

Baker's U.S. Classics:

The Two Cents 1861-66 Issue

by Hugh J. & J. David Baker

(From STAMPS Magazine, February 20-May 1, 1965, with images added)

July 10, 1965

The 2¢ 1863 Stamp



Scott 73

During March 1863 Congress approved a postal act abolishing carrier fees and establishing a prepaid rate of 2¢ for drop letters. This rate could be paid by two 1¢ stamps, but the large anticipated demand made the issuing of our first 2¢ postage stamp and 2¢ embossed government envelopes practical.

Phil Ward quoted in one of his columns a June 6, 1863 letter from J. Macdonough, Secretary of the National Bank Note Co. acknowledging receipt of a letter from A. N. Zevely, Third Ass't P.M.G., "instructing us to print the 2 ct. Postage Stamps in black," and continues: "The printing commences this morning and we will be prepared to supply the demand on the 1st of July."

The 2¢ was printed from seven plates: 28 to 31, 50, 51 and 53. An interesting side note here. The later printing of the 2¢ and 15¢ denominations helps us determine when certain of the fifty-three plates may have been made. The 3¢ was the only one of the original denominations for which plates were made after May 1863. Three plates, 38 to 40, never were used to print stamps. These might have been 1¢ plates, because the use of 1¢ stamps decreased greatly after July 1863.



2¢ Black (Sc. 73) with bottom sheet margin showing plate "No. 50" and part of imprint, tied by cork cancel, also with part strike of "Philada. Pa. Post Office Jul. 16 2nd '67" double-circle carrier datestamp on cover to local street address. One of only three or four known examples of stamps with Plate No. 50 and the only one known on cover.



1863 2¢ black (Sc. 73) cancelled by clear "Philadelphia Pa. Jul 1 1863" town cancel, the unique First Day usage of this issue.



2¢ Black (Sc. 73) bottom imprint & plate No. 29 strip of four

It is estimated that 256,566,000 2¢ stamps were issued without grill and an additional 75,000,000 with grill in D, Z, E, and F patterns. The decline of demand for the 1¢ can be seen from the 10,000,000 issued grilled compared with the 75,000,000 2¢ stamps issued grilled. Plate varieties exist, such as cracked plate, double and triple transfer, and short transfer. Also the printed on both sides printing variety.



2¢ Black Z Grill (Sc. 85B) with clearly defined grill on the face, as well as an additional grill impression in the selvage.

Maurice Cole has tabulated forty covers bearing bisected stamps. Although this practice was outlawed by the PMG in 1853, the practice existed during the middle 1860s, primarily for the 2¢ only. Most uses show a bisected stamp with another 2¢

stamp to pay the three-cent postage. A number of 2¢ bisected covers are known to be faked.



2¢ Black Diagonal Bisect (Sc. 73a) used with 1861 1¢ blue (Sc. 63)—the only recorded example of the 2¢ Black Jack bisect used to make up the 2¢ Local Rate—tied to drop cover across the diagonal by a four-rings cancel, also with matching "Quincy Pa. Sep 16" c.d.s.

November 20, 1965

Correction on Column of July 10th on 2¢ 1863 Stamp

Incorrect: "Three plates, 38 to 40, never were used to print stamps." Correct: Nos. 38, 39 and 40, which are missing

from the (National Bank Note Co.) sequence, are those for the stamps for Newspapers and Periodicals, issued in 1865. Plates 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 are the plates made for the reissue of 1875 and not for the original issue.

August 7, 1965

Why Jackson's Portrait on the 2¢ Black Jack?

Why should Andrew Jackson's portrait have been chosen in March 1863 to be the first President's portrait other than Washington and Jefferson to be engraved on a U.S. postage stamp?

It was probable that all Presidents other than Washington and Jefferson who had passed away prior to the date of selection were considered. The choice could be made from the two Adams, John and John Quincy, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Polk, and Taylor.

Of the eligible Presidents only John and John Quincy Adams from Massachusetts and Martin Van Buren of New York were from states not a part of the Confederacy.

Why Andrew Jackson, a native of Tennessee, then a state of the Confederacy? Andrew Jackson's portrait had been used on a number of bank notes, issued by Tennessee banks in the 1850s. The National Bank Note Co., the printers of this stamp, had also printed a number of these bank notes.

Confederate postage stamps used the portraits of three Presidents of the United States: Thomas Jefferson on the 10¢ in November 1861, Andrew Jackson on the 2¢ in March 1862, and George Washington on the 20¢ in 1863.

Maurice Cole in his book, *The Black Jacks of 1863-67*, devotes a chapter to this question. Was this stamp, printed in black, intended as a commemorative? What was there about Andrew Jackson to commemorate? Born in South Carolina in 1767, defender of New Orleans in 1815, inaugurated in 1829, he passed away in June, 1845. This stamp was certainly not a memorial.

Some Southern congressmen had threatened secession because of the tariff of 1828. At a Jefferson Day dinner in Washington during April, 1830 Andrew Jackson proposed a toast: "Our Federal Union; it must be preserved."

It has been observed that Jackson's portrait may have been used as a gesture to indicate the desire of the Northern States to reunite with the Confederate States and re-establish the Federal Union.

Probably government records or letters of the Post Office Department exist which answer the question raised. But as the research on



From the 1998 Robert A. Siegel Rarities Sale, these two items relate to Jackson's selection for the new 2¢ issue. The off-cover stamp contains in the sheet selvage the sender's message in manuscript, "the Union must and shall be preserved". The Patriotic cover with single cancelled by target shows a soldier and sailor holding a banner also reading "The Union Must and Shall Be Preserved". This declaration also is inscribed on the Andrew Jackson statue in New Orleans, which was erected in 1856.

this column progressed it became clear that the availability of the engraving and the Confederate use of Jackson's portrait may have prompted the decision.

August 22, 1964

The "Atherton" Shift

(Note: We have replaced the photos mentioned in this column with better, more recent photos. JFD.) Have you ever heard of the "Atherton" shift? Stanley Ashbrook discovered and named it. He commented on it as follows in an article in the April 1946 issue of *The American Philatelist*:

"Here we have one of the most remarkable double transfers on U.S. stamps...I have for years classed the One Cent 1851, Type II, 89R2 as the No. 1 among remarkable examples of this variety, and this 2¢ Black Jack could rank as No. 2. Perhaps some would even rank it equal to the 1¢, 89R2.

"I first saw the (Atherton shift) in the Herbert P. Atherton collection in 1922. In addition to single, off-cover copy, Mr. Atherton also had a cover with a strip of three, the lefthand stamp in the strip being this remarkable double shift."

Tony Russo, the well known Chicago dealer and collector of the 2¢ Black Jack, very recently added this cover to his collection and provided the accompanying photo of the stamp on his cover. Some years ago Stan Ashbrook sent Tony a picture of this cover which he had taken on August 28, 1922. It was sold to Brigham for \$63.00 as Lot 166 in the first Em-

erson Sale, auctioned October 19, 1937. The back of the cover has a notation of "\$175" (probably Emerson's cost); also, "only three singles known". Two single copies are illustrated on pages 211 and 212 of Brookman's *The 19th Century Postage Stamps of the United States*. It is believed this variety came from a first condition of the plate. After discovery, the position was erased and a fresh entry made, hence possibly not many sheets containing the shift were sold. The cover was posted at Warrenton, Virginia, May 13th 1867.

November 14, 1964

Another Remarkable 2¢ Black Jack

Since the remarkable shift pictured here was discovered by Marvin Preston, of Ferndale, Michigan, while perusing a dealer's stock in 1951, it could be rightly called the "Preston" shift.

At the recent NAPEX in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Arthur Lane, the philatelic curator for Harry F. Allen, of St. Petersburg, Florida, pointed out and explained the many unusual items in this outstanding 2¢ Black Jack exhibit.

My eyes popped out when I saw this unusual stamp, especially since it is mounted with a photograph, another print of which I had just received a week earlier from Mr. Preston.



by Daniel F. Kelleher
The Barbara Fosdyke Collection
auctioned off by
Schuyler Rumsey

This double transfer is certainly as remarkable as the “Atherton” shift, which appears in the upper left hand corner of the stamp. The “Preston” shift appears all along the right side of the stamp from the top to the bottom. This is not as strong a double transfer as the “Atherton.”

The Barbara Fosdyke Collection auctioned off by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions in 2010 con-



tained four copies of the Preston shift, including this example that best shows the dou-

bling in the upper right. Other examples also are known.

Unlike the “Atherton,” of which at least four copies are known, no other copy of the “Preston” shift has been reported to either Mr. Preston or Mr. Allen. [See caption above. JFD.]

Stanley Ashbrook once commented to Tony Russo, a well-known collector of Black Jacks, that almost every Black Jack had a shift in it if you looked for it carefully. A tremendous quantity of these stamps were printed and the plates took hard wear; consequently, every imperfect transfer showed up sooner or later during different stages of wear on the plates.

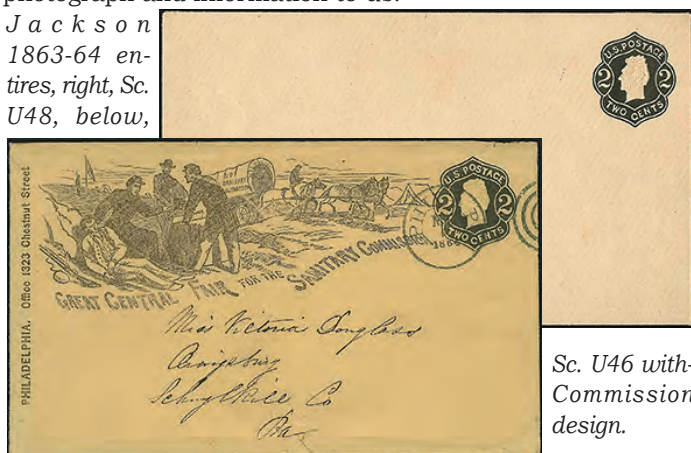
June 17, 1967

Black Jack Preston Shift

Referring back to our column of 14 November, 1964, we pictured a stamp with a large double transfer along the whole right side. This was called the “Preston” shift after Marvin Preston of Ferndale, Michigan, who picked it out of a dealer’s stock in 1951. Unlike the “Atherton” shift, of which at least four copies are known, no other copy of the “Preston” shift has been recognized until Leo Stawecki of Detroit produced the copy illustrated here, a second copy.

For those of our readers who perhaps do not have access to our earlier column we would like to repeat that at the time of the earlier column no other copy of this shift had been reported. We are delighted, therefore, to be able to report a second copy. We thank Marvin Preston for forwarding the photograph and information to us.

*Jackson
1863-64 en-
tires, right, Sc.
U48, below,*



Sc. U46 with-
Commission
design.

Baker 1861 Study to Be Continued

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Yesterday in Mekeel's: The Dodge Portrait of Jackson

by F. S. Ellis (From Mekeel's Weekly, July 28, 1941, with images added)

Every postage stamp of the United States has been issued with a definite purpose, this includes the regular as well as the commemorative issues.

In order that the one cent carrier charge and the bother of collecting payment for such service be done away with, the Act of March 3, 1863, made possible the 2 cent letter rate for drop or local mail.



The 2¢ Black Jack, Sc. 73 on a cover to a local address, tied by a negative "L" in circle fancy cancel with a "Brooklyn N.Y. Dec. 6" circular datestamp.

The National Bank Note Company of New York, the then contractors for the engraving and printing of the United States postage stamps, prepared a stamp now known as Scott, No. 73, featuring as a center design the head of Andrew Jackson.



A plate proof of the 2¢ Black Jack, Sc. 73P, with "Engraved by the National Bank Note Company City of New York imprint and plate No. 28

Though the portrait of Jackson was originally done as a miniature painting by John W. Dodge of New York, at the Hermitage in 1842, the real origin of design, for the stamp, was an engraving (shown) such as appeared on a currency note of the Confederate States.

In 1848, Mosely Isaac Danforth made an engraving from the miniature, this engraving was later published by the artist and E. An-



thony, at 205 Broadway, New York.

Later, 1854-55, Danforth, in company with James Wright, as Danforth, Wright & Co., New York & Phila., No. 1 Wall Street, New York, used the head and shoulders of this engraving on various bank notes, one being the Bank of East Tennessee, at Knoxville, \$ 1 notes.



A \$10 Cincinnati & Little Rock Slate Company note, issued December 1, 1854 with the imprint of Danforth, Wright & Co. on the reverse (not shown) with the portrait of Jackson at lower left.

Although Danforth went into the American Bank Note Company with other engravers in 1858, others of his original firm formed the National Bank Note Company at No. 1 Wall.

The Vice President of the National was also the President of the Bank of the Republic in New York City, as this bank was an agent for the newly formed Confederate States, 1860-61, it is presumed, that is why the National produced the first notes of the new republic.

These notes were issued under the Act of March 9, 1861, of the Confederate States, at Montgomery, Alabama. Four denominations, \$1,000, \$500, \$100 and \$50 were issued. The \$1,000 note, of which 607 were issued, bore portraits of Jackson and Calhoun.



The \$1,000 Montgomery, Alabama, Issue, with portraits of Calhoun and Jackson. This note, which was described as "grades Very Good-Fine, with three small punch hole cancels...has not been improved, restored, or otherwise molested. A note that evokes emotions of many kinds. [price] \$27,500."

The Federal Government prohibited the Northern banks and banknote companies from entering into any business with the enemy, but the National continued to use the same Jackson engraving on bank notes for other banks.

On August 15, 1861, the National received the contract to produce the postage stamps of the Federal Government. To design the 2 cent

Jackson stamp, issued July 6, 1863, Joseph Prosper Ourdan engraved the Jackson head for the stamp die, using the National engraving of Jackson as the origin of design. If one should cut the frame of the stamp away from the center head design and place it over the Jackson engraving on any of the bank notes, then will be seen an exact duplicate of the stamp.



Below the letter "E" of the word "postage" on the stamp can be seen a small cleft in Jackson's hair (arrow), this also can be seen in all of the National Jackson engravings.

Just prior to the issuance of No. 73, Archer & Daly of Richmond, Virginia, produced for the Confederate States, a 2 cent postage stamp, issued May, 1863, which also featured the Jackson engraving, so that two governments were using the same portraits on their current stamps of the same value.



2¢ Red Jack,"
CSA Sc. 8

The stamp became the means of extensive swindling through the medium of newspaper advertisements offering with other items, a fine steel engraving of Andrew Jackson for twenty-five cents, after sending payment the customer received the two cent stamp as the engraving.

The Crescent City Stamp Club, Philatelic Society of New Orleans used this Jackson engraving for center vignette on their annual Philatelic Exhibition, Feb. 4-5-6, 1938, poster stamp.



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Viewing Collections:

Viewing the Bernard Faust Black Jacks

by John F. Dunn

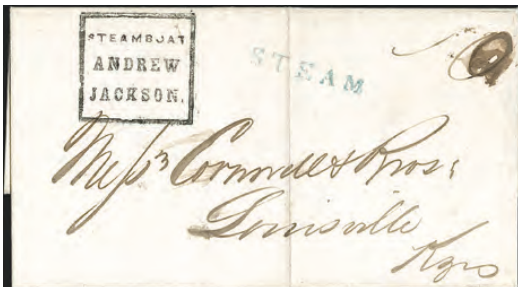
Last April the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries offered the Bernard Faust Collection of the U.S. 1863-68 Black Jack Issues. This viewing gives us a look at the popular issue, but also demonstrates the full range of forms that can be included in such a collection.

The first lot selected for viewing is this Andrew Jackson Free frank "Free Andrew Jackson", as President, on a folded letter written and addressed in the hand of Jackson's secretary, addressed to the "Committee on the part of the citizens of Portsmouth New Hampshire," with a red "Washington Jul. 12" (1833) c.d.s (circular date stamp) and "Free" straightline handstamp.



Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it sold for \$1,700. [All prices quoted here do not include the 18% Buyer's Premium that is added on these hammer prices.]

Next we view a folded letter dated "Natchez June 6, 1846" to Louisville Ky. with a large framed name-of-boat handstamp, a blue "STEAM" handstamp, manuscript "10" rate (ink smeared). This lot with its rare Mississippi River packetboat marking was estimated at \$750-1,000 and soared to \$2,700.



Next up is a lot with eight notes, each with an engraving of the Dodge portrait of Andrew Jackson from which the Black Jack stamps were also based, "all but one used, nice range of banks including a few in color, a few with some circulation wear, attractive and exhibit-worthy group." [Statements in quotes are from the lot descriptions. My own comments are in brackets. JFD.]



Estimated at \$400-500, this lot realized \$325.

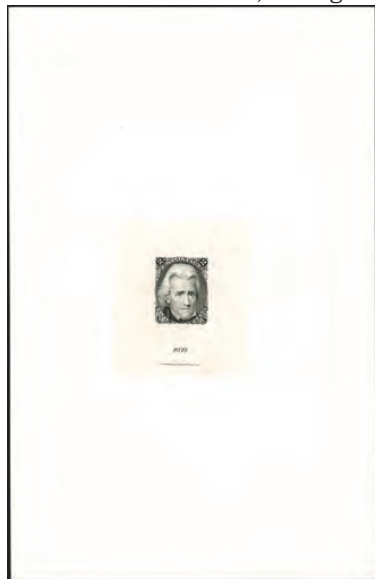
At the top of the next column is a 2¢ Green, Die II, Large Die Trial Color Proof on India (73TC1af) with "No. 1030" and "National Bank Note Co." imprint at bottom, one of only two examples in green. "There are eight distinct trial colors of 2¢ 1863 large die proofs contained in the Faust collection,

representing all of the known colors.... The entire offering in the Faust collection was previously part of the iconic Falk Finkelburg collection of essays and proofs. They were purchased by Finkelburg in 1936 from John A. Klemann (Nassau Stamp Company), who presumably acquired them as part of the Earl of Crawford collection in 1915. This is only the second auction appearance for this complete group." Each color, with an SCV of \$8,000, was offered in a separate lot, then offered as a group, which topped the individual lot totals, selling for \$29,000.



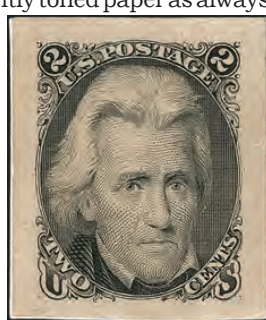
Next we view the unique 2¢ Black, Die I, Large Die Proof on India (Sc. 73P1) with "No. 1030" and "National Bank Note Co." imprint at the bottom.

"The original state of the Black Jack die, or Die I, does not show the star on Jackson's right cheek or the dots in the upper left scroll. Proofs pulled from this first die date to the issuance of the stamp in 1863. Die II proofs, showing the star on cheek and dots in upper left scroll, were pulled later, including probably at the time of the 1875 Re-Issue (which also shows Die II characteristics). With an SCV of \$10,000, it sold for \$5,000.



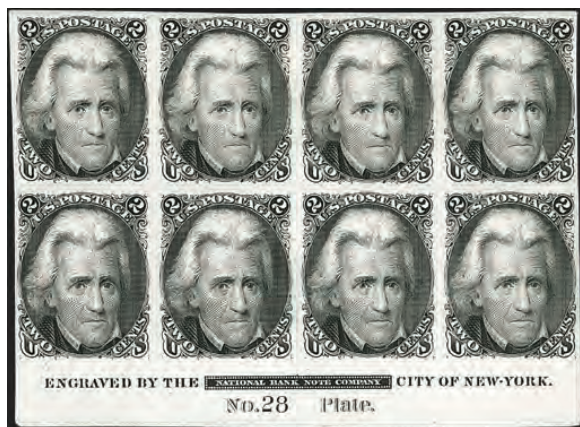
We view here the 2¢ Black, Die II, Panama-Pacific Small Die Proof on Wove (Sc. 73aP2a) "...slightly toned paper as always on the Panama-Pacific die proofs.... From February 20 to December 4, 1915, the Panama-Pacific Exposition was held in San Francisco, to commemorate Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean and to celebrate the opening of one of mankind's greatest engineering achievements, the Panama Canal.

The Post Office Department decided to prepare a limited number



of proof sets showing every United States stamp printed up to the time of the exposition. A total of 413 different designs were made. Only two sets were officially prepared, but it is widely recognized that between three and five of each were made. These included Officials, Newspapers and Periodicals, Philippines and other special use stamps.”

With an SCV of \$8,750, it realized \$5,750.



This piece is a 2¢ Black, Die I, Plate Proof on India (Sc. 73P3) in a bottom imprint and plate no. 28 block of eight. With an SCV of \$2,000, it fetched a top bid of \$2,300.

Although space does not permit showing them here, there were to large pieces worth describing, as follows:

“Lot 1032, 2¢ Black, Die II, Plate Proof on India (Sc. 73aP3) block of 50 from the top half of the plate with full imprint at top and part imprint at sides, mounted on card and so free of the imperfections normally found on this fragile paper... Scott Retail \$7,000 as blocks of four and singles does not do justice to the rarity of this multiple.” Estimated at \$5,000-7,500, it went for \$6,250.

“Lot 1033, 2¢ Black, Die II, Plate Proof on Card (Sc. 73aP4), block of 50 from the bottom half of the plate with imprint and plate no. 57 block of eight, part imprint at sides,...Positions 64 and 74 double transfer, Position 100 ‘Cleft Lip’ variety....

Estimated at 5,000-7,500, it sold for \$8,000.

Next we see the block of four from a lot with a single and this block with the Red Control Number “8901” Overprint Type J (Sc. 73SJ). all with original gum and hinge remnant, “the 1861-66 Issue Type J control number overprints are numbered from the highest denomination to the lowest starting with the 90¢ “1234”, 30¢ “2345”, 24¢ “3456” and so on, except for the 15¢ which has only three numbers (“235”), research by Michael Plett



and Ken Gilbert (Chronicle Aug. 2012, pp. 214-226) deduced that numbers were applied one stamp at a time in the sheet or multiple, using a bond-numbering mechanical device—only two or three blocks of the 2¢ Black Jack with the control number overprint are believed to survive.

With an SCV of \$2,150, it sold for \$2,200.



bold strike of blue ‘Baltimore Md. Aug. 3, 1866’ double-circle datestamp, Extremely Fine Gem, a superb Black Jack with a colored cancel and margin width more akin to its 1875 Re-Issue counterpart. With an SCV of \$70, it soared to \$3,750.



Moving into the Grills, we start with this 1868 D. Grill (Sc. 84) block of four...remarkably choice centering, strong grill impressions on each stamp, a few tiny hinge slivers applied across perforations to prevent any separations...without question the finest quality multiple...comprising four superb singles, including what is arguably the finest example extant, the top left stamp.”



The best part of this

lot is the Siegel lot description and their appeal to keep the block intact, as follows: “The [superb centering] is the reason the block’s survival is so miraculous.

“The 2¢ D Grill is the rarest of the regularly-issued 1868 Grills, excluding the supremely rare Z Grill stamps. The 2¢ D Grill is rare even as a single, and multiples of any size or configuration are great rarities....The block offered here was acquired by Mr. Faust in the 1988 Christie’s sale of the Walter C. Klein collection. If he had not outbid dealers eager to break this block into singles for the ravenous one-of-a-kind stamp market, there is no doubt this block would have suffered the same fate as the part-imprint, right sheet-selvage block from our 1985 Sheriff sale. The Sheriff block was subsequently broken, even though the singles are not nearly as well-centered as the stamps in the block offered here.

“...In the September 1988 Christie’s sale of the Klein collection, Mr. Faust acquired the block for \$26,000 hammer (versus \$14,000 Scott value).

“At the risk of enticing the trade to buy and divide this block, we will comment on its extraordinarily fine centering and condition. All four stamps in the block would be graded Very Fine or Extremely Fine as singles, and the top left stamp is an Extremely Fine Gem and probably the finest extant. The ink and paper are fresh, the grills are strong, and the gum has only a few small hinge marks. As collectors of classic U.S. singles know, the 2¢ D Grill is one of the most difficult issues to obtain with choice centering.

“While we discourage bidders from buying this block to break it into singles, we need to explain the quality and

value of the individual stamps to educate prospective buyers who will have to fight to keep it intact. The catalogue value for a block of Scott 84 is \$80,000, and the value of a single is \$16,000 'in the grade of fine,'...If an original-gum single in Extremely Fine grade were to come to market, in our estimation it would realize \$40,000 to \$50,000. A Very Fine single with original gum might bring \$20,000 to \$25,000. Therefore, without a premium for its status as a block, this unit of four stamps has a market value into six figures if the stamps were sold individually. We hope that does not happen.

Time will tell on this block. With an SCV of \$80,000, it went for \$110,000, or \$129,800 with the Buyer's Premium, above the low end of the Siegel estimate ranges, but below the high end.

Next we have an example of the 2¢ Z. Grill (Sc. 85B), "unused (no gum), wide margins, strong grill...Most unused copies we have encountered have perfs cutting into the design." With an SCV of \$6,750 it went for \$5,250.

Among covers, we view an advertising cover depicting grape vines addressed to Katonah N.Y., with a Poughkeepsie N.Y. duplex datestamp, the 2¢ Z. Grill (Sc. 85B) affixed inside a stamp collar and tied by a cork cancel. Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it realized \$5,250.

This next lot did not do all that well, but it deserves a viewing anyway. The 2¢ Z. Grill (Sc. 85B) is tied by a 6-bar grid cancel on this overall illustrated American Agriculturist cover showing livestock and an intricate floral border, including the original enclosure advertising Orange & Judd's various publications. Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it sold for \$500.

Next up is the 2¢ Black E. Grill (Sc. 87), in the form of an unused (no gum) single with "choice centering and margins, tiny corner perf tip crease at bottom right, appears Extremely Fine." With an SCV of \$650, it went for \$750.

In the F. Grills (Sc. 93), we view this original gum example with "huge Jumbo margins with straddle-pane margin at right,

selvage at top showing divider mark....With an SCV of \$400, it hammered for \$850.

Another F. Grill is this Very Thin Paper (Sc. 93 var), well-centered, with a blue crossroads cancel. With an SCV of \$68 it soared to \$4,750—perhaps coincidental, but another example of a used stamp exceeding the performance of an unused stamp.

Next up is this 1875 Re-Issue of the 1863 Issue (Sc. 103), "unused (no gum), wide margins, intense shade, Very Fine and choice," SCV \$1,500, hammer price \$1,500.

Speaking of the 1863 issue (Sc. 73), we return to that with this bottom imprint and plate no. 31 block of



eight, original gum, detailed impression, attractive margins and centering, "some skillfully reinforced perf separations." [Anyone who has handled these old pieces will understand the importance of reinforcing the perfs rather than watch the blocks almost fall apart on their own.] With an SCV of \$15,000, it realized \$10,000.

Up next, in the Printing Varieties and Shifts section, is the 2¢ Black Imperforate (Sc. 73 var) with large margins including part imprint margin, large manuscript "X" across face. "The 1861 Imperforates with manuscript 'X' cancels are generally considered to be presentation copies. All are rare, and there are fewer than five known of the 2¢ Black Jack. This part imprint copy is the finest known example of the 2¢."

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it went for \$4,000.

On page 32 we show a 2¢ Black, Printed on Both Sides (Sc. 73f), "Back printed in same orientation as the front, strongly showing large part of one design and small parts of three other designs, front with nice centering and cork cancel, natural s.e. at right, light corner crease, "extremely rare example of the 1863 2-cent Black printed on both sides...Engraved stamps printed on both sides usually have a poor impression on one side and a second, complete impression on the other. They prob-



ably occurred when a sheet was printed without proper moistening, which prevented the paper from picking up the ink in the recessed lines of the engraved



plate....The stamp offered here is one of the two strongest impressions on back of any known." With an SCV of \$27,500, this example sold for \$11,000.

Next up is a Laid Paper variety (Sc. 73g) "Showing clear vertical laid lines...one of the rarest of the Black Jack varieties...Our census of this variety, available at our website [at www.SiegleAuctions.com] records just five used copies and no unused.

With an SCV of \$11,500, this example realized just \$2,200.

We now come to the Atherton Shift, the Sc. 73 variety with a Major Double Transfer of Top Left Corner and "Postage". I have a hard time seeing some of these Double Transfers, but just a glance at the upper left "2" is enough to spot the Atherton. This one is described as "one of the finest if not the finest" example.

"...the Atherton shift got its name from Stanley Ashbrook, who first discovered it in the summer of 1923 in the collection of J. P. Atherton. Concerning this double transfer, Mr. Ashbrook wrote: 'Here we have one of the most remarkable double transfers on U.S. stamps that I have ever seen.... He stated further that it was his opinion, supported by other authorities whom he had consulted, that the variety must surely have come from an early or first condition of one of the plates, and that later it had been burnished out and a fresh entry made. The fact that every line in the Atherton Shift 'is razor sharp' led him to conclude that the plate from which it came was very new. With an SCV of \$10,000, it went for \$15,500.

Aptly described as "a stamp with dramatic visual appeal," to the right is the Sc. 73 variety with a large plate crack across the upper right of the stamp, which also is "misperfed with large portion of stamp to right which shows...the crack, fancy red Star in



Sawtooth Circle fancy cancel." Estimated at \$750-1,000, it fetched a top bid of \$2,600.

To the left we see two more remarkable varieties of Sc. 73,

showing dramatic offsets on the gum side, "mirrored of course from the normal impression, one with s.e., Fine and visually striking varieties." Estimated at \$300-400, they went for \$950.

Again demonstrating the breadth of collecting possibilities, we come to the 2¢ Black on Buff, Die 23, Cut Square (Sc. U48), unused, 29 x 32mm, Very Fine, scarce. With an SCV of \$2,250, it realized \$950.

(From another lot description we note, "the Die 23 on Buff is one of the rarest of all Black Jack entires.")

We begin the extensive Black Jack postal history section with an off-cover example, the 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) with a neat manuscript "2 July 63" cancel, used on the second day of the Black Jack issue. With an SCV of \$55, it fetched \$300.

On cover, we start with a 2¢ Diagonal Half Used as 1¢ (Sc. 73a) in a pair with full stamp, tied across the cut by target cancel, "Manchester Md Dec. ?" c.d.s. on cover to Railroad, York County Pa., "Very Fine use of a Black Jack bisect to pay the 3¢ rate from the Everhart correspondence. With an SCV of \$1,500, it sold for \$950.

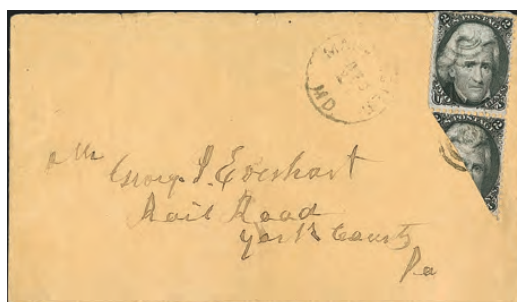
A n - other Bisect cover shows the 2¢ Black, Vertical Half Used as 1¢ (Sc. 73d), in pair with full stamp, manuscript cancels with matching

"Medford Maine June 15th 1868" postmark on cover to Orono Me., missing...with 1983 P.F. certificate. With an SCV of \$2,000, it went for \$375.

On our front cover we show a 2¢ (Sc. 73) on the top portion of *The New York Times* of August 27, 1865, addressed to Groton, Conn.

It is one of three items in the lot, each a newspaper bearing single of No. 73, the other being *The Pilot* of Nov. 5, 1864, published in Boston and addressed to San Francisco, second is, third is most of top portion of *The Sunday Mercury* of June 16, 1867, "Very Fine and unusual uses paying the 2¢ transient newspaper rate for weight not over four ounces.

To Be Continued

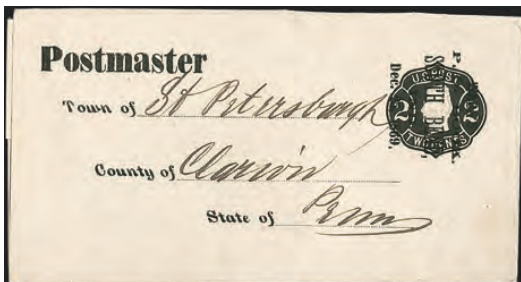


Viewing Collections:

Viewing the Faust Black Jacks, Part 2

by John F. Dunn

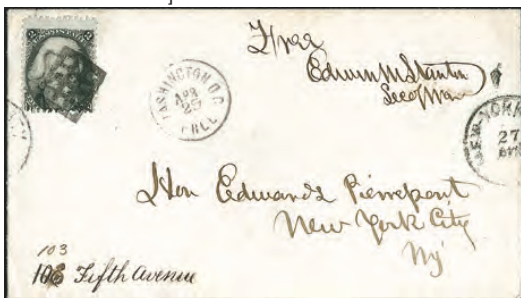
We continue our viewing of the April 2018 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries sale of the Bernard Faust Collection of the U.S. 1863-68 Black Jack Issues. The next lot selected for viewing is this 2¢ Black on Light Manila wrapper, Die 4 (Sc. W57) with a printed "WADE'S/ P.O. BOOK./ S O U T H B E N D , / I N D . / Dec.



25, 1869" precancel and postmark in five lines with part-printed "Postmaster" address to Clarion Pa. Per the auctioneers, it is "one of the most important postal stationery and cancellation-related items in the Faust Collection. The precancelled wrappers were produced by A. B. Wade, postmaster of South Bend, Indiana. Wade was a publisher of account books for keeping post office records." Estimated at \$4,000-5,000, it was hammered down for \$3,250.

[All prices quoted here do not include the 18% Buyer's Premium that is added on these hammer prices, and statements in quotes are from the lot descriptions. My own comments are in brackets. JFD.]

Next up is a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by well-struck Checker-board fancy cancel and used as forwarding postage on



a cover with a Edwin M. Stanton free frank as Secretary of War, "Washington D.C. Free Apr. 25" c.d.s. It was addressed to Edwards Pierpont in New York, forwarded just a few doors away from 108 to 103 Fifth Avenue, shows a "New-York City 27 Apr." duplex datestamp, and has an original enclosure on War Department letterhead dated April 25, 1867. Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it went for \$6,750.

This next cover shows a 2¢ Black, E. Grill (Sc. 87) used with a 12¢ Black F. Grill (Sc. 97) and horizontal pair of 1¢ Pictorials (Sc. 112) tied by circular cork cancels, also with a "Vergennes Vt. Nov. 6"



c.d.s, on the registered 2¢ Black on Orange entire (Sc. U56), all paying the 15¢ registry fee plus 3¢ postage. Estimated at \$1,500-2,000, it realized \$1,200.

Next up is a cover to Lowell Mass. with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) horizontal strip of three, tied by quartered cork cancels and by a red Boston



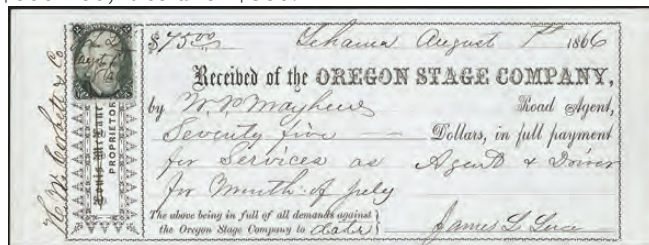
c.d.s., also with a clear strike of a Small Solid Star to indicate carrier service in Lowell. "The small star was reportedly used to alert the carrier service to absence of a street address."

Estimated at \$500-750, it soared to \$2,000.

Here we have a cover to Copenhagen N.Y. exhibiting a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) used with an 1857 1¢ Blue Type V (Sc. 24), tied by a circle of wedges cancel



and "New-York May 2" c.d.s. described as a "rare example of the demonetized 1¢ accepted as postage, the Black Jack was not issued until 1863 which is long after demonetization." [That may explain why former Postmaster General Franklin seems to be looking away, as if wanting to have nothing to do with the illegal usage? JFD.] In any event, estimated at \$500-750, it sold for \$850.



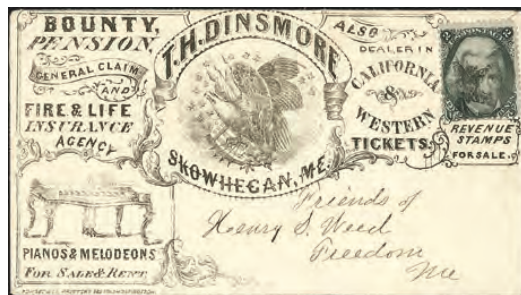
In the same section we find this Oregon Stage Company check with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by an Aug. 1, 1866 manuscript cancel, the Black Jack thus used as a Revenue stamp, a "very unusual and attractive use" that was estimated at \$200-300 and brought a top bid of \$425.

On page 30 we show an unsealed St. Mary's Academy illustrated advertising cover addressed to Logansport Ind., depicting a school building and trees, the flap with an embossed "Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross" illustrated seal and Wm. Murphy N.Y. imprint. It bears a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by a circular grid cancel with a "Notre Dame Ind. Jun. 17" (1864)

double-circle datestamp, the original enclosure being an invitation to the June 11, 1864 commencement. Estimated at \$400-500, it soared to \$2,700.



The 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) is tied by 5-Point Star fancy cancel to a 'busy' unsealed ornate illustrated advertising cover for a multi-faceted company in Skowhegan Me., depicting an eagle over shield, a piano and covering four different businesses including "Revenue Stamps for Sale", addressed to Freedom Maine, "a beautiful and scarce design on a Black Jack advertising cover." Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it realized \$2,100.

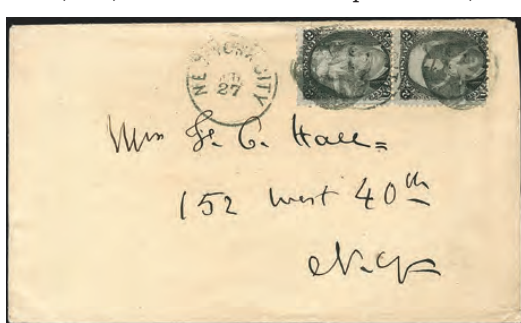


Next we view a Black Jack (Sc. 73) tied by a blue quartered cork cancel and "Kankakee (mis-spelled) Depot 29 Aug." double-circle datestamp to an unsealed purple, dark red and green illustrated "A.L. Small, Grape Grower and Nurseryman, Kankakee Ill." advertising cover to Alton Ill., the imprint at left reading "Engraved and printed in colors by Taylor, Kankakee".



Described by the auctioneers as "a spectacular cover with a beautiful viniculture design...the quintessential Black Jack Advertising Cover," bidders were equally enthusiastic: estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it fetched a hammer price of \$9,500.

In the Fancy Cancels section we find this locally addressed cover with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) vertical pair, tied by two strikes of a Dancing Man fancy with matching "New-York City Jul. 27" c.d.s., the cover being "barely reduced at right...the Dancing Man Fancy Cancel is probably the rarest of all New York City Fancy Cancels. This may well be unique on the Black Jack stamp....The



details of the design, which are especially clear on the bottom [right] stamp, are remarkable. The dancing man's fingers are perfectly clear, as are his eyes and top hat. His top coat is swinging behind him. On the bottom stamp, Jackson's eye looks out from the middle of the dancing man's chest. All of these elements combine to create a visually arresting fancy cancel and cover." Again, an enthusiastic lot description was matched by the bidding: estimated at \$5,000-7,500, it sold for \$16,000.

Next we see the 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) off cover, cancelled by a "well-struck Union Soldier's Head fancy cancel of New York City (Skinner-Eno PH-F 72), thinned and slightly toned, a few short perfs, Very Fine strike of this distinctive fancy cancel and extremely rare on a Black Jack stamp, the creation and use of this fancy cancel in the Spring of 1866 coincided with the return of soldiers from the Civil War, it is known on at least one domestic cover, but apparently the cancelling device migrated to the foreign-mail exchange office, where it was used to cancel stamps on mail to foreign countries, as such it is most often found on 24¢ and 30¢ 1861 Issues, this is the only example we have encountered on a Black Jack." Estimated at \$500-750, it realized a top bid of \$425.



Next up is a remarkable lot, a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73), "intense shade, beautifully centered with wide and balanced margins, socked-on-the-nose strike of vivid red Circle of Diamonds fancy cancel, Extremely Fine Gem, a Superb Ungrilled Black Jack with one of the most beautiful cancels we have encountered. This is a stamp of such astonishing beauty that it made the Siegel 1992 Rarities of the World sale despite a modest catalogue value of \$30.00 at the time (realized \$1,600 hammer). We have no idea what numerical grade it would receive, nor do we really care, because this stamp rises above any kind of system based purely on measurement."



If you think the description is enthusiastic, consider that, with an SCV of \$105, and no pre-sale estimate, this stamp was hammered for \$22,000.

[What is intriguing to me is that in a market in which traditional 'exhibition level' rarities more often than not now tend to sell for less than the previous sale, this 'gradeworthy level' single soared, even considering the inflation factor.]

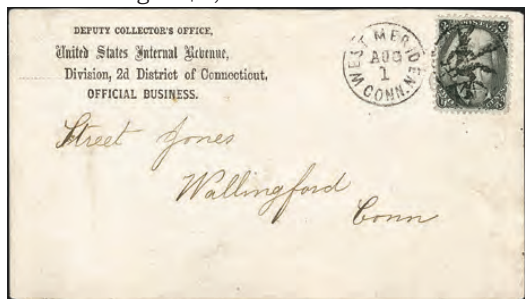
Next up is a cover addressed locally "City" with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by a blue "New York City B Received Mar. 10 1 PM" Station B duplex datestamp and matching blue Bee fancy cancel, with a second strike of the duplex device at the top right, also with a New York received backstamp with grid (Station D), the cover being reduced at right "just into the second bee's stinger." Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it went for a healthy \$5,250.



Still in the Fancy Cancels section of the Faust Black Jack Collection, we come to the 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) in a horizontal pair [shown upside down to better display the cancel], both with clear strikes of the Waterbury, Conn. Man Smoking Pipe fancy cancel (Rohloff E-1), also with “a faint impression of a double-circle datestamp at left, left stamp tiny thin spot, right stamp two tiny edge tears at bottom. These are the only two recorded Black Jack stamps with Postmaster Hill’s ‘Man Smoking Pipe’ cancel. Coming out of other recent sales with similar results, Fancy Cancels are in demand, this lot being estimated at \$2,000-3,000 and soaring to \$9,500.



Still another strong Fancy Cancel realization is found with this U.S. Internal Revenue imprint cover to Wallingford Conn., with the 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by a clear strike of the Devil & Pitchfork fancy cancel, and a matching “West Meriden Conn. Aug. 1” (1866) c.d.s., the cover “with small tear at top left, trivial mended cover erosion spot below stamp...a magnificent strike...Only three examples of this fancy cancel are known used on Black Jack covers....Ex Lehman, Haas and Dr. Rorke. Offered to the market for the first time in 30 years.” Estimated at 7,500-10,000, it went for \$15,500.



We now move to the Illustrated Covers, with the first lot selected for viewing being this red and blue Union Flag with portrait of Commodore Silas H. Stringham Patriotic cover to Vienna, Austria, with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) used with a 1¢ Blue (Sc. 63) and 3¢ Rose (Sc. 65), tied by segmented cork cancels, “N. York By Br. Pkt. 3 Nov. 14” (1863) 3¢ debit datestamp, the cover also with 1863 Hamburg and Vienna backstamps “pencil ‘15’ at top [indicating] this was treated as completely unpaid, blue ‘6-1/2’ silbergroschen due handstamp, blue manuscript ‘33’ neukreuzer indicates amount due from recipient. A remarkable cover from the Angell Correspondence...that was insufficient for the 15-cent Bremen-Hamburg rate.” Once again, the Siegel experts give us a wealth of information, as follows: “Dr. Henry C. Angell was an optometrist who spent a considerable amount of time in Europe. Covers are known sent to him in France, Italy, England, Germany and Austria, plus a very few forwarded to other destinations. He was an



art collector and undoubtedly appreciated the wide variety of Civil War patriotic envelopes mailed to him while he travelled abroad....The portrait subject of this patriotic, Commodore Silas H. Stringham (later Admiral)...commanded the Atlantic Blockading Squadron at the start of the Civil War. When one of his command decisions was publicly criticized (unfairly, as it turned out), he withdrew from active command and took an administrative position. The envelopes bearing his likeness...are extremely rare....This cover was carried on the HAPAG steamer *Germania* which departed New York on November 14, 1863, arriving in Southampton on November 25 and Hamburg on November 27. It reached Vienna on November 29....This cover was not offered in the 1969 Matthies auction held by our firm—it comes from a secondary source of Angell covers.” Estimated at \$10,000-15,000, it went for \$15,500.

[Coming back to my previous comment about ‘gradeworthy’ realizations, this realization indicates that there is some strength for ‘exhibition grade’ material.]

Next up is a “Magnus Patriotic cover to Allsted, Germany, a magnificent Magnus lithographed design depicting the barracks, trees, soldiers on guard, cannons and ships in the harbor.” It bears two 2¢ Black F. Grills (Sc. 93) used with a horizontal pair of 3¢ Red F. Grills (Sc. 94), tied by red segmented cork cancels, also with a matching “Baltimore Md. Nov. 27” (1868) c.d.s., a red “New York Paid All Direct Dec. 1” c.d.s, red “Hamburg/15 12 68/Franco” boxed transit datestamp, and Dec. 16 receiving backstamp.



“The war was long over when this cover was mailed from Baltimore in 1868. After cancelling and postmarking in Baltimore’s foreign-mail office, it was sent to New York for the departure of the HAPAG line’s *Germania* on December 1, 1868, which reached Southampton on December 13. It received the Hamburg transit datestamp two days later. It is a subtle point of rarity, but Civil War patriotic stationery was rarely used after the war. For this reason, the 1867-68 Grilled Issue stamps are exceedingly rare on patriotic covers, and in particular the overall Magnus designs.” Estimated at \$10,000-15,000, this cover sold for \$15,500.

From the Civil War period itself, we have “the only recorded example of the 30-cent Philadelphia Sanitary Fair issue on cover with a regular postage stamp. One of the greatest items of Sanitary Fair and 2-cent Black Jack issues, and one of the highlights of Civil War era Postal History.

The covers bears a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) horizontal pair, tied by a target cancel and “Phila. Pa. Jun. 24, 1864” c.d.s, the Great Central Fair, Philadelphia, 30¢ Black (Sc. WV13), tied



by a "Great Central Fair June 11, 1864" c.d.s, the cover also with a manuscript "X", "P.O. Phila. A Jun. 24 3rd" c.d.s on back, and Boston Jun. 25 receiving backstamp.

The auctioneers give us a wonderful description of the Sanitary Fairs in general and this cover in particular. "On June 13, 1861, President Lincoln signed a document giving the Sanitary Commission semi-official status. Its purpose was to support sick and wounded soldiers. However, funds were not provided to carry on the work, so Sanitary Commission fairs were organized as fundraisers and to enlist volunteers.

"The Great Central Fair, held in Philadelphia from June 7 to 28, 1864, was the largest and best-organized of all the fairs. To raise funds, President Lincoln signed 48 copies of a special authorized edition of the Emancipation Proclamation; 26 are known to survive—Siegel sold one of the last in private hands in 2012 for \$2,127,500. The Philadelphia fair was the only one attended by Lincoln, whose passionate speech caused such an outpouring of emotions among spectators that officials decided it would be dangerous for him to attend another.

"Eight of the Sanitary Fairs issued stamps, but those produced for the Philadelphia fair exceed all others in their complexity and beauty. They were printed by Butler and Carpenter of Philadelphia (Carpenter was a member of the Post Office Committee of the fair). It depicts an eagle at center, similar to the James A. Clark Match stamp (Scott RO62). 34 stars were added to the background, for each of the states in the Union prior to the onset of the Civil War. These are also the only perforated Sanitary Fair stamps.

"Three denominations were printed—10¢, 20¢ and 30¢—and the stamps were valid for use within the fair. Additional postage stamps were required for delivery within or beyond Philadelphia. The stamps were sold by young ladies at the fair's post office booth, who would write a poem or note to the addressee—the length depended on the denomination purchased. Four thousand such enclosures were prepared in advance.

"Approximately eight covers are known franked with the 30¢ Great Central Fair stamp, Scott WV13. None of the others have regular postage stamps." [This cover requiring a postage stamp as it was addressed beyond Philadelphia.]

"The Scott Catalogue value of \$36,000.00 is based on the 2011 Doyle's auction, where this cover made its first appearance as a new discovery." Estimated at 20,000-30,000, it sold for \$42,500.

Foreign Mails with Black Jacks included this cover to Auburn Cal., with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) used with a 3¢ Rose (Sc. 65) and a Hawaii 1861 5¢ Blue on Thin Bluish



Wove paper (Sc. 9), "ample to large margins except nicked at bottom (another stamp affixed behind it to improve appearance, but not a repair in the true sense of the word)" all three stamps tied at origin by two strikes of "Collectors Office, Hilo Hawaii" oval handstamp, red "Honolulu U.S. Postage Paid May 17" (1865) c.d.s., also with a Honolulu 9-bar square grid cancel that ties the Hawaii stamp, "San Francisco Cal. Jun. 12, 1865" double-circle datestamp struck on arrival and 2¢ tied by San Francisco grid in circle cancel "(the 3¢ with Collectors

Office oval was not cancelled again at San Francisco)," part of a faint purple handstamp on back that reads "(B)UENOS-AIR(ES)" but we do not know its significance.

"This cover was carried on the American bark *D. C. Murray*, which departed Honolulu on May 18, 1865, and arrived in San Francisco on June 10 (mail was postmarked on June 12). The 2¢ and 3¢ stamps pay the 5¢ U.S. domestic single letter rate for non-contract mail to a destination beyond San Francisco (the 2¢ ship fee was inclusive), which went into effect on mail from Hawaii in August 1863 (following the U.S. July 1863 rate change). The 5¢ Kamehameha III Third Printing is very scarce on cover, and by 1865 the 5¢ Numeral was usually used on mail bound for the United States (3 to 1 ratio in the Gregory census for this rate period). In 1866 the Kamehameha III and Numeral issues were completely overtaken by the 1866 5¢ National Bank Note Co. Kamehameha V issue. Furthermore, the usual U.S. franking in this period is a 5¢ 1863 stamp—Black Jack frankings on covers from Hawaii are rare in any period, but especially so in combination with Hawaiian stamps."

This lot, estimated at \$4,000-5,000, sold for \$6,750. [One has to think that these excellent lot descriptions give bidders confidence in the importance of what is being offered and help the realizations.]

Next up is "a phenomenal use of a Black Jack stamp to St. Pierre and Miquelon... This is surely unique." The folded lettersheet



thus described bears a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by a quartered cork cancel and "Boston Mass. May 13" (1868) c.d.s. and is addressed to Ile-aux-chiens. It also bears a blue "Delong & Seaman Boston May 13, 1868" company backstamp, the sender's directive "Via Sydney C B" (Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia), and manuscript "05" at bottom left for centimes due from recipient.

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it was hammered for \$4,500.

We now view a cover to Callao, Peru with two 2¢ Black F. Grill singles (Sc. 93), used with a horizontal pair of 15¢ Brown & Blue Type II Pictorials (Sc. 119), tied by targets, the cover also with a "Pownal Me. Feb. 26" (1870) c.d.s., a red New York transit datestamp (Mar. 2), red "12" credit handstamp, "Very few Black Jack stamps are known used in combination with the 1869 Pictorial to foreign destinations. The earliest documented use of the 15¢ is March 1869, so this must have been sent in 1870. When this was mailed on February 26, the 34¢ rate was in effect, but by the time it reached New York on March 2, the rate had dropped to 22¢ the day before, so this became overpaid by 12¢." Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it realized \$3,250.



To Be Continued

Viewing Collections:

Viewing the Faust Black Jacks, Part 3

by John F. Dunn

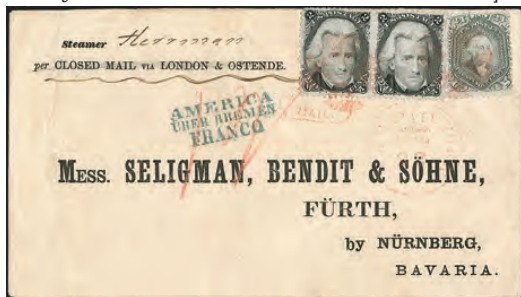
We continue our viewing of the April 2018 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries sale of the Bernard Faust Collection of the U.S. 1863-68 Black Jack Issues with this 2¢ Black (Sc.



73) used with a 3¢ Rose (Sc. 65) and 10¢ Green (Sc. 8), each stamp cancelled by a bold blue Masonic Square & Compass fancy cancel with a matching "Lonsdale R.I. Dec. 30" (1868) double-circle datestamp on a cover to Paris France, forwarded to Firenze, Italy, with France 40¢ Orange on Yellowish (Sc. 27) used as forwarding postage, the French stamp tied by a Paris blue "3" in Star of Dots cancel, the cover also with a red "New York Paid 6 Jan. 1" credit datestamp, Calais entry datestamp partly underneath the French stamp, a Paris c.d.s of Jan. 14 that also ties the French stamp, a Munroe & Co. forwarder's handstamp, and French and Italian transit handstamps.

Per the auctioneers, this is "a remarkable...three-color 1861 issue franking to France with rare Masonic fancy cancel and...forwarding to Italy." Estimated at 10,000-15,000, it drew a hammer price of \$10,000. [All prices quoted here do not include the 18% Buyer's Premium that is added on these hammer prices, and statements in quotes are from the lot descriptions. My own comments are in brackets. JFD.]

Next we view a cover to Bavaria, Germany, with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) pair used with a 24¢ Gray (Sc. 78b), tied by red circle of



wedges cancels, also with matching "New York Paid Sep. 22" (1866) c.d.s and red "Supplementary Mail" Type A handstamp, red "12" credit for Bremen Mail rate (15¢ rate overpaid), blue "America/Uber Bremen/Franco" handstamp, and receiving backstamp.

"A rare Black Jack cover to Bavaria with the stamps tied by the Supplementary Mail Type A handstamp. Supplementary Mail service provided for special handling of letters received after the mails for a scheduled steamer departure had closed. For a fee equivalent to the postage, a Supplementary Mail letter would be taken on board a ship at the docks just prior to sailing. It is rare used on a Black Jack cover. In this case the fee was either paid in cash, and the 28¢ in postage overpaid the 15¢ rate via Bremen-Hamburg Mail, or the double rate for Supplementary Mail was underpaid 2¢."

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it sold for \$3,250.

Here we have a cover to Unterentfelden, Canton Aargau, Switzerland with a 2¢ Black, Diagonal Half Used as 1¢ (Sc. 73a),



used with a vertical pair of 10¢ Green (Sc. 68), the bisect well tied across the cut and right side, all stamps tied by "Harrisburg Pa. Jun. 11" (1866) duplex datestamp and cork cancel...[the cover also with a] red "N. York U.S. Pkt. Paid, Jun. 14" c.d.s, blue three-line Bremen transit handstamp, backstamped Basel and Aarau (Jul. 4, 1866).

"This is the only recorded use of a 2-Cent Black Jack Bisect on cover to a foreign destination....This cover to Switzerland was intended to go via Havre, France, as per the sender's written directive at upper left. The sender in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, carefully affixed the precise amount of postage required for the 21¢ French Mail rate to Switzerland, using two 10¢ 1861 stamps and a diagonal bisect of the 2¢ Black Jack. However, after the letter reached the New York foreign-mail office, the instructions were ignored, and it was placed on board the steamer Baltic, bound for Bremen."

Estimated at \$7,500-10,000, the cover realized \$5,750.

Continuing in the foreign usages, next we view a tissue-paper cover to Rome, Italy, with a 2¢ Black, F. Grill (Sc. 93) vertical pair used with a 15¢ Black, F. Grill (Sc. 98), tied by circle of

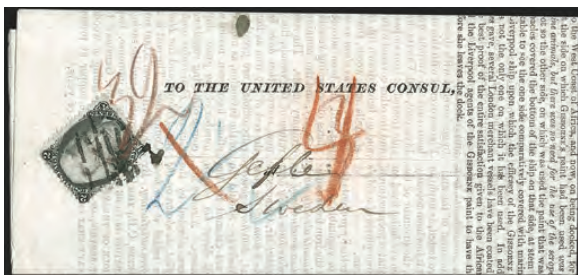


wedges cancels, also with a red "New York Paid All Br. Transit Apr. 29" (1869) backstamp.

The cover was forwarded to Paris, France, with forwarding postage paid by a Roman States 1868 10¢ Black on Deep Crimson (Sc. 23) and 40¢ Black on Greenish Yellow (Sc. 24), each tied by blue c.d.s, the cover also with a red "4" credit handstamp, red Verviers-Cologne transit marking that ties the 2¢ pair, and several other transit and rate markings including blue crayon "WF 1-1/2" which is equivalent to 4¢ credit to the North German Union, and blue Rome banker's straightline handstamp struck five times.

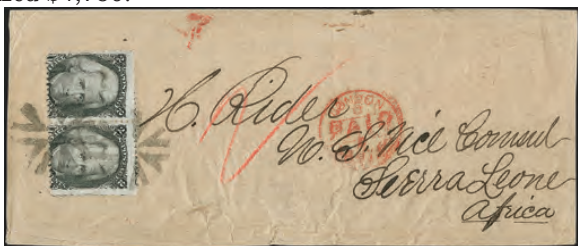
"The North German Union Closed Mail rate was effective from January 1, 1868, thru June 30, 1870. The U.S. rate to Rome was 19¢ per half ounce. The rate from Rome to France was 50 centesimi."

Estimated at \$5,000-7,500, it sold for \$4,250.



This 1865 folded circular with a printed address to United States Consul in Gefle, Sweden bears a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by an open grid cancel. It was sent via French Mail, and bears an indistinct boxed transit handstamp on the back, also backstamped with German and Swedish railway markings and Copenhagen transit, with a series of manuscript rates crossed out and written over, final result is magenta "32" or 8¢ (ties stamp) or 8¢ due from addressee.

"Pamphlets, magazines and other printed matter could be sent at a rate of 2¢ per 4 ounces or fraction thereof, effective August 1, 1864, through May 31, 1867. This is a rare use of that rate to Sweden." Estimated at \$2,000-3,000 it realized \$4,750.



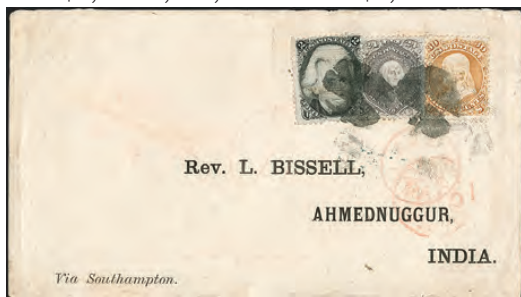
Talk about unusual usages, this next lot is a brown newspaper wrapper to U.S. Vice Consul H. Rider in Sierra Leone, with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) horizontal pair tied by two clear strikes of New York City circle of V's cancels, also with a red crayon "2" and red London Paid transit datestamp (date not readable).

Per the auctioneers, this is "the only reported Black Jack cover to Sierra Leone, and its rarity is exponentially greater as a printed matter usage...Although the date is not readable, this wrapper was probably mailed in 1866....As a measure of rarity, a Power Search review failed to locate any cover to Sierra Leone prior to the 1890s."

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it soared to \$6,500.

Next up is a cover to Ahmednuggur, India, from the Bissell correspondence with a printed address and "Via Southampton" route, bearing a 2¢ Black Z. Grill (Sc. 85B) used with a 24¢ Gray Lilac (Sc. 78a) and 30¢ Orange (Sc. 71), tied by segmented cork cancels, also with a red "Boston Paid Jun. 16" (1868) c.d.s., red crayon credit, red London Paid transit datestamp (Oct. 10, 1868), red crayon "2" (2p) Colonial double rate, blue oval Sea P.O. (Jul. 20) and red receiving (Aug. 1) backstamps.

"The Bissell correspondence is described in great detail in



the 1953 American Philatelic Congress book. Reverend Lemuel Bissell arrived in India in 1851 and was based in Sirur. He moved to Ahmednuggur in 1861 and in 1865 became the missionary secretary. The Bissell correspondence covers the period from early 1868 to late 1875. Virtually all Bissell covers were sent from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Congregational Christian Church in Boston. The correspondence probably comes from Reverend Bissell's time as mission secretary, and the multiple rates were necessitated by the inclusion of lengthy letters and remittances in the pre-addressed envelopes. The franking on the cover offered here pays the double 28¢ rate to India by British Mail via Southampton. It was carried on the Cunarder *Cuba*, which departed New York on June 17, 1868, and arrived in Queenstown on June 26. From there it was carried on Peninsular & Oriental steamers to Bombay via Alexandria and Suez."

Estimated at \$4,000-5,000, this example realized \$4,750.

Here we see the front and back of a cover to Benjamin S. Lyman at Calcutta, India, sent from his father with letter enclosure. It bears a 2¢ Black F. Grill (Sc. 93), creased, used with a 3¢ Ultramarine (Sc.



114), both stamps struck with and 2¢ tied by target cancels with duplex "Northampton Ms. Aug. 22" (1870) double-circle datestamp, also with a magenta "San Francisco Paid All Sep. 1" c.d.s. It was carried by the Pacific Mail Steam Ship *China* (departed September 1) and then by steamer to Calcutta where red "Steamer Letter GPO Calcutta NO 12" and red "EX G.P.O. Calcutta NO 12 70" c.d.s.'s were struck on back, the first two of ten backstamps applied at Indian post offices for multiple forwardings, also with manuscript rate notation for 3 annas due on back.

"Benjamin Smith Lyman was a mining engineer for the Department of Public Works in India. The small Lyman correspondence is a challenge to postal historians, each cover presenting a peculiar franking and complex array of markings. In this case, Benjamin's father chose to send his letter by American Packet from San Francisco, perhaps because he feared the European route would be disrupted by the Franco-Prussian war, to which he refers in his letter. The 5¢ postage underpaid the 10¢ rate, but the San Francisco post office apparently overlooked the short payment. On September 1, 1870.

Estimated at \$3,000-4,000, it fetched a top bid of \$8,000.

Next we view a cover to South Topeka, Kan., with a 2¢ Black, D. Grill (Sc. 84) horizontal pair, "grill count is 15 vertical rows, split grill (shifted top to bottom)", used with a 6¢ Carmine (Sc. 148), cancelled by matching circle of wedges and tied between perfs, with a clear strike of "U.S. Postal Ag'cy Shanghai Jun 16" (1874 or 1875) c.d.s., also with a partly struck "San Francisco Cal. Jul. 16" double-circle datestamp, pencil docket-

ing "From Dr. Lord, Lucy's husband 1875", the cover slightly reduced at left.

"The use of any Black Jack issue from the U.S.

Postal Agency in China is extremely rare, and the 1868 2-Cent D Grill Pair is a great philatelic rarity...the product of miraculous serendipity....it seems likely that the 2¢ stamps were taken to Shanghai by a traveling missionary or diplomat who supplied them to Reverend Lord....The catalogue value of Scott 84 as an off-cover pair is \$8,750, but of course the philatelic value is enhanced by the cover's value as a postal history usage." This latter statement, supported by a \$10,000-15,000 estimate was further backed up by its \$23,000 realization.

Another rare usage shows a 2¢ Black, F. Grill (Sc. 93) used with a 30¢ Orange (Sc. 71), the stamps left uncanceled at the New Orleans post office where a "New Orleans La. Jan. 4" (1869) c.d.s. was struck at right on the cover to Saigon, French Indochina (Cochin China, or Anam), also with a "New-York Br. Transit Jan. 12" backstamp and matching "24" credit handstamp struck once on cover and used to cancel stamps at the New York foreign-mail office, red London Paid transit datestamp (Jan. 25, 1869) and red crayon "1" (1p) Colonial rate, "Singapore MR 18 69" British P.O. transit datestamp and "Cochin-Chine Saigon 27 Mars 69" French P.O. receiving datestamp, magenta pen lines thru "Saigon" and "Cochin-Chine" in address, marked "P. S. adresse" in matching ink,

"This is the only Classic U.S. cover to French IndoChina we have been able to locate...a truly extraordinary postal history artifact.

"The sender in New Orleans in January 1869 affixed the correct amount of postage for the 32¢ rate to Anam (Cochin China) by North German Union Closed Mail via England—this rate was in effect from July 1868 to July 1870. For an unknown reason, the New Orleans post office did not cancel the stamps, but the New York foreign-mail office used the "24" handstamp to cancel both stamps and credit 24¢ to Great Britain for its share of the 34¢ rate to Singapore by British Mail via Southampton—the foreign-mail clerk evidently forgave the 2¢ underpayment....The French colonial post office in Saigon applied its receiving datestamp and attempted to find the addressee, but it is not known if the cover was ever delivered.

"Following the French military expedition in Indochina and establishment of a colonial government there, a substantial amount of correspondence occurred between Indochina and France. However, based on surviving covers, there was considerably less correspondence between the United States and Indochina. This cover is the earliest we have seen to In-



dochina by decades, with the exception of an 1872 cover to Singapore that was carried outside the mails to Saigon and an 1889 cover from Hawaii to Saigon."

Despite its rarity, estimated at \$5,000-7,500, it sold for \$3,000.

Next up is a blue folded letter datelined "Yokohama 27th Novb. 1868" from the trade and insurance firm of Gutschow &

Co. to the banking firm of Brown Brothers in Philadelphia, with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) horizontal strip of five, tied by four strikes of a five-spoke "Chop" cancel, the strip additionally tied by a magenta "China and Japan Steam Service" oval handstamp and "San Francisco Cal. Dec. 23" (1868) receiving datestamp, strip covers sender's route directive "Via San Francisco", blue "Philada. P.O. Received Jan. 7 4 AM" (1869) c.d.s. struck twice on back, receipt docketing with origin date corrected from "1869" to "1868" (shortly after New Year's Day), "one of two recorded covers from the Far East with five 2-cent Black Jack stamps paying the 10-cent rate," it was estimated at \$40,000-50,000 and realized \$42,500.

We conclude this viewing of the Faust Black Jacks with a 2¢ Black (Sc. 73) tied by a "Forwarded by U.S. Consul, Kanagawa, Japan" double-oval

and stars handstamp applied at the U.S. consulate office in Yokohama, on a blue printed notice addressed to Macondray & Co. in San Francisco, also with a blue framed "BERNARD, ECCARD & RAUD, /YOKOHAMA (Japon.)" sender's handstamp, notices jointly published by Randon & Cie. and Bernard, Eccard & Raud, datelined (in print) "YOKOHAMA le 27 JUIN, 1867", announcing the dissolution of Randon's business and his return to France, and that Bernard, Eccard & Raud would take over Randon's accounts (silk trading business), manuscript notation "Bernard Eccard & Raud, Yokohama July 27, 1867" (presumably a docketing error—July instead of June).

"The only recorded 2-cent Black Jack cover with the U.S. Consulate Office in Yokohama oval handstamp...one of only eight covers with this marking used to cancel stamps...the only one paying the printed matter rate...an instantly recognizable postal history rarity."

Estimated at \$30,000-40,000, it drew a \$26,000 hammer price.

I should also point out that the lot description supporting this cover was extremely comprehensive. Space does not enable me to reprint it here.

The same holds for many of the other lots in this auction. For that, I refer you to the website:

https://siegelauctions.com/sales.php?sale_no=1181

