

Viewing Collections:

Viewing The Vaquero Eclectics Collection

by John F. Dunn

On September 28 the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries offered at auction The Vaquero Collection of Errors, Freaks and Oddities Plus Other Eclectic Selections. That “Eclectic Selections” section was particularly intriguing, and that is what we will be viewing here. As always, the prices quoted here do not include the 18% Buyer’s Premiums that are added on to these hammer prices. All lot descriptions are those of the auctioneers. My comments, if any, are in brackets.

The first Eclectics sections featured Females on Stamps and on Covers, with the first lot being this Dull Violet on White Die Essay, (Sc. 79-E12a), from a lot that also included the Blue on Bluish Paper version (79-E12b), both 23 x 28mm, fresh and bright colors, few adherences on back, second faint toning spots at bottom left, a minor consideration as they may be unique.



The creator of this essay, printed using lithography, is unknown. They bear some similarity to Liberty Head coins of the period engraved by James B. Longacre. These represent both of the Scott-listed. An excellent opportunity for additional research, Ex Finkelburg and “Lake Shore”.

With a combined Scott Value of \$5,500 the lot did not sell.

Next we view a Continental Bank Note Co. 3¢ Black Columbia Portrait Large Die Essay on India (147-E1c) on 36 x 40mm card, crisp impression, fresh and Very Fine example of this rare Columbia essay. Scott Catalogue notes the design was derived from concurrent tax paid revenues, we are aware of only one other in Black plus one each in Scarlet and Green.



With a Scott Value of \$1,500 it did not sell.



Next we have a \$25.00 Orange & Green, Revenue Essay (Turner 78-B, unlisted in Scott), large margins, rich colors, Very Fine and choice, scarce and attractive with central theme of standing Liberty holding a scale in one hand and a sword with olive branch in the other surrounded by themes of commerce.

Estimated at \$300-\$400, it hammered for \$150.

Here we see a George W. Laird 3¢ Black on Pink Paper Proprietary (RT14c), large margins all around, crisp impression, fresh and Very Fine, only 40 are contained in the Aldrich census. With a Scott value of \$1,000, it realized \$650.

[This is one of the more desirable Private Die Proprietary issues. Take a close look at the design for Laird’s “Bloom of Youth or Liquid Pearl” with an illustration of a woman for whom the product would be intended—also warning to be “Beware of Counterfeits. See that the name (G.W. Laird is stamped in the glass.”]



To the right we see a Joseph Burnett & Co. 4¢ Black on Pink Paper Proprietary Issue (RS46c) with captured portion of National Bank Note imprint at top, small thin spot, Fine appearance, only 36 are recorded in the Aldrich census and most have faults. With a Scott value of \$550 it went for \$275.



Moving into the Females on Cover section, below we have a 3¢ Dull Red Type I (11) with extra vertical line outside of left frameline, large margins to just touched tied by light strike of circular datestamp

(c.d.s.) on small ladies cover with design showing seated woman in garden with birds and flowers to Pownal Centre Vt., Very Fine and attractive design, with 2011 PF certificate. Estimated at \$300-\$400, it drew a top bid of \$325. [Here’s an ornate design that warrants a close look, including the frame around the address area as well as the garden scene.]



[For the next lot, the letter is large, and the cover is plain, with no design, so shown here is the top of the letter with the Female design.] The cover bears a 3¢ Dull



Red Type II (11A) tied by a blue “Norfolk Va. Jul. 16” circular datestamp on lady’s embossed cover to Webster Mich., with beautiful multicolored 1853-dated enclosure with chromolithographed design depicting man and woman in a horse-drawn winter carriage, written and signed by Martha Haines Butt, some overall soiling, Very Fine and colorful use. Martha Haines Butt (1833-1871) was the author of one of five novels written by southern women in response to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and was part of the so-called southern literary nationalism that started to emerge in the 1850s, this cover and letter are both historic and visually spectacular.

Estimated at \$300-\$400, the lot realized \$225.

Next we view a 3¢ Rose (65) tied by well-struck circle of V’s, “New-York Jan. 29” circular datestamp on all-over “Charles Scribner & Company, Publishers of Guyot’s Geographical & Wall Maps”



advertising company depicting a woman and a globe, to Tuscaloosa Ala., with original 1868-dated enclosure of Scribner stationery,

Very fine and attractive design, with 2013 P.F. certificate.

Estimated at \$200-\$300, it fetched a top bid of \$750.

[Note that the printed design includes near the bottom, the Scribner's "654 Broadway, N.Y." address...makes me wonder if used today, how many of those covers would have ended up being delivered by the USPS to that address instead of the handwritten one. Reminds me of the time I made the mistake of illustrating on a Mekeel's & Stamps front cover, an older edition that included our address nowhere near where a typical address would be placed, and despite also having address labels where the Postal People specified they should be placed, I received back about 50 copies intended for subscribers. JFD.]

Another intricate design worth a close look, from the lettering to the illustration, features a 2¢ Black "F" Grill (93) horizontal pair, left stamp separated a bit roughly into design, tied by corks, Philadelphia "Carrier Dec. 26 5th" c.d.s. on red brown "The Equitable Life Insurance Society" illustrated advertising cover depicting a warrior holding a shield over the head of a mother and child [protecting them], to local address, additional advertising text on back, missing part of top flap, stamps with light creases, still Very Fine, a beautiful design, with 2010 P.F. certificate.

Estimated at \$200-\$300, it sold for \$225.



Not content with an intricate all-over front design, next we have a cover with an all-over back design, the front with a 1¢ blue (264) tied by a cork "Conshohocken Pa." c.d.s on a multicolored J. Ellwood Lee Co. Medicinal and Surgical Plasters and Hospital Supplies illustrated advertising cover showing the manufacturing building in circle surrounded by legs, back with lightning bolts and nurses, to Sandusky O., Very Fine, a gorgeous advertising cover.

Estimated at \$500-\$750, it soared to \$1,800.

Here we see one example from lot with two used and seven unused Comet of 1899 Post Cards relating to the comet of 1899, the two used in Germany, two are in black and white and the others are very colorful with humorous



themes including a shop selling comet pills [upper right corner], Very Fine, a fascinating group. Estimated at \$300-\$400, the lot realized \$750.

[Before we smile too much over the comet frenzy, let's think back to Y2K, with all sorts of perils that were expected to be caused by a turning of the calendar. JFD.]



Next we view a lot with a 2¢ Carmine Type I (319) tied by "Nashua N.H. Jul. 13

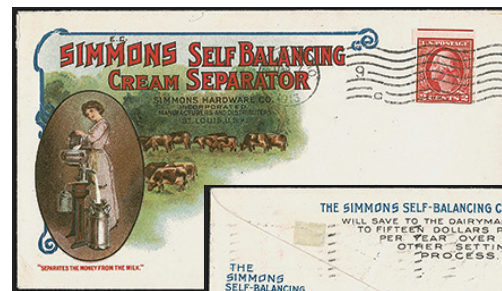
6:30PM 1907" duplex datestamp on a White Mountain Refrigerators illustrated advertising cover depicting a girl and leaping cat with icicles around the edge of the cover to Hardwick Vt., additional four-panel illustration on back, receiving backstamp, Very Fine, a beautiful advertising cover.

Estimated at \$300-\$400, it soared to \$2,700.

[Note the descriptions, "Embodying all the true Secrets of Refrigerating Science" and "Largest Factory in the World" on the back.]

On we go, to a lot with a 2¢ Carmine Louisiana Purchase (324) tied by a "New York N.Y. Jul. 27, 1908" wavy lines machine cancel on a multicolored Gold Seal Champagne illustrated advertising cover depicting a bottle of champagne with central figure of a woman surrounded by grape vines, to Penn Yan N.Y., receiving backstamp, Very Fine and choice, a colorful use.

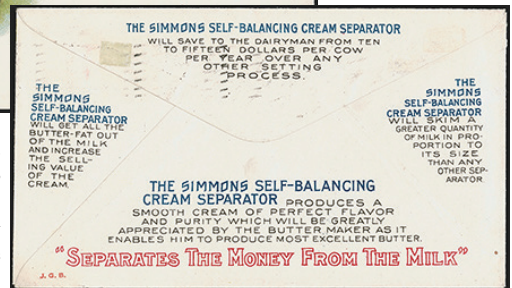
Estimated at \$300-\$400, this lot soared to \$4,000.



Next, a 2¢ Carmine Mailometer Private Perforation Type IV (409), bright color,

tied by "St. Louis Mo. Mar. 7, 1913" machine cancel on multicolored The Simmons Self Balancing Cream Separator illustrated cover to Fresno Cal., depicting a woman operating one of their machines with pastoral landscape in background, additional advertising on back, Very Fine, a fantastic design and a beautiful commercial usage, ex Belasco.

Estimated at \$500-\$750, it realized \$2,600.



Next, a lot with a 2¢ Carmine Schermack Type III Vending Machine Private Perforation (409) tied by “Chicago Ill. Apr. 26, 1916” wavy-line machine cancel on cover for the Mandel-Ette One Minute Camera, depicting a woman photographer, back with colorful illustration of offices of the Chicago Ferrotype Co., Very Fine, the Mandel camera could be loaded with special tintype postcards in daylight, the card only had to be transferred into the development tank (attached to the camera) where the photo was finished within one minute, our [the auctioneer’s] interpretation of the design based on norms of the time is that they were illustrating it was so easy to use that even a woman could use it, lot includes two snapshots.



Estimated at \$300-\$400, it went for \$950.

[Shown to the left is the card as it looks in the auction lot photo; that to the right is my photoshopped image, just to give you a better look at the family photo.]



I took this next cover out of turn for a reason that follows. It bears a 2¢ Black “F” Grill (93), small tear at lower right, tied by segmented cork cancel on unsealed buff cover to Detroit Mich. with “Metropolitan Washing Machine Co.” illustrated advertising design, depicting a woman turning a crank to dry clothes between rollers, Fine and desirable design, ex Faust.



Estimated at \$150-\$200, it went for \$120.

With no datestamp, it would have been used around 1870.

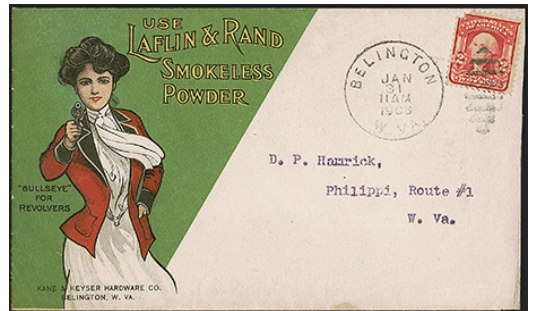
Back to the advertising covers, and a selection of gun covers, we come to changing times, about 45 years later than the washing machine advertising



cover, this one a lot with a 2¢ Carmine (406) tied by a neat “New Haven Conn. Mar. 17 4:30PM 1915” machine cancel on Marlin Firearms Co. illustrated advertising cover depicting a young girl holding a gun with the slogan “When you want a real gun get a Marlin”, fresh and Very Fine, ex Beals and Rudy. Estimated at \$750-\$1,000, it sold for \$1,100.

[The “Rudy” former owner provenance would be the late Dr. Jeanette Rudy, an avid turkey hunter who is known in the stamp world as the owner of an award-winning Hunting Permit “Duck Stamp” Collection—a collection that included the first Federal Duck Stamp ever sold—which she donated to the National Postal Museum.]

Finally, we have a lot with a 2¢ Carmine Type I (319), small piece out at top left, tied by large “Bellington W. Va. Jan. 31 11AM 1906” duplex datestamp on Laflin & Rand Smokeless Powder illustrated advertising cover depicting a woman in red jacket pointing a revolver [looking like she means business], to W. Va., additional advertising slogan on back, Very Fine and rare design, ex Biddle and Rudy.

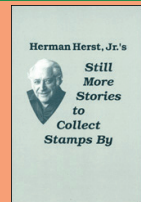


Estimated at \$750-\$1,000, it sold for \$1,500.

On that note, we conclude this viewing of the Eclectics section of the Vaquero Collection of Errors, Freaks and Oddities Plus Other Eclectic Selections. Go to <https://siegelauctions.com/auctions/sale/1293> to view the complete auction.

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