



Lot 30

## LOT 30°

**A superb pair of the 1¢ 1851 Issue from Plate 1 Early, containing the rare Type I, Position 7R1E, the only imperforate Type I produced from any of the plates used to print 1¢ 1851-60 Issue stamp**

**ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000**

## DESCRIPTION

**1¢ Blue, Type Ib-I Combination Pair (5A-5)**, Positions 6-7R1E—the sixth and seventh stamps in the top row of the right pane of Plate 1 Early, including the coveted Type I with the complete ornamentation all around—horizontal pair with huge top sheet margin and mostly large margins all around, deep Plate 1 Early shade and impression, cancelled by two strikes of **blue** “Nashville Te. Nov. 14” (1851) circular datestamp, bright and fresh paper and color

## PROVENANCE

*As a strip of three, Positions 6-8R1E:*

George H. Worthington, J. C. Morgenthau sale, 8/21-23/1917, lot 40, to Stanley B. Ashbrook

John H. Clapp (died in 1940; collection sold to Spencer Anderson)

Harmer, Rooke sale, 4/26/1944, lot 52

Greg Manning sale, 9/23/1983, lot 30

*Right stamp removed, sold as a pair, Positions 6-7R1E:*

James Hewitt, Steve Ivy Philatelic Auctions AMERIPEX sale, 5/26/1986, lot 93, to Allan Fox

Allan Fox, Spink Shreves Galleries, 3/24-25/2011, lot 11, to William H. Gross

## CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Waghal census no. 5-MUL-063

<https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/5>

## CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (1983) for strip of three

## CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine

Part of Stanley B. Ashbrook signature in pencil remains

## HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

**The 1¢ Type I Imperforate—One in a Thousand**

The 1¢ 1851 stamp, with a bust of Franklin based on Caffieri’s sculpture, was one of the workhorses of postage stamps issued during the decade it was current. To print enough 1¢ stamps to meet demand, twelve steel plates were made—one was never used (Plate 6), and the first plate was reworked to add life to it (thus, the Early and Late states).

Understanding the 1¢ types begins with a knowledge of the relief transfer process used to make the plates. The printed image of a stamp reflects the entry on the plate. In turn, that entry reflects the relief on the transfer roll and the effects of “ironing out” (which occurs when a transfer roll partially obliterates a previously-entered design), burnishing, double transfers and other functions of the platemaking process. Finally, the inherent flaws in the steel plate and changes caused by wear over many thousands of impressions influenced the impressions left by the entries. All of these factors created the variation in designs that philatelists methodically classify by type.

Stanley B. Ashbrook organized a system of classification and sorted through thousands of stamps to determine how many plates were used and what each plate looked like, based on the impressions produced. He determined that there were twelve plates. Only Plates 1 through 4 were used to print stamps that were issued imperforate. All stamps from plates 5 through 12 are perforated. When we refer to a specific position, the position number is shown first (1 to 100), followed by the pane (R for right and L for left) and the plate number (1 to 12).

The original 1¢ 1851 design has an elaborate ornamental border on all four sides. The changes to this ornamental border produced the different types. Ashbrook’s type system is based on the premise that Type I should be a printed design that comes closest to the original die design. The presence of the top ornaments, the bottom plumes and scrolls, and the side ornaments is a requirement for Type I. For imperforate stamps, Ashbrook found only one position among the 1,000 entries on Plates 1E, 1L, 2, 3 and 4 that met this requirement: Position 7R1E. The fact that only one position met the Type I criteria is why Scott 5, a Type I imperforate stamp, is so rare. That an album and list of United States stamps includes Scott 5 is why the stamp’s value is so great.

The pair offered here comes from two positions in the top row of Plate 1 Early—6R and 7R. Position 6R1E is also a rare stamp, the Type Ib, Scott 5A. Together, and neatly cancelled by a Nashville datestamp in blue, they form a classic piece of extraordinary beauty and rarity. ■