



Lot 10

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A choice 10¢ St. Louis “Bears” provisional stamp printed on Greenish paper and neatly tied by the red town datestamp—without any pen cancellation—on a folded letter from the famed Charnley & Whelen correspondence

ESTIMATE \$10,000-15,000

DESCRIPTION

St. Louis, Missouri, 10¢ Black on Greenish (11X2), Type I, Position 2, full even margins, sharp impression on greenish paper, cancelled and tied solely by red “St. Louis Mo. Jan. 12” (1846) circular datestamp, matching “PAID” handstamp and manuscript “10” rate on folded letter datelined “*Saint Louis, January 10th, 1846*” from Loker, Renick & Co. to Charnley & Whelen in Philadelphia

PROVENANCE

Charnley & Whelen correspondence, H. R. Harmer sale, 12/13/1948, lot 2

T. Cullen Davis, Siegel Auction Galleries, 10/6/1964, Sale 276, lot 15

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

USPCS census nos. 21133

<https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/censuses/postmasters-provisionals-cover-census/>

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1993)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine; cover with light horizontal file fold; H. R. Harmer (1948 sale) description noted a “small break” in the stamp’s margin at bottom from the “2” numeral in datestamp, but this was never mentioned again nor is it noted on 1993 P.F. certificate

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Charnley & Whelen Find

Five large groups of St. Louis “Bears” on covers have been discovered since the 1845 issue date, providing most of the known stamps and covers.

In 1869 J. W. Scott acquired a correspondence bearing 50 of the 5¢, 100 of the 10¢ and three 20¢ stamps, probably all of which have been removed from their original covers.

In 1880 the Riggs correspondence produced 20 examples of the 5¢ and 10¢. In 1889 the J. & J. Stuart correspondence provided 25 examples of the 5¢ and 10¢, most on the rare Pelure paper.

The huge “Louisville” find in 1895, salvaged by a janitor who was burning papers, yielded 75 of the 5¢, 46 of the 10¢ and 16 of the 20¢, including se-tenant multiples that revealed the plate configuration and proved the authenticity of the 20¢ stamps, which had been in question since 1869. All of the stamps in the Louisville find were found on covers addressed to Tyler & Rutherford, a banking firm in Louisville, but many of the stamps were later removed. Additional material from the Tyler & Rutherford correspondence surfaced around 1902 and was acquired by C. H. Mekeel.

In 1912 the first portion of the Charnley & Whelen correspondence reached philatelists, which provided another six of the 5¢, 61 of the 10¢ and 16 of the 20¢. Additional Charnley & Whelen covers were sold over the next three decades. The cover offered here comes from the December 1948 H. R. Harmer sale. ■