

# Viewing Collections: Viewing Newspapers & Periodicals

by John F. Dunn

On March 1 the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries auctioned off the Hope Collection of Newspapers and Periodicals, containing nearly all of the different Scott-listed issues, including the extremely rare 1875 Special Printings and 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau high values, giving us a rare opportunity to study this area.

As usual, the realizations quoted here do not include the 18% Buyers' Premiums that are added on to these hammer prices. In addition, the information provided is from the lot descriptions, with my comments, if any, in brackets.

The first lot was this set of three 5¢ 1865 Newspaper Issue Large Die Trial Color Proofs on Thin Hard Wove (Sc. PR1TC1a), in Deep Reddish Brown, Dark Orange and Green, each showing the full-size uncleared



die and the die abrasion at top caused by mounting and dismantling the die on the press with screws, fresh in every respect. Each of these colors for this issue is unique.

The Scott Catalogue incorrectly lists these trial color die proofs on India paper, and only in these three colors plus Bright Red (which is priced at 20% the value of the others).

With an SCV of \$9,000, the lot drew a top hammer price of \$4,500.

Next we view the 10¢ values (PR2TC) from a lot containing the complete set of 5¢-25¢ 1865 Trial Color Plate Proofs on Thick Cream Wove (PR2TC5-PR4TC5), the complete set consisting of twelve top imprint and plate number strips of three in all four listed colors—Black, Lake, Blue Green and Blue. [Barely visible, the plate numbers are in the margins, to the right of the “National Bank Note New York” imprints.]



Scott value as singles without premium for the positions is \$3,060 and does not convey the rarity or desirability of these imprint and plate number strips. Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, the lot sold for \$2,900.



Next is one of two 1865 Newspaper Issue Trial Color Plate Proofs on Thick Cream Wove (PR4TC5) imprint and plate number 38 blocks of six, this one in Black, the other in being in Blue Green. Scott value as singles without premium for the positions is \$1,020, which does not convey the rarity or desirability of these imprint and plate number blocks.

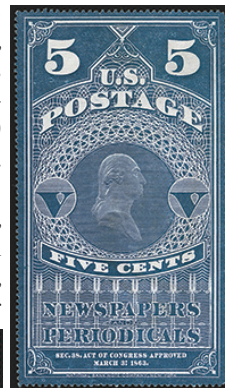
Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it hammered for \$650.

[In my opinion, the Siegel firm knows more about this market than the Scott editors; however, Scott moves slowly, and with this area not seeing a great deal of transactions, it was going to take time for Scott to catch up; however, with realizations lower than current Scott values, even when the 18% Buyer's Premiums are added on, it is hard to see how the Scott editors are going to see a need to raise their SCVs.]



In the stamps section, we begin with this 5¢ Dark Blue, Colored Border, 1865 Issue (PR1), without gum as issued, minor pencil markings on back not mentioned on certificate, with 2014 P.F. [Philatelic Foundation] certificate (XF 90 XQ), the “XQ” denotes “Extraordinary Quality”. With an SCV of \$750, it hammered for \$1,400.

Next, below left, is the 1865 10¢ Blue Green, Colored Border, 1865 Issue (PR2), without gum as issued, selvage at top, Very Fine and choice, with 2010 P.S.E. certificate, SCV \$300, hammer price \$400.



Of interest, and the reason I selected it, the lot on the far right sold for considerably more than the mint example. [The stamps were not intended to be used by the public, and the postal accounting process included their being canceled by clerks for subsequent audit, very few did reach collectors; so, for example, the used SCV for Sc. PR2 is \$2,000, more than six times the \$300 used value.]



This example, with a typical brushstroke cancel, this one a blue “P”, has typical faults including a couple small tears and trimmed perfs at bottom right. The few genuinely used examples of this issue we have offered all have faults to varying degrees. Only one other listed in Power Search (ex “Golden Oak”) has comparable appearance to this example.

With an SCV of \$2,000, it drew a hammer price of \$2,100.





To the left is the 1865 5¢ Light Blue with White Border (PR4) without gum as issued, with top selvage, Very Fine and choice, ex Floyd, with 2001 P.F. certificate, SCV \$850, hammer \$750.

To the right is the 1875 Special Printing (PR5), part of a lot consisting of the three values, 5¢-25¢, Sc. PR5-PR7 Imperforate varieties, without gum as issued, each with top sheet margin. The 1875 Reprints were produced by

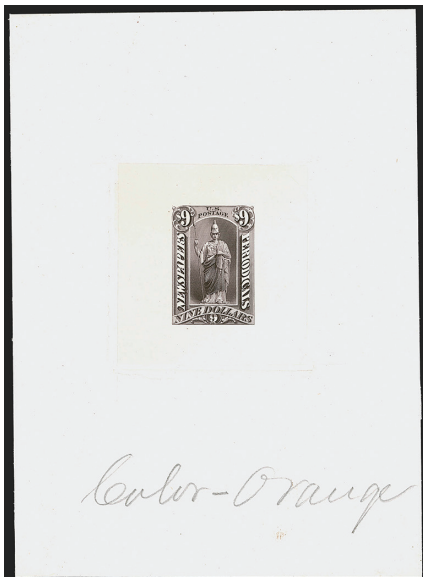


the Continental Bank Note Company using the National Bank Note plates. According to the Scott Catalogue, the Continental Bank Note Co. made a second special printing from new plates, which did not have the colored border. They exist both perforated and imperforate, and were not regularly issued.

With an SCV of \$3,250, this set hammered for \$2,400.

Here we have another version of the 5¢, in this case the 5¢ Dark Blue with White Border 1881 Reprint (PR8), without gum as issued, fresh and Very Fine, with 2007 P.F. certificate (Grade VF 80), SCV and hammer price \$700.

Next we come to the 1875 Continental Bank Note Co. Proofs section, with scores of examples in a variety of Trial Colors. [Although the auctioneers repeated throughout their assessment that Scott values were conservative, each with a \$600 SCV, they still sold for around 60-70% of their SCVs.]



One example, at the left, is this 1875 \$9.00 Violet Black Issue Large Die (PR27TC1a) and die sunk on 120x166mm card, pencil "Color-Orange" at bottom indicating the approved color, Very Fine and rare,

reportedly one of two known, SCV \$600, hammer price \$325.

Going out of order, above right is the \$9.00 stamp as issued. Scott lists the issue as Yellow Orange, the auction lot description describes this as Yellow. In any event, per the auctioneers, it is a sound, original-gum and centered example of a high-denomination Newspapers & Periodicals stamp, particularly of the First Issue, making it incredibly rare, only a handful of PR27s existing in this quality. With a PF certificate and a \$4,500 SCV, it hammered for \$4,250.

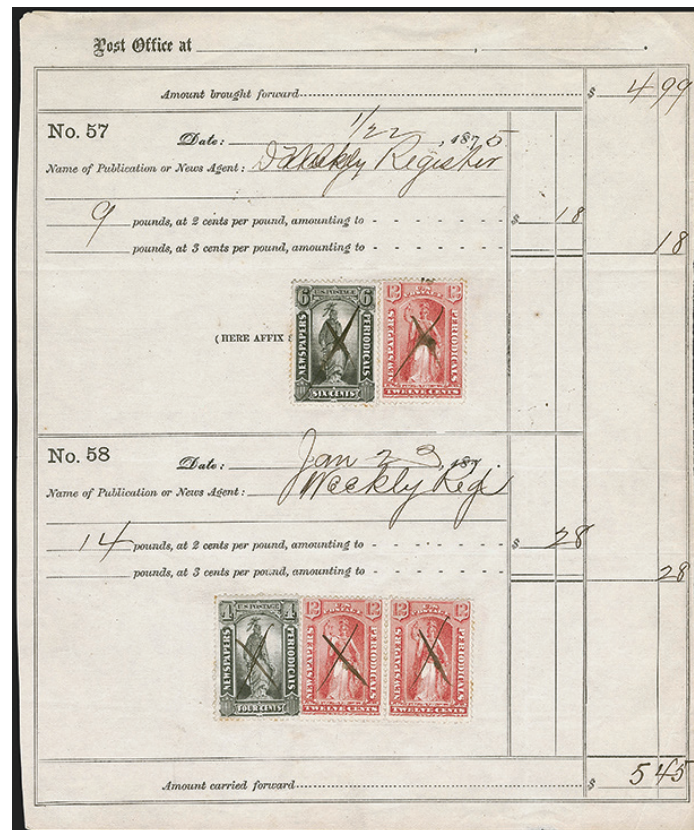
At the top of the next column we see one piece from a lot that contained 2¢-24¢ 1875 Issue Plate and Trial Color Proofs (PR9TC3, PR16TC3, ans shown, PR17P3), mounted on album pages, including No. PR9TC3 pair in Sepia and block of four in Black, PR16TC3 with ten different colors, each of the aforementioned trial color proofs are either printed on card or card backed (listed in Scott only on India), finally No. PR17P3 imprint

pair, fresh and Very Fine group, SCV \$590, hammer price \$325.

Next is a lot containing the 2c-



\$60.00 1875-85 Issues Plate Proofs on Card (PR9P4-PR89P4, shown PR029P4, complete sets mounted on album pages, large margins essentially throughout, beautiful colors, Very Fine-Extremely Fine, SCV \$798, hammer price \$325.



Next, an important lot, the 12¢ Rose 1875 Issue (PR16) in a horizontal pair and single, used with 4¢ and 6¢ Black 1875 Issues (PR11-PR12), all with manuscript "X" cancels, on Jan. 1, 1875 and Jan. 23, 1875 dated Post Office Department receipts for nine and fourteen pounds of the Weekly Register newspaper. Each receipt represents half a page from a ledger book, stamps with some slight perf tip toning, still Very Fine, unlike with regular postage issues, rarely do we see evidence of how these beautiful stamps were actually used. Estimated at \$500-750, it hammered for \$900.



In the 1875 Continental Bank Note section, we find the 12¢ Rose (PR16), original gum, lightly hinged, outstanding centering with wide and well-balanced margins, graded XF 90, with 2002 P.F. and 2008 P.S.E. certificates.

This is the highest grade awarded to an original-gum example of Scott PR16 and it is shared by no others.

With 2002 P.F. and 2008 P.S.E. certificates (OGph, XF 90; SMQ \$1,300), SCV \$800, hammer \$2,000.



Next, the most valuable stamp in the section, the \$48.00 Red Brown (PR31), original gum, lightly hinged, rich color and detailed impression, choice centering with unusually wide margins, a superb sound and wide-margined example, exceedingly rare in such choice quality.

The high-value 1875 Issue stamps are among the most difficult of all Newspapers & Periodicals to obtain in sound original-gum condition with any degree of choice centering. This example of the \$48.00 is particularly striking with wider margins than any others we have offered, SCV \$7,000, hammer \$8,000. [This stamp did have 2000 PF and 2001 PSE certificates, but was not graded. One wonders what it might have realized had it been graded. See the next lot.]

In the 1875 Continental Special Printing section we have the 10¢ Gray Black (PR39) without gum as issued, almost perfectly centered with Jumbo margins all around, crisp impression on bright paper, graded XF-Superb 95 Jumbo by PSE, the highest grade awarded and probably the finest example extant, ex “Beverly Hills” and from our 2002 Rarities sale. 1981 P.F. certificate no longer accompanies. With 2004 and 2009 P.S.E. certificates (XF-Superb 95 Jumbo; SMQ \$3,850). With an SCV of \$1,400, it hammered for \$4,250.

The most valuable lot in this section was this \$6.00 Ultramarine 1875 Special Printing (PR50), without gum as issued, choice centering and wide margins, fresh and bright color, the finest known example.

According to sale records of the 1875 Newspaper Special Printings, 14 of the \$6.00 were sold and delivered. On July 16, 1884, the Special Printings were withdrawn from sale, and the remaining supply was destroyed.

Our census of Scott PR50, available at <https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/PR50>, contains only seven examples. Six are certified by The Philatelic Foundation and two by P.S.E. This stamp is Census no. PR50-UNC-01. Ex Wingate and from our 2003 Rarities sale. With 2003 and 2018 P.F. certificates.

With an SCV of \$80,000, it drew a top hammer price of \$42,500.

Moving into the 1879 American Bank Note Co. Issue section, this next lot was not particularly noteworthy; I included it to show an example of a block of four with plate number and imprint. The lot contained 1879-85 Issues, Plate Proofs (PR78P3, PR79P4, PR81P3, PR83P3) four blocks of four, three are India paper proofs and one card proof, No. PR81P3 (shown) with top imprint and plate no. 482, full to large margins, Very Fine group, SCV \$465, hammer \$225.

At the top of the next column is an example from a lot with the 12¢-96¢ 1879 Issue with “Specimen” Overprint Type D (PR63S-D to PR70S-D, shown PR70S-D), original gum, rich colors, most with decent centering and margins, just one is touched on one



side, fresh and Fine-Very Fine set, SCV \$600, hammer \$400 for the complete lot.

Next we have two lots that provide a lesson in valuations. To the left is the \$9.00 Orange 1879 Issue (PR74), original gum, lightly hinged, vibrant color, gorgeous centering with balanced margins, long and full perforations, a stunning o.g. example with 2012 P.S.E. certificate (OGph, XF-Superb 95; SMQ \$2,300), the highest grade



awarded and shared by only one other, SCV \$800, hammer \$2,300.

To the right is the \$12.00 Yellow Green, 1879 Issue (PR75), mint N.H., wide margins and choice centering, deep rich color, a remarkably rare mint NH example, this may well be the finest in existence. Power Search lists only two other singles in Mint N.H. condition, plus a strip of four with two faulty stamps and only Fine centering. The online records of The Philatelic Foundation contain only four singles. The P.S.E. Population Report contains no graded Mint N.H. examples of Scott PR75. The stamp offered here is clearly superior to the few other Mint N.H. examples, by virtue of margin size and balance. With 1985, 2007 and 2016 P.F. certificates (XF 90) and an \$850 SCV, it drew a top hammer price of \$7,000.

[Not as well centered as the XF-S 95 Scott PR74 that fetched 2,875, that “NH” condition resulted in a hammer that was 8.25 times its SCV. Even if you find some offsetting factors, it still shows, as the late Herman Herst, Jr., wrote, pound for pound, original gum is one of the most valuable commodities in the world.]

Next is the 1883 American Bank Note Co. 2¢ Special Printing (PR80), without gum as issued, intense shade and crisp impression, choice centering with margins which are nicely balanced top-to-bottom and side-to-side, a beautiful wide-margined example, SCV \$1,750, hammer \$2,200.

The 1885 American Bank Note Co. Essays



included the 1¢ Black Die Essay on India (PR81-E1a), Die sunk on 73 x 84mm card, sized just outside the die sinkage area, “S-A” imprint at bottom, fresh and Very Fine, a scarce die essay, with 2010 P.F. certificate, this essay depicts the design of the 12¢-96¢ 1885 Issues, but with the 1¢ denomination [examples to follow].

With an SCV of \$1,000, it hammered for \$375.

Moving into the issued 1885 American Bank Note Co. stamps, here’s that 1¢ value with the design as issued, a 1¢ Intense Black (PR81 variety), original gum, accompanying certificate states Mint N.H. but we detect light hinging, well-centered on bright white paper, Extremely Fine, a beautiful stamp in this elusive shade, with 2001 P.F. certificate stating Mint N.H., SCV \$95, hammer price \$110.





And here's one of the higher values with the design we saw in the 1¢ Essay, in this case, the 60¢ Carmine (PR86) in a horizontal pair with full top imprint selvage, original gum, exceptionally well-centered, beautiful color, Very Fine and choice, with 2006 and 2014 P.F. certificates, Scott value \$1,200 for two singles without premium for the imprint, hammer price \$1,000.



In the 1894 Unwatermarked Bureau Issue section, we view this 24¢ Pink (PR96) block of four with bottom imprint selvage, original gum, we conservatively described this as lightly hinged in two previous offerings but the P.F. certificate obtained after it last sold states Mint N.H., brilliant color, right stamps with a small natural gum crease, bottom stamps trivial natural inclusions, extremely fine.



As this marvelous position multiple shows, the 1894 Bureau printing was made from the old plates of the American and Continental Bank Note Companies. The plates were re-entered, and there are also other differences in the printings, including the paper and gum. This issue was not in service for very long before the new plates were ready for the Bureau-produced issue of 1895.

Scott value \$30,000 as four Mint N.H. singles without premium for the imprint, hammer \$6,750.

Next is the 60¢ Pink 1894 Issue (PR98), original gum, hinge remnant, radiant color, better centering than normally seen on this difficult issue, small thin spot, very fine appearance, one of the rarest of all Newspaper stamps, only 19 unused examples are available to collectors. Our census of PR98, available at <https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/PR98>, contains 20 unused and 6 used examples, including one unused and one used in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. Of the unused examples available to collectors, only three are confirmed as sound. The three sound copies include one straight edge at top, and all three have perfs in on one side. Centering on examples with faults also tends to be poor. The example offered here, with superior centering and a small fault, is highly desirable, SCV \$40,000, hammer \$15,000.



Here we view the \$6.00 Pale Blue 1894 Issue (PR101), original gum, lightly hinged, radiant color, completely sound, incredibly rare. Our census of PR101, available at <https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/PR101>, contains 14 unused and two used examples, including one in the Miller collection owned by The New York Public Library. Of these, only six have original gum. Three original-gum examples have faults,



including a repair, reperfing and thins. Only three original-gum stamps are sound. Four stamps without gum are also reported to be sound, but one has a straight edge.

With an SCV of \$50,000, this was the only lot in the auction that did not sell.

The 1895 Bureau Essays included this \$20.00 Black Die Essay on India (PR111-E1), Die sunk on 84 x 95mm card, sized to just outside the die sinkage area, intense shade, Very Fine, a beautiful and extremely rare Newspaper essay (or progressive trial color proof), this is the issued design but missing significant portions including "Twenty Dollars" at bottom, Power Search did not locate another example, with 2004 P.F. certificate, SCV \$1,250, hammer \$700.



Here's the actual stamp, with the complete design, the \$20.00 Slate 1895 Unwatermarked Issue (PR111), original gum, deep rich color and proof-like impression, outstanding centering with especially wide margins.

How's this for a superb lot description: "No examples of Scott PR111 have been certified by The Philatelic Foundation in Mint N.H. condition and the Scott Catalogue has removed the Mint N.H. price. Therefore, collectors of Gem stamps seeking this issue would be wise to consider this superb hinged example, which has the widest margins and finest centering of any listed in Power Search." On the basis of that excellent advice, the stamp, with a SCV of \$3,250, drew a top hammer price of \$8,500.



Here's another example of an issue for which no NH examples are known, with the NH listing removed from the Scott catalogue, the \$100.00 Purple "Indian Maiden" design 1895 Unwatermarked Issue (PR113), original gum, incredibly deep rich color on bright paper, wide margins and well-centered. It is not as well centered as the previous lot, ample margins but not as wide as the previous lot.

Also, the lot description was a bit more conservative: "A Review of Power Search and the online records of The Philatelic Foundation did not find any in Mint N.H. condition, and the Scott Catalogue appropriately removed its price for Mint N.H. This is one of the finest we have ever encountered and has margins and centering similar to the example we offered in our 2016 sale of the Inman collection." Whether it was the relative condition, the lack of the direct advice regarding the non-existence of any NH examples, or a combination, with an o.g. SCV of \$3,500, this stamp sold for \$4,000.



To view the complete Hope Collection of U.S. Newspapers and Periodicals go to [https://siegelauctions.com/sales.php?sale\\_no=1249](https://siegelauctions.com/sales.php?sale_no=1249).