

Introduction to Part Three of The Natalee Grace Collection

Part Three of the “Natalee Grace” collection starts with the 1902-03 Issue and continues through the 1943-44 Overrun Countries commemorative issue. Later issues are included in the balance of the collection.

The early 20th Century was a time of change and experimentation in United States stamp production. The introduction of booklets in 1900, experiments with coils and the adoption of modern printing, gumming and perforating techniques created a wide array of distinct issues and varieties. These issues provide a fertile hunting ground for the determined collector.

Several 20th Century rarities, such as Scott 482A, 596 and possibly 613, only exist in used condition and are represented in the collection. Others, such as Scott 316, 317, 318, 322, 360 and 363, are not known genuinely cancelled.

Collections of used United States stamps frequently stop at the end of the 19th Century (such as Dr. Morris, Mayer and Hinrichs) or switch to unused stamps. Natalee Grace and Thurston Twigg-Smith are among the few collectors to have acquired used stamps through the modern issues with a substantial degree of completeness.

Coil stamps are among the most challenging areas of 20th Century philately. Rolls of coils were created to facilitate the dispensing of stamps by machine. The first coil rolls were laboriously assembled by hand from regular printed sheets. As the demand for coils increased, new techniques were devised, tested and implemented to streamline production. By the nature of their production, coils are difficult to find with precise centering. Further, other than the most common coil issues, used examples of most coils are scarcer than their unused counterparts. This relative scarcity is even more extreme for line pairs, which were produced once for every 20 stamps and seldom used on mail. We believe the Natalee Grace collection contains the most complete and finest collection of used coil issues ever formed.

In the three Natalee Grace catalogues we have presented census information (in the catalogue and/or on our website) for 104 different stamps – 18% of the lots. We hope that our effort to document and quantify the true rarity of these stamps will be useful to collectors today and in the future.

It is customary to express gratitude to the consignor for putting their trust in me and in Siegel. *Thank you.* However, I have no doubt that this extraordinary collector and good friend will remain active in philately long after the gavel has fallen on the last lot of this remarkable United States collection.

– JOHN ZUCKERMAN