackson will need help. He has no material. I'll write a little squib telling what it's all about and asking fellows who do have it to loan him stamps and covers for the 5c section and you can run it. Will also try to pull some personal wires.

Sincerely,

J. E. MANIX  
PRESIDENT

C. F. NUGENT  
TREASURER

I. B. ROSENCRANTZ  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

THE MOTHENETTE CORPORATION

366 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE  
GREELEY 4355

CABLE ADDRESS  
MOTHENETTE

February 19, 1938

Dear Harry Lindquist,

Maybe I stuck my head in a noose in promising what I had to do to get the plate 3 article but if the rope is pulled somebody else will do it. My position is uncomfortable enough now. I am engaged to speak at the Camden affair tonight and cannot see U.L.J. before next week at the earliest. After I have seen him and perhaps learned if he knows anything about the Barr matter I may feel different. Sure do wish Stan had gone slower in re Barr until after the plate 3 matter had been all settled.

As you have sent Stan's copy to Stowell you must feel safer than when you talked with me last. I understood then that you were going to sound out the boys and see what advance orders you could get before obligating yourself with the production cost. I suspect it means that Illinois is still at bat. Glad of it.

Probably won't release the 24c airmail invert story until the U.S. Stamp Catalog is fixed up so it doesn't contradict itself so often. Someone should mail what it says about PRINTING on page 7 of the Information to Collectors to Hughie Clark and the author of the Concise History and ask them to read it. Have always admired the way Stevenson studied stamps to find out the facts they revealed instead of swallow what some alleged authority said they revealed. When the Scott catalog agrees with the stamps instead of with bunkum in the Concise History it won't leak so badly.

If some people hadn't been so possessed to yell "personal prejudice" every time I tried to acquaint them with the facts they wouldn't have so much explaining to do.

Sincerely,

Dear Madam:

If your piano is over three years old it is almost certain to be infested with moths and their larvae.

We would deem it a favor if you would allow our representative to inspect your piano, free of any cost to you and at any time when it may suit your convenience. The reason we make this request is that we are trying to induce the piano manufacturers to use our moth-proof felt by showing them that nine-tenths of the pianos in New York City are moth-eaten after three years in use.

Trusting you will advise us on the subject when we telephone for an appointment, we are,

Yours very truly,

THE MOTHENETTE CORPORATION.

## STAMPS

SAMUEL A. TOWER

# Gifts for Collectors

**G**ifts to help get someone started in philately, or for those already involved in collecting — without spending a fortune — are a timely consideration now with only 14 days left before Christmas.

Many gifts are relatively inexpensive and should be readily available at various sources, such as paperbacks or accessories which could even be squeezed in as stocking fillers. Though a much more welcome stocking stuffer would be a 24-cent airmail invert of the United States or the even rarer 1-cent British Guiana magenta.

On second thought, an invert went for \$100,000 just the other day, so such stamps are not exactly the trifles that that one thinks of as stocking stuffers. That amount set a world record for an American stamp, topping by \$10,000 the amount paid last year for a 1-cent Benjamin Franklin "Z" grill stamp. From 1867 to 1875, U.S. stamps were embossed with rectangular patterns called grills, which were designed to break the paper fiber so that cancellation ink would sink in more thoroughly. A number of grill patterns exist.

The invert, the most famous of U.S. errors, is the 24-cent of the nation's first airmail issue of 1918 that has in its vignette a Curtiss single-engine biplane flying upside down. The converted Army plane was called a "Jenny" because its production designation was "JN."

William T. Robey experienced a collector's dream when he received a full sheet of the inverts from a window clerk at a Washington, D.C. post office on May 14, 1918. Resisting the efforts of postal inspectors to get him to return it, he sold the sheet a week later to Eugene Klein, a dealer, for \$15,000. Klein in turn sold it for \$20,000 to the financier and noted collector, Col. E.H.R. Green. Col. Green broke the sheet into blocks and singles that periodically appear at auction. In 1974 an invert was sold for \$47,000; in 1977 one was sold for \$72,000. The new mark was set at an auction of the Sotheby Parke Bernet Stamp Auction Company, which also handled the sale of the previous record-holder, the Franklin grill.

To get away from gifts in these price ranges and back to gifts roughly under \$5, many young men and women, as well as occasional seniors taking up the hobby, inquire about a book that would be helpful in getting started collecting stamps.

One of the most useful is the paperback, "Stamp Collector's Handbook," by Samuel Grossman, available at stamp dealers or from the publisher, Grossman Stamp Company, 860 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003. A 190-page, profusely illustrated paperback with a thorough index, this volume has gone through 16 printings in the last two decades. It assumes that the reader knows nothing about the hobby and seeks to provide the fundamentals as simply and yet thoroughly as possible.

Along with sections on such aspects of collecting as albums, arranging, stamp identification, grills, watermarks, provisionals, precancels, freaks and fakes, there are also sections on famous collectors; the largest, smallest, and oldest stamps; helpful publications, and a listing of what not to do.

Another paperback aimed at the beginning stamp collector of any age,



Invert sets world record price.

every bit as comprehensive although it takes less of the cram-course and more of the relax-and-enjoy approach, is a book by David Lidman, former stamp editor of The New York Times and a devoted lifelong collector. It is titled "Guide to Collecting Stamps" and was published by Golden Press some years ago, but it is being revised and updated. Stamp collecting is fun, the author says, and his is an affectionate yet thorough how-to book on enjoying the hobby. It covers how to get stamps, how to collect them, the kinds of stamps to collect, the language of philately and how to know where stamps are from.

The stamps of one's own country are usually favored by beginning collectors, both because of their interest in their native land and because the stamps are easier to obtain. For Americans there is the 1978 updated fifth edition of "Stamps & Stories," a 240-page paperback that reproduces some 2,200 stamps in color, including this year's issues. It is put out by the U.S. Postal Service.

"Stamps & Stories," which should be readily available at most first-class post offices, also provides information on current stamp market values, and values of plate blocks, first-day covers, full sheets and, for the first time, commemorative panels. There is also information about the latest techniques in stamp production, listings of quantities issued, and all kinds of collateral information such as a glossary of terms and how to start a stamp club.

The person who is already a stamp collector but still feeling his or her way will enjoy a copy of "Basic Knowledge for the Stamp Collector" by Joe Brockert of Linn's Stamp News, published by Amos Press, P.O. Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45367. This 125-page paperback is a no-nonsense approach that touches base with basics for a few chapters but then offers material for average collectors, as well as for advanced ones, that may have escaped their ken. A number of chapters are almost in outline, with terms in capitals jumping out to catch the eye. There is a comprehensive glossary of philatelic terms.

For collectors getting into first-day covers, there is a 100-page paperback, "Discovering the Fun in First-Day Covers," by Michael Mellone and Barry Newton, published by F.D.C. Publishing Company, Box 206, Stewartsville, N.J. 08886. This is a combination booklet; partly devoted to a substantive introduction to all aspects of collecting covers and cachets, including notable cachet makers, plus a catalogue of prices of more than 4,000 covers.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

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United States 24 Cents Air Mail Stamp Inverted  
Center Counterfeit

By HARRY M. KONWISER



24c Airmail Stamp



The Center Inverted Counterfeit

COLLECTORS interested in United States stamps, as also those who are fond of the Air Mail stamps of the world (and collectors generally) know that the United States issued its first official Air Mail stamp on May 13, 1918, and this stamp was first used on May 15th on official flights between Washington, Philadelphia and New York City. The rate of postage was 24 cents per ounce, which fee included special delivery.

Almost every stamp collector knows the error existing in this stamp; that it is center inverted and that one sheet was purchased at a Washington post office, in due and legal form; that eventually the late Col. E. H. Green acquired the sheet, consisting of 100 stamps and the total number sold became known when the Green Estate was appraised. According to Nicolas Sanabria the Green Estate holdings of this stamp consist of a block of eight, two blocks of four and nineteen straight edge copies.

Each of the Green copies (it is assumed) carries the pencil notation indicating the plate position, which was placed on the sheet when owned by the late Col. Green.

Prices on this stamp, at public auction and at private sale, have fluctuated from the first sales at \$250 per stamp for the completely perforated copies, and \$175 for those with

straight edges. The first sales price, after these initial sales, showed the price to be \$400. In 1935 a single sold for over \$3,000, while a block of four sold "in the trade" for over \$15,000. This was the Arthur Hind block which brought \$12,100 in 1933.

A private sale of one of these stamps, in 1936, was at Four Thousand dollars and the most recent public sale, at New York, November, 1939, made a new auction high when the Brown copy was sold for \$4,100. The Sanabria Air Post Catalog for 1940 prices the stamp at \$4,250, exactly as it did in the previous catalog.

The increasing value of the stamp, not to mention the general interest, has intrigued some of the swindlers in the world, and now and then their works of art, a careful assembly of two pieces to create a Center Inverted variety, to be sold at a price obviously indicating it is not a fake, have been seen.

No known fakes are in the possession of any of the well-known United States or Air Mail Collections of the world, because the buyers have had their stamps examined by the few authorities who know every speck and dot existing on every one of these stamps. Therefore, the center inverted, as above illustrated, did not pass muster.

The first United States dealer-specialist who had it offered, at a

(Continued on Page 461)

# The Jamaica Philatelist



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
Jamaica Philatelic Society

(FOUNDED APRIL 14TH, 1920.)

CIRCULATED FREE OF CHARGE.

EDITOR: MR. ASTLEY CLERK

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: MR. H. COOKE

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The Story of the Discovery of

## The 24c. Air Mail, 1918, with Inverted Center

as told by W. T. ROBEY, the actual finder.

(This article was written for, and originally appeared in the February 19, 1938, issue of the Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Holton, Kansas (subscription price \$1.00 year.)

For years the newspapers and the philatelic press of this and foreign countries have told many stories of the discovery of the sheet of one hundred (100) 24c. air mail stamps, with inverted center. At the present time, this stamp is considered to be one of the rarest items ever issued by the United States or foreign countries. The latest price seen by me for this stamp is \$3,900.00 for a single copy. In all the years that have passed since I bought these stamps, I do not recall having seen an article giving all the details connected with the purchase and sale of the sheet.

I have often thought I would like to write all these details so that the present and all future generations of philatelists may know the facts, and at the request of "Gossip" I have decided to acquaint the philatelic world with the details.

Nearly twenty years have elapsed since that memorable Tuesday, May 14, 1918, when the sheet of one hundred of the 24c. air mail stamp, with inverted center, was passed through the window to me here in Washington, D.C.

About two years previously, through the efforts of a fellow worker in the office of W. B. Hibbs and Co., stock brokers and bankers, where I was at that time employed, I became interested in the collection of postage stamps, especially those of the United States. At that time there were only about three stamp dealers in Washington, the

most well known being the late H. F. Colman, whose office was in the Second National Bank Building. Here was wont to gather nearly everyone interested in collecting stamps. Among these were the late Jos. B. Leavy, the first curator of the Government exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute, and the present curator, Mrs. Catherine Manning, who at that time was a clerk in Mr. Colman's office, and known to everyone as "Miss Kate."

In those days the issue of a new stamp was a rare occasion, and the cause of much comment in philatelic circles. It had been announced that the new stamp (24c. air mail) would be in two colors, and the possibility of an invert was the subject of much discussion. Just a short while previous to this, the famous 5c. red error had been discovered and the possibility of an invert slipping past the watchful eyes of the inspectors in both the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Post Office Department led us collectors to believe that such a possibility was greater than ever. The country at the time, was in the World War and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was working twenty-four hours a day printing Liberty Bonds and new currency, in addition to stamps.

Through correspondence I had made arrangements with collectors in New York and Philadelphia for the exchange of first flight covers. New York, Philadelphia and Washington were the only stops on this, the first authorized air mail route. Early on the morning of May 14th. I went to the branch Post Office nearest my employers' office, to purchase some of the new 24c. air mail stamps to be used on covers to my friends in New York

and Philadelphia. This post office was located at 1317 New York Avenue, N.Y., and was known as the New York Avenue Branch. The official notice relative to placing these stamps on sale read in part — "The stamps for mail service will be on sale at the main office and the New York Avenue, "F" Street, Eleventh Street, and the Pennsylvania Avenue stations."

On asking for these stamps the clerk on duty told me that he had only a few of them, but was expecting another consignment about noon that day. I examined the stamps he had on hand, but due to the poor centering, decided to wait until noon before making my purchase. Promptly at noon I returned to the post office with \$30.00, which I had previously withdrawn from the bank. The same clerk was on duty at the stamp window, and upon inquiring as to whether he had received any additional sheets of the air mail stamps, he reached down under the counter and brought forth a full sheet. My heart stood still. It was a sheet of inverts. It was, what you might call, the thrill that comes once in a lifetime. Without any comment, I paid for the sheet, and then asked if he had any more sheets. He again reached under the counter and brought up three other sheets, which he said were all he had. An examination showed these sheets to be normal. Had they been otherwise, I wonder how I would have paid for them with only \$6.00 in my pocket. I handed these three sheets back to the clerk, and then showed him the sheet I had purchased, and drew his attention to the fact that the airplane was upside down. Without comment he left the window and ran for a telephone. Needless to say, I left the post office in a hurry with my sheet of inverts tucked safely under my arm.

The thought then occurred to me that possibly there might be more of these inverts in some other branch office, and I hurried to the Eleventh Street branch, about six

blocks away. An examination of all the stock on hand failed to reveal any inverts.

Feeling highly elated, I returned to my office to show my fellow worker and collector what I had discovered. He immediately left to make a search of the other branch offices. Then telegrams were sent to friends in both New York and Philadelphia appraising them of my find and giving them the plate number of the sheet (8493). Next I called the office of Mr. Colman on the telephone. He was not in, so I told Mrs. Manning what I had found, but for some reason, she would not believe me.

In all the conversations I had with the clerks in the different post offices, I never gave my name; yet, within an hour after my return to work, two postal inspectors called to see me. Upon investigation, I found that my fellow worker had given my name and address during his visits to the different branch offices.

The visit of the postal inspectors proved to be very interesting. They wanted to know if I had bought a sheet of the 24c. air mail stamp with inverted center. Upon informing them that I had, they asked to see it, which I refused to do. From then on, the conversation was hot and furious, and ended in their stating that the Government would confiscate the sheet. This did not intimidate me, and I informed them, they had said enough. Also, that before they tried to confiscate the sheet which I had bought at face value from the post office, they had better start confiscating the 1869 inverts, the Pan American inverts, and all the 5c. red errors. A novice might have been frightened into relinquishing the sheet.

Later that afternoon Mr. Colman came to my office to see the sheet, and offered me \$500 for it. I refused to sell, and he said, he didn't blame me. After work, I took my precious sheet to Mr. Colman's office. Present at the time were Mrs. Manning, Mr. Colman, Mr.

Leavy, and other collectors. All examined the sheet, but no one would place a possible value on it. Mr. Leavy stated that as the stamps were printed in sheets of 400 subjects, it was apparent there were at least three other similar sheets. History tells us that three more sheets of these stamps were found in the Bureau and promptly destroyed. (Note by HEH. This is incorrect; the stamps were printed in sheets of 100, and issued in sheets of that size. The story that three sheets were found at the Bureau is not generally accepted, according to Johl.)

At that time, the late Percy Mann of Philadelphia, was conducting the new issue column of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News. A telegram was sent him about the find, requesting him to give proper notice in his column.

The next day, a reply was received from Mr. Mann, stating that he was coming to Washington that day, and would call on me that evening. After examining the sheet, Mr. Mann stated he was prepared to offer me \$10,000 for it, and would I accept that sum? I told him I had made up my mind to go to New York and see what I might possibly get for the sheet there. He then requested that if in the event his offer was equalled or bettered by anyone in New York, that I inform him of such either by telephone or telegraph, and give him the opportunity to make a further bid for the sheet. This I promised to do. During the course of my conversation with Mr. Mann, I learned that the sale of these stamps was stopped in both New York and Philadelphia, for over two hours, on the previous day, and that collectors and dealers were at a loss to understand the reason why. After the receipt of my telegram, he said he readily understood why the sale had been temporarily stopped.

The next day was Friday, and as previously arranged, I left for New York that afternoon, arriving about 9 p.m. Awaiting me at my

hotel were Percy Doane, the well known dealer, and Elliott Perry "Himself". My fame had preceded me, and naturally, they wished to see the sheet. I was asked by them if any offer had been made, and I informed them that I had refused \$10,000.00.

Bright and early the next morning, I started out to try my luck, in disposing of the sheet. My first stop was at the office of the ultimate buyer, Colonel E. H. R. Green at 111 Broadway, where I was informed that he was out of the city. Next, I went to the office of Stanley Gibbons, which was at that time managed by Eustace B. Power, who has frequently condemned all 20th century issues of stamps. At that time, Mr. Power was a great humorist. Imagine him offering \$250. for \$24. face value of "20th. century trash." He also stated that he knew of three other sheets of these stamps, and was negotiating for the purchase of them at that time. I wonder why he never bought them? Later, I went to the office of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., who only wanted to dispose of the sheet on a commission basis, refusing to make a cash offer.

Feeling rather low and disgusted with my failure to secure a decent offer for the sheet, I returned to my hotel, and found there waiting for me Mr. John I. Klemann, who after examining the sheet offered me \$2,500 for it. When I told him I had already refused \$10,000 for it, he said I was crazy, and anyone offering such a price was also crazy.

That evening I telephoned Mr. Mann in Philadelphia, and told him that I was returning to Washington the next day—that while his price had not been equalled in New York, I had decided not to sell the sheet at that time. He asked me if, on my return to Washington, I would mind stopping off at Philadelphia, and have a further talk with him. This I agreed to do.

On my arrival in Philadelphia, I

was met at the station by Mr. Mann and was immediately taken to the home of Mr. Eugene Klein. Mr. Klein, after looking at the sheet, asked me to set a price on it, and I said I would not accept less than \$15,000 for it. After a consultation with Mr. Mann, Mr. Klein requested me to give him an option on it at \$15,000 until 3 p.m. Monday, which was the next day. To this I agreed, and then left for home.

Bright and early the next morning I received a telephone call from Mr. Colman, who asked me if I would accept \$18,000 for the sheet. I told him I had given Mr. Klein an option on it until 3 p.m., and if he did not exercise the option by that time, I would get in touch with him (Mr. Colman). Shortly before the expiration of the option, I received a telephone call from Mr. Klein, agreeing to purchase the sheet at the agreed price, i.e. \$15,000. He asked me to deliver it to his office as soon as possible.

Promptly at noon the next day, Tuesday, the sheet was delivered to Mr. Klein, at his office, in Philadelphia, and I received a certified check in payment. Thus within one week, stamps that originally cost \$24 were sold for a profit of \$14,976.00

Later, the entire sheet was sold to Col. E. H. R. Green, the first party I tried to contact in New York, for \$20,000, who at the request of Mr. Klein decided to have compassion on his fellow stamp collectors, and give them an opportunity to obtain some of these stamps. He realised that by keeping the entire sheet, it would probably never be worth much more than he had paid for it. He further realised that breaking sheet would enhance the value of the stamps, and that he would be able to get his money out of it in time. Col. Green kept a block of eight with plate number at the bottom. This is the largest block in existence. He also kept the center line block,

and the two arrow blocks,—20 stamps in all.

From the time I sold the sheet until this past summer, I had never seen one of these stamps. Then Mrs. Ethel B. Stewart, a well-known collector from Newton, N.J., who owns a block of four, was in Washington and I had the pleasure of meeting her. Mrs. Stewart had her stamps with her, and once again, I had in my hands, part of the original sheet for which I had paid \$24.00.

The Collectors Club, of which I am a member, was having a meeting that evening, and I invited Mrs. Stewart to accompany me to the meeting. She accepted, and took her stamps with her. Mrs. Stewart very graciously exhibited these stamps, and many were present that evening who had never before seen any of the stamps.

In conclusion, I would like to set at rest some of the many rumours existing about these stamps.

The first, that a man in line ahead of me turned the stamps back to the clerk at the window because the stamps were not perfect. This is false, for at the time I made my purchase, there was no line, and no one was ahead of me at the window. Can you imagine the post office trying to resell a sheet of stamps that had previously been refused on account of being imperfect in having the airplane upside down?

Next, that this sheet was not a full sheet, as nineteen of the stamps had already been purchased by another collector. This is also not true, as the sheet was intact when I sold it to Mr. Klein.

Thus after nearly 20 years I have found time to write in detail all my experiences in connection with the purchase and sale of one of the rarest of philatelic gems. I sincerely trust the present and future generations of stamp collectors will find much of interest in this the only true and authentic history of the 24c. air mail stamp, with inverted center.

The following note to the above article by Mr. H. G. Huber in the Bulletin of the Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh No. 47, December 6, 1939 will be of interest.

Note by HEH.—The sheet of inverts was without the top and right sheet margins (Plate numbers on normal sheets appeared only in the top margin). The plate number 8493, in blue, appeared inverted in the lower margin. Only left — and bottom arrow blocks exist of the error.

UNITED STATES, 24c. RED AND BLUE AIR MAIL—1918 SERIES.

May 13, 1918. 24c. carmine rose (frame) and blue (center). Army airplane. Unwatermarked, perforated 11 x 11.

Office of the Third Asst. Postmaster Genl., Washington, D.C., May 9, 1918.

1. Postmasters and other officers and employees of the Postal Service are notified that the Department is preparing to issue a new postage stamp of 24c. denomination. It is intended primarily for the new aeroplane mail service, but will be valid for all purposes for which postage stamps of the regular issue are used.

2. A description follows: The stamp is rectangular in shape, about 7/8" x 3/4" high. The central design is a mail aeroplane in flight. Above in a curved line of Roman capital letters, are the words "U.S. Postage." Triangular ornaments appear in the two upper corners. Below the aeroplane, in a straight line of Roman capital letters, is the word "Cents" with the numerals "24" within circles in the two lower corners. The border design is red, and the aeroplane is blue.

A. M. DOCKERY,  
Third Asst. Postmaster General.

Designer: C. A. Huston.  
Engravers: vignette, J. Eissler, frame and lettering, E. M. Hall.  
Die proof approved, May 11, 1918.

Recess printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, of the Treasury Dept., Washington, D.C. on unwatermarked paper, and perforated 11 x 11. Printed from flat plates (frame and vignette) of 100 subjects, and issued to the Post Offices in sheets of that size. Two sides of each sheet straight edged. Plate numbers: Frame 8492; first sent to press May 10, 1918.

Vignette 8493; first sent to press May 11, 1918.

First placed on sale at Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pa., and New York City, N.Y.—May 13, 1918. Air Mail service between Washington, D.C. and New York City, via Philadelphia, inaugurated in both directions on May 15, 1918. Rate—24c. per ounce, including special delivery.

The sheet of 100 stamps was divided into blocks of 25 by means of horizontal and vertical guide lines (part of the frame plate impression) with terminating arrow heads in all four margins. As issued, two margins were always cut off; i.e. top and either side; or bottom and either side. Later, the practice was standardised and the right and bottom margins were removed.

Plate numbers in upper margins only: vignette (blue) 8493 over the 4th. vertical row, and frame (red) 8492 over the 7th. vertical row. After the invert was found, the word TOP was added to the vignette plate, and this appeared over the 3rd vertical row in blue still later TOP was added to the frame plate, and this appeared over the 8th. vertical row in red.

Total quantity issued—3,095,955.

# ROBEY REVEALS STORY OF FIND

## Discoverer Tells Real Tale of 24-cent Inverts.

### KLEIN WAS FIRST BUYER

#### Postal Inspectors Tried to Get Entire Sheet Back.

Perhaps prompted by the fact that May will witness the twentieth anniversary of his find, W. T. Robey has written the actual tale of his discovery of the only known sheet of the twenty-four cent air mail inverts for Weekly Philatelic Gossip, refuting a number of rumors and statements so often quoted in stories about these stamps.

In his article Mr. Robey noted that his interest in stamps started while in the employ of a Washington, D. C. banking house. During his frequent visits to local dealers, just prior to the issuance of the twenty-four-cent bicolored air mail stamp, one subject of discussion was the possibility of an invert being released. Having contacts with many collectors throughout the country, Robey arranged for exchange of first day covers. Early in the morning of May 14, 1918, he went to the New York Avenue Branch, which had been announced as one of the four Washington post offices permitted first day sale along with the main office.

The clerk noted the fact that only poorly centered copies were in his stock at the time, but that a new shipment was expected about noon. Robey, with \$30 previously drawn from his bank, went back promptly at noon and found the same clerk on duty.

**"My Heart Stood Still."**

Upon the inquiry as to whether the new shipment had arrived, Robey wrote that the clerk "reached down under the counter and brought forth a full sheet of inverts." Without it was a sheet of inverts. Without any comment Robey paid for the sheet and asked if there were any more. The clerk showed three more sheets, but they were all normal. These were declined and it was then that Robey showed the clerk his request that Robey purchased errors. The clerk said nothing but dashed off to a telephone and Robey hurried out. Taking the sheet to his office, he showed it to a fellow collector, who immediately went to other offices to seek its mate, and telegrams were sent to other collectors giving the number and describing the find. Within two hours of Robey's return to work he was visited by two



MONUMENTOS HISTORICOS  
An attractive commemorative

Col. E. H. R. Green later purchased the full sheet, being induced to part with some of the stamps. As an afterthought, Robey refuted two of the most persistent rumors regarding this sheet. In his article he denied that a man ahead of him had turned back the sheet because of its imperfections, noting that no clerk would try to resell a sheet of stamps once refused because of such an error, and also corrected the belief that nineteen copies had been sold from the sheet before he bought it.

# More About The 24c Airmail Invert

By Christian L. Dull

THE READERS of Gossip have been enjoyably entertained in the past few months by two very interesting articles on the most spectacular find in philately, that of the 24c Airmail Invert sheet. But in view of the interest in this find and the publicity it has had, it is remarkable that there is still so much that is not generally known about it and so much misinformation extant that was not cleared up by either article, and which, in the light of the true facts causes one to wonder just where Captain Townsend got the misinformation that sent him on his futile search to the vaults of the New York post office.

On the non-technical side there has been a rumor that Colonel E. H. R. Green's yacht sank with the sheet of 24c or part of it on board and that when the yacht was recovered the salt water had so damaged the stamps that the fishes found swimming inside were tinted pale pink. When questioned regarding this rumor, Colonel Green replied in effect that in the first place the stamps were not on board his yacht when it sank and in the second place the yacht did not sink.

For the more technical aspects of the event, Mr. Robey and Captain Townsend both apparently share the belief with the general public that three more sheets of the invert must have existed and, since they have not come to light, that they were found and destroyed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Most Twentieth Century flat plate United States stamps of standard size were printed in sheets of four hundred and subsequently cut into panes of one hundred in the same operation by which they were perforated. The 24c 1918 airmail having many of the characteristics of the normal four hundred subject plate stamps, notably two straight edges, were generally assumed to have been printed from the standard size plates. But such was not the case. These stamps were printed from one hundred subject plates. There is no record of any additional inverts having been destroyed and it is highly improbable that any other sheet ever existed.

When the sheets of one hundred subjects were printed they had four full margins. But the only machines the Bureau had for perforating these stamps were the machines in regular use on four hundred subject sheets. In perforating the one hundred stamp sheets, these machines automatically

cut off two of the sheet margins. And now we come to the most interesting feature in this connection. The red and blue plates from which the stamps were printed had a plate number at the top only. Therefore, in the invert sheet, one impression being upside down in relation to the other, the red plate number came at the top of the sheet and the blue at the bottom. In the process of perforating the sheet one number was cut off. On the actual invert sheet the blue plate number appeared only on the bottom margin and no other plate number appeared on the sheet. Where then did Captain Townsend get the plate number combination (red and blue) for which to look when no such combination did or could exist on any invert sheet? What he should have looked for, of course, were sheets that showed only one, but not both plate numbers. Understand that I am not criticizing Captain Townsend. I have just recently learned of these details myself and probably would have done exactly as Captain Townsend did under similar circumstances, as, who would not.

I believe this should clear up the popular misconceptions regarding this stamp that were not touched in either of the preceding articles. With Colonel Green's estate soon to be settled it will be interesting to note how much his unique position pieces are able to realize.

PHILADELPHIA has a night club known as "Stamps on the Delaware," Delaware and Popular Streets, which might be taken to be reminiscent of the new Delaware stamps (at least after it has been issued). The advertisement of this resort says "Stamp No Cover" which we at first thought said, "Stamps On Cover."

IN 1935 the Malay state of Johore issued its first stamp showing the Sultan and Sultanay: the Sultan of Johore and his wife, the former Mrs. Helen Wilson. Two other stamps with the same picture were issued in 1936. Designs will now have to be revised as the Mohammedan Sultan has divorced her through the simple expedient (recognized there) of telling her to "Scram," "Vamoose," or whatever it is they say in Johore when they no longer desire a wife as an encumbrance.

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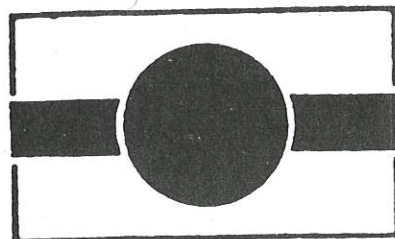
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## PHILATOKYO '81



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## CENTER LINE



by Richard L. Sine

This month's column is somewhat different, because I want to share with you news that otherwise would have had to wait an additional month to be within these pages. All too often there is not enough good news . . . this is a pleasant change!

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the world's most valuable stamps, stolen a quarter-century ago, has been recovered and returned to its present owner, the American Philatelic Research Library. The Library plans to sell the stamp, a Scott No. C3a.

This story began in 1955, when a block of four stamps of the U.S. air mail issue of 1918, with the center inverted, was stolen in Norfolk, Virginia, from Ethel McCoy. Mrs. McCoy liked to display her collection at shows, and in 1955 her block of the invert was on exhibit at the APS convention.

At the time, the block was insured for \$15,000, and Mrs. McCoy was reimbursed by her insurance carrier for that amount.

There was no trace of the stamps until 1977, when a copy of the 24-cent air mail invert offered for sale by a stamp dealer to a Nevada man was submitted to The Philatelic Foundation of New York City for authentication. The experts there identified this specimen as one of the stolen stamps, although it had been tampered with at some point in an attempt to disguise it.

The FBI was called in and took possession of the stamp. When word got out that the stamp had been recovered, Horace W. Harrison (APS Insurance Chairman and member of the APRL Board of Trustees) suggested that DeVoss contact Mrs. McCoy and ask if she would be interested in donating the stamp to the Library. After some negotiation, she agreed to sign over all four stamps to the APRL.

Jim DeVoss called Mrs. McCoy at her home in New York City to obtain the signature on the transfer document. APS Attorney George M. Martin led the drive to prove ownership through the courts, with formal demands being made to the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice for the stamp.

A tragic part of the story is that Mrs. McCoy was assaulted in her apartment on Christmas Day 1979, and died the following August at the age of ninety without ever having regained consciousness. Thus, she never knew that the APRL was awarded ownership of the stamp by the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York.

The legal aspects of the situation are somewhat confusing. In essence, the United States Government had initiated an interpleader action to determine ownership, and after all of the various hearings, legal advertisements, and appeal periods, the APRL was formally named owner.

Despite the claims of the dealer and the prospective purchaser, the court ruled that no one can obtain title to stolen property against the rightful owner.

Jim DeVoss took possession of the stamp in New York City on April 30 of this year. It was a particularly nostalgic moment for DeVoss, who had been a friend of Bill Robey, the purchaser of the original sheet of 100 inverted stamps, and at whose funeral Jim had been a pallbearer.

It is difficult to estimate the exact value of the Library's copy of the stamp. Condition, of course, is a big consideration, and the recovered copy has a hinge mark and has had a guideline removed. Another copy of the stamp was sold at auction a short time ago for \$160,000.

Money from the sale of the stamp will be used to create an endowment for the APRL.

This story was a long time in the making, and involved much confidential activity on the part of quite a few people, who gave of themselves. Some names were mentioned above, and others should be, too.

For example, George Martin was assisted in his Yakima, Washington, law

(Continued on Page 576)

at Franklins during the past several years.

### A Rogers' Improvement

A new list of material on hand at the Agency has just been issued. Captain Otho L. Rogers, Philatelic Agent, is to be complimented for having made a change which should have been made long ago. For many years the wording of the list in regard to coil stamps has given rise to a great deal of innocent confusion. It is indeed refreshing to note from time to time that someone in Government service is willing to overturn precedents of former years.

Agency lists have heretofore referred to coil stamps as sidewise or endwise, depending on how the stamps themselves were joined, while the Scott catalogue has referred to the same stamps but differentiated between them on the basis of horizontal or vertical perforation. Confusion has repeatedly arisen in the minds of collectors with the result that many have often ordered one type of coil when as a matter of fact they intended to order the other. The new innovation which Captain Rogers introduced in the Government list is the description of coil stamps "perforated vertically" and "perforated horizontally," thus terminating further confusion and bringing Government terminology into conformity with the language of the hobby into which it has entered.

### One Cent Plate Numbers

Although announcement has been made that no advance notice will be given of plate numbers to be used in the printing of the new regular issue series, it may be of interest to collectors to know that among those available at the Agency during the first week of sale of the new one cent stamps various positions of the following numbers appeared, namely, 21823, 4, 5, 9 and 32. In some instances full sets of the four positions were not available nor could definite information be obtained as to whether they would become available. The future plate numbers which will be used in connection with this and several of the other low denominations will no doubt be very extensive. It is likewise very unlikely that the Agency will ever be in a position to offer even a small percentage of all of the numbers. This is due to various reasons but primarily due to the fact that stocking all of the numbers and all of the positions would require a stamp stock credit of several million dollars. To be in a position to handle calls for all of them would probably call for a further increase of staff, which the most optimistic dare not hope for at this time. A further difficulty in this connection lies in the fact that often times a great number of panes run

through the perforating machines without producing copies satisfactory to collectors. This "bad run" material might all be of a single number or position with the result that the Agency would be shorted in endeavoring to build up a rounded stock. The desire to keep abreast of all plate numbers and positions will necessitate the same interesting nation-wide hunt in the future as it has in the past.

### One Cent First Day Covers

The first day figures for the one cent Washington stamp of the new Presidential series was 1,054,498 stamps sold and 124,037 first day cancellations, April 25th, from the Nation's Capital.

### Precanceled Stamps

The recent order which banned the future precancellation of stamps above the six cent value was suspended until July 1. It is understood that many users of precanceled stamps have protested so vigorously to the future suspension of these stamps that very serious consideration is being given to allowing further precancellations up to the fifty cent value.

### Six Cent Airmails

The flat plate presses of the Bureau have been engaged in a long steady grind with red and blue inks to turn out the new 20th birthday stamp of Uncle Sam's Air Mail family. It is said that the Bureau is operating on the basis of 14 hours a day and seven days a week. Although the stamps will not be placed on sale generally

until May 16, advance requisitions on the Bureau have been heavier than those on any previous issue. It would almost appear that postmasters expect the American public to abandon the regular mail on the appearance of the colorful new Air Mail stamps. Three weeks before the scheduled release date, advance requisitions called for 12 million of the new airmails, which is just about five times as many stamps as have generally been called for in cases of recent three cent commemoratives.

### Northwest Territory

Although Postal Officials refuse to give credence to the rumors of a new Northwest Territory stamp during July, it is believed that a further stamp of this character, as a companion to the one released on July 13, 1937, may be announced for the middle of July. With so many new stamps of the regular series being manufactured in large quantities, the facilities of the Bureau are being taxed beyond customary schedules, and as a result it is possible that the 1937 Northwest stamp may be reissued in a different color or with an overprint to distinguish it from the former emission. In this regard, however, no definite information is being released by the Department. Silence and the familiar phrase of "Nothing new," still greets all inquiries relating to the Delaware and the Constitution stamp.

When answering ads say, "I saw it in W. P. G." Thanks.

## Yes Sir--It's True!

### SCOTT IS OFFERING STAMPS AT 50% OF CATALOGUE VALUE!

Here's the story. In the February Journal, Scott made a "Get Acquainted" offer. Many new friends. Repeated in March. More new friends. We're happy, they're happy, so here it is again—any of the following at 50% discount:

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HAITI	— up to 1920	ESTONIA	— up to 1930
HONDURAS	— up to 1930	PERSIA	— up to 1928
	(to Cat. No. 441)	MONTENEGRO	— all
ROUMANIA	— up to 1931	RUSSIA	— up to 1929
JUGOSLAVIA	— up to 1931-32	SERBIA	— all
BULGARIA	— up to 1930		

**SCOTT STAMP & COIN COMPANY, INC.**  
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Stamp Collector 11-9-81

# Reorganized and reprinted, 'Pat Paragraphs' recalls 19th Century

With the reprinting of *Pat Paragraphs*, by Elliot Perry, the Bureau Issues Association, an organization devoted to the study of US postage stamps and revenue stamped paper, once again has provided philatelic researchers with an excellent source of information on 19th-century stamps and covers.

*Pat Paragraphs* first was published in June 1931 and continued for nearly 27 years, until 1958. During that period, 58 issues comprising 2,000 pages informed collectors about a wide range of subjects, with major emphasis on the first three issues of United States postage stamps, carriers, local and express post, and private die proprietaries.

Started as a house organ, *Pat Paragraphs* was intended to provide "new information about old US stamps with here and there something in less serious vein, and advertisements of good goods for sale at the Peach Orchard made up most of the contents, the idea being to appeal to a selected group of a few 100 collectors." (*Pat Paragraphs*, p. 1.)

PERRY INTENDED to send copies of *Pat Paragraphs* to collectors who purchased as little as \$5-worth of material a year from him. Soon, however, students of philately who did not collect United States material wanted copies of *Pat Paragraphs*. Perry's solution was to establish an organization called United States Philatelic Research.

According to Perry, for \$1.25 a year, "your name will be placed on the mailing list at once and you will receive *Pat Paragraphs* free as long as you continue to be a member of the USPR.

"Research work will be entirely optional. You assume no obligation whatever in becoming a sustaining member of USPR; but, even if you receive no other benefits, your membership will enable you to obtain your *Pat Paragraphs* at \$1.25 or less per year instead of 50 cents or more per copy." (p. 1.)

Rather than merely reprint *Pat Paragraphs* page for page, the late George T. Turner and Thomas E. Stanton, who compiled and arranged the revision, devised an arrangement by stamp issue and subject.

FOR EXAMPLE, all of Perry's writings on the 1847 issue were grouped together. In this section, you will find information about printings

## Leafing Through Literature

MARJORY J. SENTE



and plates — including the copper vs. steel plate controversy — hand-stamped cancelations found on the issue, and distribution of the stamps by state and city.

Carrier and local stamps were favorite subjects of Perry's, with 181 pages devoted to them in the reprint. Initially the government only carried mail between major cities and did not provide home delivery of mail in the

'Pat Paragraphs' contains generous helpings of Perry's views, philosophy, and humor.

major cities. Therefore, local delivery services were established beginning in 1842 and extending to 1961.

During this time, private organizers in numerous cities delivered mail within the city for a fee. Many of the private carriers produced their own stamps to denote payment of this additional postage.

Tracking down these local carriers was a lifelong pursuit of Perry's. Besides his notes in *Pat Paragraphs*, he wrote *By-Ways of Philately, Privately Owned Posts and Early Locals*, which was published in 1966.

OVER THE YEARS, *Pat Paragraphs* contained generous helpings of Perry's views, philosophy, and humor. They gained him the name, "Sage of the Peach Orchard."

I assume he was referring to the stamp collection at the Smithsonian Institution in the following comments, entitled "Don't Call the Engine":

"There is a miry bog masquerading as a stamp collection in Washington, D.C., or thereabouts that will make a wonderful and highly satisfactory bonfire. Just to dream of such an aggrega-

tion of this and that going up in smoke and being utterly consumed while the merry goblins dance makes Uncle Ike fairly tingle with gratification. If ever dreams come true, let us pray that may be one of them." (p. 600.)

Perry also wrote about speculating and investing in stamps. "How exceedingly regrettable it is," he once wrote, "that in the zeal to sell stamps or to induce noncollectors to talk about philately, some dealers and collectors lay so much stress upon 'stamps as an investment.'"

"Stamp collecting is the — or one of the — most interesting hobbies and delightful recreational pursuits with which the world is blessed. It pays bountiful dividends — intangible dividends, of course — but their true value in a weary world is beyond one human's power to estimate.... Too often the net result (of trying to profit financially from stamps) is largely to decrease the incalculable in certain pleasures to be derived from acquiring and studying (one's) stamps for the sake of obtaining a profit of less real value to (one's) own well being and only too frequently the profit is not commensurate with the effort made to secure it." (pp. 614-15.)

WHEN ELLIOT Perry died in 1972 at the age of 87, David Lidman wrote in the November 1972 *American Philatelist*, "Mr. Perry was a dean of philatelic researchers and facets of 19th-century United States stamps.... His researches were contained mainly in the intermittent series of booklets *Pat Paragraphs*, which ran on for years and are avidly sought by collectors of 19th-century US stamps, describing what is worth collecting in this field." (p. 962.)

Thanks to the efforts of the Bureau Issues Association, students no longer will have to haunt libraries to find elusive issues of *Pat Paragraphs*. The reprint that is now available will put the information at their fingertips.

Copies of the limited edition of this volume are available to Bureau Issue Association members for \$40 postpaid, and to others for \$55. Orders should be sent to the Bureau Issues Association, 7215 13th Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20012.

Readers may address correspondence to Marjory J. Sente at Box 570, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

# Letters to the Editor

Mylar, Si! PVC, No!

Editor, *The American Philatelist*:

I am writing in reference to the question asked by E.M. Cohn in the "Postal History Notes" column in the March 1981 *AP*, regarding suppliers of Mylar three-sided sealed sheet protectors.

To begin with, I think I should explain that PVC is manufactured by what is known as "suspension polymerization." In this process, PVC is obtained as a very fine powder. This powder must be mixed with a plasticizer before it is melt-extruded into sheets. If a plasticizer is not added to the PVC powder, there is great difficulty in the extrusion step — so great, in fact, that the resulting powder must be heated to the point of decomposition, whereupon hydrochloric acid is produced.

There are many plasticizers that have little or no odor, thus smelling a PVC sheet to detect the presence of a plasticizer is not a good test. It is true that PVC will break down in "strong

light," but as a chemist who deals with photochemistry, I can assure you that no serious stamp collector would ever expose his stamps to such prolonged irradiation.

More subtle, but equally serious, is the breakdown of PVC in the dark: e.g., in a closed album. To prevent this, PVC is compounded with hydrochloric acid "scavengers" such as low molecular weight epoxy compounds or amines. These substances also can migrate into the stamps with unpleasant effects. In addition, PVC contains unreacted vinyl chloride that may damage stamps.

If you wish to get a "feel" for the effect of ultraviolet light on stamps, try covering half of a stamp with aluminum foil and exposing it to direct sunlight outdoors until you see a color difference between the exposed and unexposed portions of the stamp. The yellow, orange, and red inks are more susceptible to fading than the green, blue, or black inks. It generally will take at least a week to see a color

difference. Fluorescent lamps are less rich in UV light and will permit longer indoor exposure. Incandescent lamps are very poor in UV light and therefore are the safest under which to examine or exhibit stamps.

Mylar plastic sheet is superior to PVC in a number of ways. It is crystal clear, contains absolutely no plasticizer, and is quite strong. It contains no acid scavengers because it does not release any acid over an extended period of time. It is very stable under UV light and forms the basis of many Du Pont photo products. Over an extended period of time, the surface of Mylar will remain neutral. Mylar contains no unreacted monomer because it is prepared by an entirely different process than PVC.

After doing a considerable amount of checking, I have located one firm that will produce three-sided Mylar envelopes or sheet protectors. I understand they have just started production of such materials. They may be contacted at the following address: Conservation Resources International, Inc., Attention, V. Garwig, 1111 N. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Telephone: 703-549-6610.

Dr. Albert G. Anderson  
Wilmington, Delaware

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