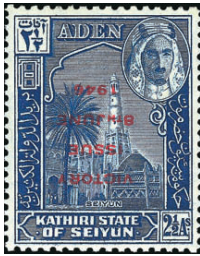


# Viewing the Rose “Number Ones”

by John F. Dunn

On December 11, 2009, as part of its U.S. and Worldwide Auction, Robert A. Siegel Galleries offered the Rose Collection of Number Ones of the World. For those of us who love the Classics, this sale was a rare opportunity for an extensive viewing, and a nice break from the picture gallery catalogs displaying page after page of mint, wide margin U.S. stamps.

In this viewing I will focus primarily on the #1s, but will also present other early issues that may be of special appeal. As there is not a lot to add, and in order to present as many images as possible, I will keep my own descriptions brief.



This section opened, not unexpectedly, with Aden, but the first lot was not the 1937 #1, but this Kathiri State of Seiyun 1946, 2-1/2 annas o.g., with Inverted Overprint (Sc. 13a), picturing the Minaret at Tarim. With an SCV of \$600, it realized \$450. (All prices reported here do not include the 15% Buyers' Premiums that were added on to these hammer prices.)

Next we see the Buenos Aires Argentina 1858 3 pesos picturing a steamship that might even have been used to carry the piece of mail bearing this stamp. This used stamp, Sc. 3, sold for its SCV of \$750, the SCV being italicized because they are not often sold).



From Australia's 1913 First Issue, we see the Kangaroo £2 deep rose and black (Sc. 15). This "Roo, o.g., well centered, and with a sharp, strong impression, fetched \$4,500 against a \$5,000 SCV.

The Austria Coat of Arms First Design is represented by this 1854 2 kreuzer Type IIIa on Machine Paper (Sc. 2c). With wide margins, lightly hinged o.g., intense shade and impression, but with a "trivial" corner crease in the lower left margin ("easily trimmed"), sold for just \$450 against an SCV of \$1,750.



A grouped lot of 1867-68 Bolivia Condor issues included this block of four of the 5 centavos green, Sc. 2. Not that we can tell much from the realization, but it was \$450 against a total SCV of \$1,095 for the lot.



The famous, and valuable, 18943 Brazil "Bulls Eyes"—so named because of



the oval frame around the numerals—included the 30 reis (Sc. 1) early impression. Unused (that is, with no gum), and with an SCV of \$3,250, it sold for \$1,200.

Canada's 1851 First Issue is best known for the 3p "Beavers", but it also includes the 12 pence black picturing the young Queen Victoria. This Plate Proof on India, also with a vertical "Specimen" overprint in Red (Sc. 3), is not listed or priced in Scott as a Specimen, but is included in the Unitrade catalog as #3S, with a value of C\$2,500. Estimated at \$750-1,000, it sold for \$1,200.



China, more specifically Shanghai, presented this 1865 First Design Dragon issue, the 2 candareens with "candareens" plural, on Pelure Paper (Shanghai Sc. 5). An extremely fine example with an SCV of \$325, it was one of the few early issue lots that did not sell.

Next we view one of the appeals of the earlies, that being the primitive appearance of some of them. Here we have the Crete 1898 20 paras, issued under British Administration in the District of Heraklion (Sc. 1). This lot, with one o.g. single and one used example, had a total SCV of \$700 and went for \$425.



From the Dominican Republic we show the 1865 First Issue 1 real black on dark green (Sc. 2), which was offered in a lot with the 1/2r (Sc. 1). Described as "incredibly difficult to find in just about any condition" these F-VF examples brought \$1,400 against an SCV of \$1,550.

The French Ceres design is among the world's most recognized First Issues. Here we see the 1850 10 centimes dark bister on yellowish (Sc. 1a). With an SCV of \$350, it sold for \$170.



From among the German States I selected another familiar image, that of the Bavaria 1849 1 kreuzer, plate 1 (Sc. 1). Unused (no gum), this XF example went for \$600 against a \$725 SCV for VF centering and o.g.

Lubeck's First Design features the Coat of Arms of this German State. Here we find it on the 1859 1 schilling (Sc. 2) with large margins and brilliant color, and an unobtrusive double-circle datestamp. It was accompanied by a certificate stating it was possibly restored, and still fetched \$550 against a \$1,700 SCV.



We cannot include a viewing of Number Ones without including the very first, the Great Britain 1840 Penny Black (Sc. 1). This example with LH full original gum has an SCV of \$7,500 and a realization of \$6,750.



The Greece Hermes Heads included a lot with the 1861 1 lepta to 80 lepton (Sc. 1-7, shown, the 10L, Sc. 7). SCV for the first issue complete is \$1,395; this used set with Fine, VF and XF examples sold for \$850.



The India listings in Scott begin with the Scinde District Post and the 1852 "Scinde Dawk" issues. In this auction, we find the 1/2 anna white (Sc. A1) with "huge" margins and a diamond of dots cancel. This crisp Very Fine example soared beyond its \$825 SCV, being hammered down for \$1,400.



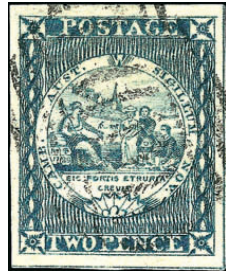
Japan's

Dragons First Design does not get as much attention as the China Dragons, but the pair of Dragons facing each other, with characters of value in between does have considerable appeal. Here we see an XF example of the 100 mon blue (Sc. 2). It was offered in a lot with the 1871 48m brown Types I and II, Fine, unused with no gum



(Sc. 1, 1c). With a total SCV of \$765, this somewhat odd grouping sold for \$600 against a total SCV of \$765.

You have to look close to view the Seal of the Colony on the New South Wales 1850 First Issue. A combined lot with the 1p-3p "Sydney Views" (Sc. 1, 3a, 9) with an SCV of \$2,825 realized \$1,400. It contained the 1 penny red, 2p gray blue early impression, and 3p yellow green on bluish paper (shown).



The young Queen Victoria Chalon design is seen again, this time on Nova Scotia's #1, the 1853, 1p red brown. This VF example with original gum and an SCV of \$3,250 realized \$1,500.



Peru is represented by a horizontal pair of the 1857 1 real blue on bluish (Sc. 1) with



bottom sheet margin. The left stamp has a tear and the right one thins, but the \$2,500 SCV pair picturing a sail-and-steamship fetched \$1,300.

St. Helena's #1 is the 1856 6p blue imperforate. This stamp with a profile of Queen Victoria has a large part original gum, and realized \$400 against a \$600 SCV.



As we see, most First Issues feature either Monarchs or Coats of Arms. For Sweden, it is the Coat of Arms, seen here on the 1855 2 skilling banco, (Sc. 2). The Scott value of \$1,125 is for VF o.g. examples; this XF stamp unused (that is, with no gum) sold for \$550.

The Switzerland Federal Administration First Issue is shown next. This 1850 2-1/2 rappen black and red "Orts-Post" Frame Around Cross design (Sc. 1) shows a neat strike of a red grid cancel and large margins all around. The XF stamp with a VF SCV of \$1,600 sold for \$1,400.



Next we see the 1853 First Issue, in the form of the 1p blue (Sc. 1) picturing Queen Victoria. The stamp is inscribed with the then-current Van Diemen's Land name, which was given to it by its discoverer, Abel Tasman, and in whose honor it was later renamed Tasmania. This fine impression stamp was part of a lot of three stamps, the others being the 4p orange with

numeral grid cancels and fine and blurred impressions. With a total SCV of \$2,800, the lot sold for \$550.

Finally, we present the Uruguay "El Sol de Mayo" design on the 1856 60 centavos "Diligencia" issue indigo shade (Sc. 1b), in a top left sheet corner margin single, without gum as issued, that has an SCV of \$800 and sold for a healthy \$2,000.

