

## Introduction to Part Two of The Natalee Grace Collection

Part Two of the “Natalee Grace” collection starts with the popular 1869 Pictorial Issue and continues up to and including the 1901 Pan-American Issue.

How times change. The 1869 Pictorial Issue, widely criticized in its day, was quickly replaced by the more traditional portrait issue, known as the Bank Note Issue. Today, the 1869 Pictorial stamps are viewed as masterpieces of the engraver’s art and highly prized by collectors. The 1869 Issue also gave us the first postage stamp inverts. The Natalee Grace collection contains the finest complete set of 1869 Inverts ever formed, including the 15¢ Center Double, One Inverted (Scott 119c). Only three examples of Scott 119c are recorded, and the stamp in this collection is not only the finest of the three, it is also one of the finest of all used 15¢ 1869 Inverts.

The Bank Note issues in the Natalee Grace collection feature the most comprehensive group of double impressions and printed-on-both-sides stamps ever formed. Also of special note are the National Bank Note Company I Grills. Starting with the 2013 Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue, the I Grill stamps have achieved their long-deserved status as major catalogue numbers, in common with the 1867-68 A through Z Grills. This change corrects a past inconsistency, and it means that collectors seeking completeness now have an entirely new page to fill. “Natalee Grace” collected both grill types (where they exist in used condition), and the collection features some of the finest known examples.

The Columbian Issue contains several of the highest-graded stamps certified by P.S.E. and the finest used example of the 4¢ Columbian error of color, of which only twelve are known used.

The 1894-98 Bureau Issue contains two superb examples each of the 6¢ and 8¢ “USIR” watermarks (the “I” and “R” positions for both). The \$5.00 1894 Unwatermarked stamp is the new Earliest Documented Use, and several others are the finest in existence.

The Trans-Mississippi and Pan-American Issues bring us to the end of Part Two. They include the highest-graded used \$2.00 Trans-Mississippi and rare used examples of the 1¢ and 2¢ Pan-American Inverts.

In every issue and for each denomination, the collector paid remarkable attention to detail, looking not just at quality, but also at varieties and rarities, and their place in the story of the stamps’ production. The resulting collection reflects this collector’s keen intellect and passion.

– JOHN ZUCKERMAN