



Lot 3

LOT 3°

One of two recorded Annapolis, Maryland, postmaster's provisional stamped envelopes, discovered in 1895 and owned by renowned collectors, including the Earl of Crawford, Lapham, Caspary and Frelinghuysen—unquestionably one of the icons of classic United States philately

ESTIMATE \$300,000-400,000

DESCRIPTION

Annapolis, Maryland, 5¢ Carmine Red on White entire (2XU1), a complete and sharp impression of "POST OFFICE/ANNAPOLIS MD." Eagle and Shield negative circular handstamp with equally clear "5" and "PAID" handstamps impressed separately in same shade of Carmine Red ink, sharp strike of blue "Annapolis Md. 20 Mar." (1846 or 1847) circular datestamp on white envelope (120 x 71 mm) addressed to "*Chas. S. Carstairs, Care of John Latour & Co., No. 261 South Front St., Phila. Penna.*", manuscript check mark at center of envelope

PROVENANCE

Both recorded examples discovered in 1895 (Carstairs, Philadelphia) and sold to Burger Brothers, New York stamp dealers

William A. Castle (privately from Burger Brothers)

James Ludovic Lindsay, the 26th Earl of Crawford (privately)

Alfred H. Caspary (bought and sold privately)

Henry G. Lapham (and his son, Raymond)

Warren H. Colson

Sen. Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen (bought privately from Colson), Siegel Auction Galleries, 3/28/2012, Sale 1020, lot 2, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

USPCS census no. 20007

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

Siegel census no. 2XU1-COV-01

<https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/2XU1>

Special exhibition in United States 1905 (Lord Crawford)

London International Philatelic Exhibition 1906 (Lord Crawford)

World Stamp Show 2016 Court of Honor (Gross)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2011)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine and absolutely flawless condition

Small "W.H.C." handstamp at lower right (Warren H. Colson)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Annapolis Postmaster

Martin F. Revell received his postmaster's appointment from President John Tyler on November 28, 1844 (original commission is located in the Maryland State Archives). This was the month of the 1844 election, which voted into office the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, James K. Polk. Tyler, who succeeded William Henry Harrison as President after Harrison's unexpected death in 1841, realized he had no hope of being elected in 1844. To defeat Whig opposition and help his cause for Texas annexation, Tyler withdrew from the race and backed a third party, the Democratic-Republicans. Under pressure from Tyler's constituents, the Democratic Party nominated Polk as its pro-annexation candidate. In March 1845 members of the Democratic Party of Anne Arundel County sent a letter to Polk, urging him to retain Revell as postmaster (Maryland State Archives). On March 15, 1845, Polk signed Revell's second appointment (shown on the following page). Revell served until 1849, when the Whig Party's candidate Zachary Taylor won the presidency and entered office.

Annapolis Provisional Handstamp

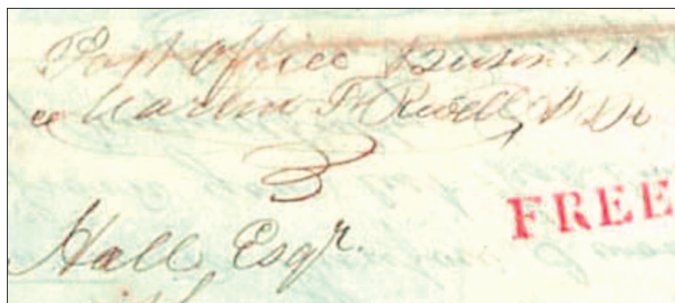
Revell used a negative-image circular Eagle and Shield seal as a postmark on letters, struck in blue or red, usually in conjunction with a "2" or "5" cents due rate handstamp. Letters with these markings applied after mailing were not purchased from the post office as a form of prepaid postage; therefore, they are not the true Annapolis postmaster's provisional, but are often placed into collections as an affordable substitute.

The two recorded Annapolis provisional envelopes have red impressions of the Eagle and Shield seal, "5" and "Paid" applied in advance of sale and use. Looking at the back of each envelope, it is obvious that the red markings were heavily impressed into the paper before a letter was placed inside the envelope. The blue circular datestamp was applied after the envelope was put into the mail.

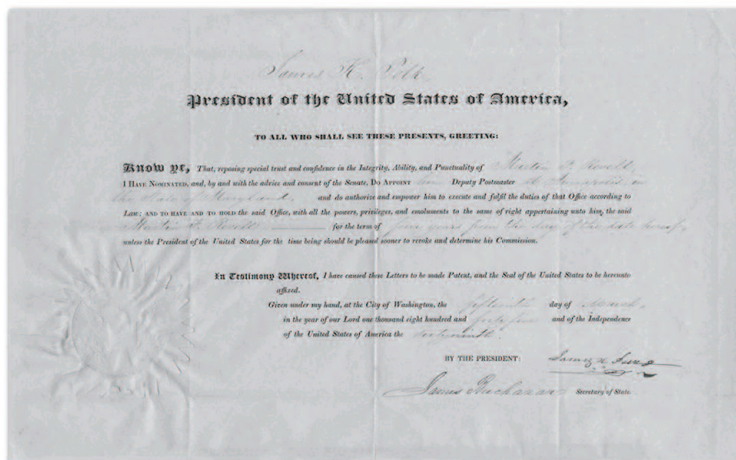
Discovery of the Two Annapolis Provisional Envelopes

The discovery of the two Annapolis provisional envelopes is well-documented in a letter written by Burger & Co. and published in various editions of the Luff book. The addressee, Charles S. Carstairs, and his descendants were part of a large Philadelphia family involved in importing and liquor-dealing. In 1865 Charles S. Carstairs is listed as an importer at 126 Walnut & 21 Granite. However, Burger's statement that he was given the opportunity to examine the business correspondence of the "firm of Carstairs" in

continued on next page



Martin F. Revell free frank (above) and Revell's 1845 appointment signed by President Polk and Secretary of State Buchanan (right)
Appointment courtesy of Profiles in History



Lot 3 continued

January 1895 suggests that he visited the liquor-selling firm of Carstairs & McCall, which was the family's principal business from 1870 to 1909.

The two Annapolis provisionals are directed to the care of John Latour & Co. at 261 Front Street. Latour (1798-1850) was a Southwark district merchant who imported goods, including cocoa, brandy and salad oil. Latour also owned the brig *Pacific*, captained by his son, Amedée. From 1813 to 1847 Latour's warehouse was located at 261 Front Street (later re-numbered 509).

Sale Histories of the Two Annapolis Provisionals

Following the discovery of the two Annapolis provisional envelopes by Gus A. Burger, they traveled separate paths until they were briefly reunited by Alfred H. Caspary in 1933. For the purpose of giving the ownership history of each envelope, we will refer to them by their postmark dates, March 20 (this lot) and April 8.

A letter written by Burger & Co. to Hugh Clark, dated March 17, 1937, and published in the Luff 1941 reprint, states that one of the envelopes was sold to "Mr. W. A. Castle of this city" (New York) and the other to "Mr. Ferrari of Paris, France."

The March 20 envelope is the one sold to William A. Castle, a wealthy businessman from Springfield, Massachusetts, who had offices in New York City. Castle purchased the March 20 envelope from Burger & Co. when he was actively collecting stamps in the 1890s. His collection of United States Revenue stamps was sold by B. L. Drew on April 22, 1903. Around this time Castle's March 20

envelope was sold to James Ludovic Lindsay, the 26th Earl of Crawford and one of the great collectors of stamps, essays, proofs and philatelic literature. Lord Crawford showed his United States collection, including the Annapolis provisional, in special exhibitions held in the United States in 1905. According to Robson Lowe, the Annapolis was also exhibited at the 1906 International Philatelic Exhibition in London. Lord Crawford died on January 31, 1914, and his estate executors eventually agreed to sell the entire United States collection for \$60,000 to John A. Klemann of the Nassau Stamp Company.

Klemann reported his acquisition of the Earl of Crawford's collection in the November 1915 edition of *The Philatelic Gazette*. The Nassau Stamp Company scored a hat-trick of major stamp purchases in the year 1915: the C. E. Chapman U.S. collection in April, the Henry J. Crocker U.S. collection in August, and the Earl of Crawford's U.S. collection in November.

Klemann's announcement of the Earl of Crawford acquisition specifically mentioned the "only known copy of the Annapolis." At the time it was generally believed that only one Annapolis provisional envelope existed, because the April 8 envelope was hidden in Ferrary's collection (the Luff book pictures the March 20 envelope). Klemann also noted that the collection had still not reached America. It must be remembered that ocean transportation was the only means available to convey the collection between continents, and the German U-boat campaign in 1915 threatened merchant vessels, even those flying neutral flags.



The two recorded examples of the Annapolis provisional envelope: 2XUI-COV-01 and 2XUI-COV-02

April 8 cover at right reproduced from Christie's Robson Lowe catalogue of the Weill Brothers' Stock



James Ludovic Lindsay
The 26th Earl of Crawford
(1847-1913)

Despite the dangers lurking in the North Atlantic waters, the 47 albums and seven portfolios were carried back to America, where eager collectors were waiting to be offered gems from the famous Earl of Crawford collection. Klemann sold the March 20 envelope to Alfred H. Caspary, who was busy building what would become one of the greatest worldwide classic collections ever formed.

If Caspary had no more information than Klemann, he was probably surprised when the catalogue for the third Ferrary sale in April 1922 revealed the second Annapolis envelope dated April 8 (Gilbert sale 3, lot 537). With Warren H. Colson bidding for Lapham and Caspary in the sale, and Hugo Griebert bidding for the

other philatelic colossus, Arthur Hind, the Annapolis April 8 envelope realized FFr 26,000 plus 17.5% government surtax, for a total of \$2,786 in U.S. dollars at the quoted exchange rate (one franc = 9.12 cents). This was the auction in which the unique British Guiana One-Cent Magenta sold for FFr 300,000 (\$32,148 with surtax).

The buyer of the Annapolis provisional and British Guiana One-Cent was Arthur Hind (1856-1933), a British-born textile manufacturer who emigrated to the United States in 1890 and, while running his business from Utica, New York, formed a worldwide collection of staggering proportions, commensurate with his estimated wealth of \$7 to \$10 million (about \$100 million in today's money). Following the 1922 Ferrary sale, the March 20 envelope remained with Caspary, and the April 8 envelope was owned by Hind until his death in 1933.

In 1928 and 1929, with the stock market and society roaring, Hind had attempted to sell his United States and Confederate States collection through Charles J. Phillips for \$535,000. Offers of \$450,000 and \$480,000 were made, but Hind rejected them. With the stock market crash of October 1929, the hope of selling the collection intact faded, and Hind's financial position weakened. Following Hind's death in Miami on March 1, 1933, the estate executors authorized Charles J. Phillips and William C. Kennett, Jr. (Hind's philatelic secretary) to sell the collection at unreserved public auction, which was held on November 20-24, 1933. The first sale catalogue listed 1,653 lots of United States and Confederate States stamps and covers. Since photographs of regular United States postage stamps were still banned by law, only the provisionals, carriers, locals and Confederate States items were photographed. Following the Phillips-Kennett auction, which realized \$244,810 (as reported by Phillips), the balance of the Hind collection, comprising stamps of foreign countries, was acquired by Hind's nephew in England and sold through H. R. Harmer in London in eleven sales held in 1934 and 1935, which realized a total of more than \$675,000.



Alfred H. Caspary (1877-1955)

The Annapolis April 8 envelope, which Hind had acquired in the Ferrary sale, sold in the Phillips-Kennett auction for \$2,600. For whatever reason, Colson bought it as agent for Caspary, who became the possessor of the two extant Annapolis provisional envelopes. He did not own both for long. According to John R. Boker, Jr. ("Warren H. Colson of Boston — His Stamps; With Extensive Notes on the Henry G. Lapham Collections and 'Asides' About Alfred H. Caspary," 1989 *Congress Book*), around this time Caspary had first pick of an extraordinary collection of unused German States stamps in Colson's stock. According to Boker's account, Caspary "did not feel like spending money at the time, so Colson took part cash and the second known copy of the Annapolis Postmaster's Provisional envelope. (Caspary had both known envelopes which were of slightly different sizes and he retained the smaller one which was sold in his first sale in 1955. I never learned from Colson what he had done with the one he received. He could keep confidences.)"

A reasonable assumption is that Colson sold the March 20 envelope to Henry G. Lapham, but the 1936 TIPEX exhibition catalogue entry for Lapham's Postmasters' Provisionals does not mention the Annapolis in the description of notable items. Colson did, in fact, sell the March 20 envelope to Frelinghuysen in 1957. A note accompanying the item states "...Caspary, who now having both copies traded the Crawford copy to Colson about 1943. It was sold about 1945 to an unknown collector. In 1957 it was sold to its present owner." The conflicting accounts make it difficult to determine who owned the March 20 Annapolis between 1933 and 1957. Nonetheless, we list the Laphams in the provenance.

The April 8 envelope sold as lot 5 in the H. R. Harmer, November 15, 1955, sale of the Caspary collection. It realized \$11,000, selling to Raymond H. Weill, who was acting as agent for Benjamin D. Phillips, the reclusive collector whose identity was a well-guarded Weill secret until the last few years of Raymond Weill's life. In 1961 Phillips agreed to sell the Annapolis and several other provisional rarities to Weill, who had Josiah K. Lilly, Jr., lined up as a buyer. According to the Phillips inventory, the Annapolis was valued at \$15,000 in the transaction. When the Lilly collection of Postmasters' Provisionals was sold through Siegel Auction Galleries on February 2, 1967, the Annapolis was sold as lot 4 for \$25,000. The buyer of record was Weill, but once again he was representing Phillips, whose inventory shows the reacquisition for \$25,000 plus 5% commission to Weill. In 1968 the Weills purchased the entire Phillips collection for \$4.07 million. It is interesting to note that at both the 1955 Caspary and 1967 Lilly sales, the Annapolis April 8 envelope realized more than the Alexandria "Blue Boy" cover, which was reportedly sold for one million dollars in the 1980s.

The Annapolis April 8 envelope and other major provisional rarities in the Phillips collection were subsequently sold to Edward Grombacher, whose collection of Postmasters' Provisionals formed the basis of the October 1989 Weill Brothers' Stock sale held by Christie's Robson Lowe (the Weills had acquired the Grombacher collection about one year before selling their stock). The Annapolis realized \$260,000 plus the 10% buyer's premium as lot 604 in the Weill sale, selling to the Hon. J. William Middendorf bidding by telephone. The same collector offered the April 8 envelope two years later as lot 61 in the Christie's Robson Lowe sale of Important United States Stamps and Covers held on September 25, 1991, but it was unsold. It was later sold privately to a collector of United States covers, with whom it remains today.

The March 20 envelope reappeared in the market when the Siegel firm offered the Frelinghuysen collection in 2012. It was acquired by Mr. Gross in that auction for \$550,000 plus the 15% buyer's premium, establishing a new record for the Annapolis postmaster's provisional entire. ■