

SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES

CENSUS OF 3-CENT ROSE, B GRILL (SCOTT 82)

SPECIAL NOTE: There are many United States stamps that look similar to the rarities listed below. Some of the differences between expensive rarities and common stamps can be subtle, including differences in perforation, shade and size. These stamps should have certificates from a recognized expertizing committee, such as The Philatelic Foundation or P.S.E. If you think you have one of these rarities, we cannot help you until after it has such a certificate.

The distinguishing characteristics of the true B Grill are its size--22 points wide by 18 points high (18 x 15 mm)--and the points-up orientation of the grill, which shows as a pyramidal (male) grill impression on the back. For years there was confusion over what constituted a B Grill, with Elliott Perry arguing that the partially-erased female C Grill was the true B Grill. However, the four stamps discovered in 1969 on a cover to Germany, postmarked at Mason, Texas, in February 1869, disproved Perry's theory. These stamps are irrefutable evidence that an 18 x 15 millimeter male grill was used on stamps issued to the public. A photograph of the complete cover as discovered is shown below.

The deep reddish shade and thinner paper of the 3c B Grill stamps are more typical of the mid-1868 printings and quite different from the paler Rose shades and thick paper of the 1867 and early 1868 3c grilled issues (A, C, D, Z and some E production). The shade and paper indicate that the B Grill was implemented after the 1867 experimental period and after the first two months of regular 1868 grill production (see timeline). Perhaps the B Grill was created during the process of making a replacement grilling device for one of the two machines. The grilling surface must have worn during production of many thousands of sheets, and it seems likely that replacement grills would become necessary in mid-1868. Through miscalculation or possibly deliberate experimentation, the grill size per stamp on this new B Grill device was twice the width of the F Grill. Based on the small number of surviving copies, this wider grill must have been quickly modified or discarded. Sheets with the B Grill made their way into the regular supply and, in the case of the discovery examples, were used in early 1869.



82-CAN-01
Isleham Coll. - RAS 5/1986
Zoellner Coll. - RAS Sale 804,
10/8/1998, Lot 217 - \$155,000
PFC 30086 for cover



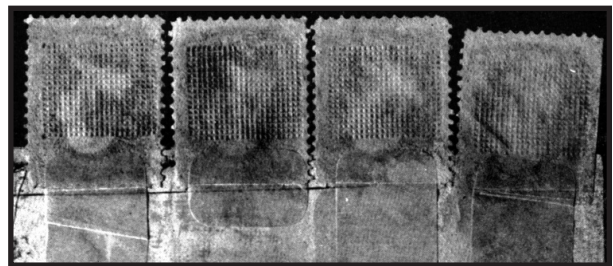
82-CAN-02
Mielstrup Coll. - RAS 5/2/1973
PFC 30086 for cover



82-CAN-03
Schilling Coll.
Ishikawa Coll. - Christie's
9/1993, Lot 503 - \$85,000
Hansen Coll., RAS S963,
10/28/2008, lot 557
PFC 3006 for cover
PFC 276461 "Genuine"
PFC 468459 "Genuine"



82-CAN-04
PFC 30086 for cover



The 3c B Grill Discovery Cover. The four recorded examples of Scott 82 originated on this Feb. 1869 cover from Mason, Texas, to Germany. The stamps were lifted and photographed together. The grill shadows left on the cover are identical to the 18 x 15 mm size of the grills.