

30-CENT 1869 PICTORIAL INVERT THE WORTHINGTON COPY

LOT 2°

30¢ Ultramarine & Carmine, Flags Inverted (121b). Small part original gum, bright and fresh colors, unusually clear impressions, choice centering with perforations far from Eagle-and-Shield and Flags-and-Stars on all sides, small “W.H.C.” handstamp applied on back by Warren H. Colson

EXTREMELY FINE. THE FINEST OF THE SEVEN RECORDED UNUSED 30-CENT 1869 PICTORIAL INVERT STAMPS, AND THE ONLY EXAMPLE KNOWN WITH ORIGINAL GUM. A MAGNIFICENT STAMP THAT IS PERFECTLY MATCHED WITH THE 15-CENT 1869 INVERT OFFERED IN THIS SALE, BOTH OF WHICH WERE AMONG GEORGE H. WORTHINGTON’S MOST PRIZED PHILATELIC POSSESSIONS.

Exhibited in the Invited Exhibits section of Anphilex 1996 (New York City). Described and illustrated shortly after its reemergence and sale at Christie’s NY (*Chronicle* 151, August 1991).

Ex George H. Worthington (possibly from the Frederick W. Ayer collection), Alfred F. Lichtenstein and Steven C. Walske (see the following Sale History for additional past owners and sale information).

Siegel Census No. 121b-POG-07. Certified by The Philatelic Foundation in 1990 as “Genuine, with traces of gum” (certificate 232679, which no longer accompanies stamp). With 2013 Professional Stamp Experts certificate (1270179), which states “genuine unused, small part o.g.” with a grade of Very Fine-Extremely Fine 85, Mint POG. The *Stamp Market Quarterly* values the 30¢ Invert in VF-XF 85 No Gum grade at \$660,000, but does not list a value for this Part Original Gum stamp.

2013 Scott Catalogue Value: \$1,000,000

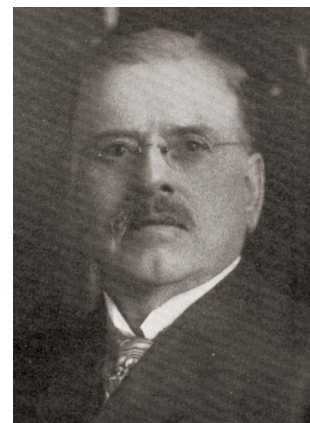
Sale History of the 30¢ 1869 Invert with Part Original Gum

This 30¢ 1869 Invert was owned and exhibited by George H. Worthington, but there is no information about when and from whom he acquired the stamp. Worthington must have purchased the stamp before 1907, because in that year Warren H. Colson described Worthington’s 15¢ and 30¢ 1869 Inverts in his book, *Postage Stamps and Their Collection* (page 10). As discussed on page 18 of this catalogue, there is a strong possibility that this 30¢ and the ex-Lichtenstein 15¢ came from the collection formed by Frederick W. Ayer. Worthington bought a significant number of items from the Ayer collection through Colson in 1903 and 1904.



Warren H. Colson
(1882-1963)

The 15¢ and 30¢ 1869 inverts with original gum were displayed by Worthington at the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club event in Cleveland in 1910. The stamps were mounted with twelve other worldwide errors on an exhibit page headed “The World’s Greatest Errors,” which was pictured in the special “Cleveland Edition” of *Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News* (March 26, 1910—see following page).



George H. Worthington
(1850-1924)

continued



Worthington's 15¢ and 30¢ 1869 Inverts with original gum (lots 1 and 2 in this sale) are pictured in this special Garfield-Perry Stamp Club edition of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, March 26, 1910—the "U.S. Postage" labels were blocked out in accordance with postage stamp reproduction laws

Worthington also exhibited his 15¢ and 30¢ 1869 Inverts at the 1913 International Philatelic Exhibition in New York. The description of this exhibit specifically mentions the two inverts and the fact that each stamp is "unused o.g." Significantly, there is no mention of an unused 24¢ 1869 Invert in the exhibit. The 1917 Worthington sale included an unused 24¢ (Census No. 120b-UNC-03), which he must have acquired between 1913 and 1915, shortly before his collecting activity stopped.

Portions of the Worthington collection were sold privately by Warren H. Colson in 1915, at a time when Worthington's financial position was beginning to falter. In 1917 the entire balance of the collection was sold privately to Alfred F. Lichtenstein, who was 41 years old and wealthy enough to pay \$455,000 cash for the collection. Lichtenstein consigned portions of the Worthington collection, including the 15¢ Invert his father had sold some thirty years earlier, to J. C. Morgenthau & Co. for sale by auction. The 1869 Inverts were offered in Part I of the Worthington sales, held in New York City on August 21-23, 1917.

POSTAGE STAMPS WORTH \$2,000,000 TO BE SHOWN HERE

Huge Philatelic Exhibition from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1 Will Display Costly Stamps from 300 Famous Collections of the United States and Europe.

original gum. An exceedingly rare United States Government stamp is the only unused copy known of the fifteen cents of 1869, with the inverted frame. There is also the 30 cents in like condition, of which three other unused copies are recorded.

New York Times article (above) and exhibition catalogue entry for Worthington's United States exhibit at the 1913 New York exhibition, which specifically mention the 15¢ and 30¢ 1869 Inverts with original gum (both stamps offered in this sale)

11. **WORTHINGTON, Geo. H.:**—Consists of Postmasters' Provisionals, Carrier stamps and United States Government issues, including Department and Newspaper stamps. Included in the Postmasters' stamps are three varieties of the Alexandria, 10c Baltimore on cover, two Brattleboros, two Millburys, 54 St. Louis stamps including reconstructed plates of all printings. The Carriers include such things as a pair of the Franklin Carrier, unused, with gum; the New York Carrier on rosy buff, unused; the 2c on 3c, used on cover; the 2c red in unused pair; a block of 19 unused of the Philadelphia Carrier 1c gold on black; the Baltimore and Philadelphia Carriers are complete. The Government issues consist of several thousand blocks and sheets, and contain such rare unused blocks as the 5c, 1847; 5c, 1857, brick red; 1861-66, block of twelve 3c pink; block of six 24c steel blue; 1867, 90c blue with grill; 90c, 1869; block of ten of the 4c Columbian error. The Premier Gravure issue of 1861 is complete. The 15c 1869, unused o. g., with picture inverted, and the 30c of the same issue, unused o. g., with flags inverted. The Special Printings are complete. All the Bureau Printings are represented by entire sheets. The Department stamps are all in blocks.