

THE FRELINGHUYSEN COLLECTION

Introduction to The Frelinghuysen Collection

The collection presented in this catalogue will be offered at auction on March 29, 2012. The collection was started more than three-quarters of a century ago, and for much of that time the collecting community was unaware of its existence. With the passing of the Honorable Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. (1916-2011), a former United States congressman, the stamp collection he started as a child and formed with the help of the legendary stamp dealer, Warren H. Colson, will be unveiled.

The emergence of the Frelinghuysen collection answers many questions about the whereabouts of important philatelic rarities, which were known from old photographs, but had seemingly vanished. The portion of the collection devoted to Postmasters' Provisionals (presented in Part One) contains many of these "phantom" rarities, most of which were acquired privately following the death of Henry G. Lapham in 1939. The regular and commemorative issues also feature many items last seen in auction catalogues before 1950, as well as items which apparently have never appeared in print.

The Inverted "Jenny" in the collection (lot 514) symbolizes everything that can be said about the Frelinghuysen philatelic legacy. The stamp, Position 74 in the discovery sheet of 100, was acquired by former U.S. Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen (1869-1948), a second cousin of Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen sold the stamp at auction through George B. Sloane on December 14, 1932, and the successful bid of \$2,750 was made by a "Mrs. F" of Morristown N.J., the mother of Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. At the time of the Sloane sale the stamp was still Mint N.H., and the price paid was a record.

The Inverted "Jenny" was the centerpiece of 18-year old Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr.'s exhibit of worldwide air post stamps at the February 1934 National Stamp Exhibition

held at Rockefeller center in New York City. The teenage philatelist won a gold medal, and *Stamps* magazine remarked, "All the great rarities were included."

The philatelic prodigy continued to collect into his mature adult years, acquiring rarities from the Lapham collection (privately through Colson), the Wharton Sinkler Jr. auction (Eugene Klein, May 17, 1940), the series of Colonel Edward H. R. Green sales and other private and auction sources. In addition to a keen interest in Postmasters' Provisionals, he had an affinity for blocks and was fortunate to acquire a substantial number of large multiples before the onslaught of block-busting decimated the population of high-quality blocks.

We believe this sale will ignite fresh interest in areas that have been deprived of "stamp oxygen" for many years. Collectors who have waited for the right moment to collect Postmasters' Provisionals or rare blocks now have many reasons to start.

A New Record for the 24c Invert

THE largest outpouring at any auction sale in recent years, attended George B. Sloane's sale of the United States Collection of Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, December 13th and 14th. The interest was greater, according to Mr. Sloane, than any he has experienced since the depression set in, and the spirited bidding on the lots proved conclusively that philatelists are ready to buy when the proper material is offered.

The high light of the sale was a mint, uninged, and exceptionally fine copy of the U. S. 1918, 24c airmail invert, on which bidding opened at \$1900, and proceeded rapidly by 50 advances until it was sold for \$2,750 to a woman collector, who wished merely to be known as "Mrs. F." The underbidders were Spencer Anderson of the Reliant Stamp Co., who carried the bid to \$2,300, and Nicholas Sanabria, the well known specialist in air post stamps, who continued the bidding to \$2,700. The price at which this copy was sold sets a new auction record for the stamp, the previous auction record being \$2,300, sold we believe, in 1931 by Eugene Klein, of Philadelphia.

A Baltimore 5c Postmasters' stamp of 1845, used on the cover, sold for \$330, and another variety on the bluish paper, also on the cover, sold for \$350. A repaired copy of the 15c 1869 invert sold for \$155, and a rather fine example

of the 24c invert of the same issue, described with a slight corner crease, realized \$300.

Of the reissues of 1861, a splendid copy of the 30c cataloged at \$85, sold for \$104, while \$61 was paid for the 90c, equally fine. A 12c Special Printing of 1875 sold at \$100, and the 24c of the same issue at \$60. The 30c Special Printing of 1880 realized \$122.50.

A most unusual lot of the rare imperforate varieties of the 1869 issue, in plate number strips of three, an extremely rare offering, sold as follows: 6c at \$19, 8c at \$19, 15c at \$52, 50c at \$52, the \$1 at \$71,

Group I—Airmail Stamps—Government Issues

P. H. B. Frelinghuysen. A really magnificent collection including the following rarities: United States, 24c., center inverted. Ross-Smith, England to Australia flight. Honduras, 5c. blue, red surcharge, one of six issues known. Honduras, 10c., blue, black surcharge. France. The issues used from the S.S. Ile de France. Colombian Republic, 1919. 2c. carmine rose. Newfoundland, 1919, Hawker 3c. brown. Newfoundland, 1927, De Pinedo 60c. black. Newfoundland, 1930, Columbia 50c. on 36c. sage-green.

name for sale.