



Lot 31



Detail

LOT 31°

A sound, four-margin and unusually beautiful example of the rare and coveted 1851 1¢ Blue Type I—Position 7R1E, Scott 5—paying the printed matter rate on a blue circular with complementary blue Philadelphia datestamp cancel

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

1¢ Blue, Type I (5), Position 7R1E, beautiful bright Plate 1 Early color and sharp impression, full to large margins showing trace of Position 8R1E at right, only the tips of the upper left side ornaments are shaved (and barely so), lightly tied by **blue** “Philadelphia Pa. 1 Paid Feb. [day]” (1852) integral-rate circular datestamp on blue folded printed *First Annual Report of the United States Life Insurance, Annuity & Trust Company* with beautiful two-tone illustration of building on inside, also printed on a large part of address panel, neatly addressed to J. F. Van Nort in Newburgh, New York

PROVENANCE

Alfred H. Caspary, H. R. Harmer sale, 1/16-18/1956, lot 186, to “K.E.”

J. David Baker, Siegel Auction Galleries, 4/24/1968, Sale 333, lot 612, to Vogel

Raymond Vogel, Siegel Auction Galleries, 12/7/2010, Sale 998, lot 1, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

Wagshal census no. 5-COV-074
<https://siegelauctions.com/census/us/scott/5>

ANPHILEX 1996, Alumni Exhibits (Vogel)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2011)

CONDITION NOTES

Extremely Fine stamp and folded circular with horizontal fold at top well clear of stamp

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

Beauty and Rarity in Shades of Blue

The Wagshal census of Scott number 5—the imperforate 1¢ Type I, which collectors often refer to by its plate position, “7R1E”—contains nearly 100 unduplicated records of stamps in singles and multiples, on and off cover. There are probably no more than ten examples existing outside of this census population. Therefore, Scott 5 is the rarest of all United States regular issues prior to the 1868 Grills, and fewer than 20 covers survive.

Because of the significance attached to the outer portions of the 1¢ 1851 design, rare types that have been carefully cut apart, so as not to impinge on any part of the design, are extremely desirable. The narrow spacing between stamps in the sheet and the users’ indifference to the outlying ornamentation during separation are factors that contributed to the great rarity of four-margin examples. Time has also not been kind to the surviving population, as very few examples of Scott 5 are sound. The example on the cover offered here is not only sound, it is especially desirable because it shows the complete design all around, including the essential elements of Type I, the top and bottom ornamentation.

Examples of Scott 5 on cover present an even greater challenge to collectors who have strict condition standards. Most of the recorded covers with Position 7R1E have a stamp that has part of the design cut off, and there is usually a fault in the stamp or cover. Without question, the finest and most outstanding Scott 5 cover is the famous ex-Newbury cover with a strip of three, Positions 7-9R1E, beautifully cancelled in red, which is currently one of the star items in the Gordon Eubanks Grand Prix collection of 1851-1856 Issue stamps and covers.

The runner-up to the Newbury cover, in terms of quality, is arguably the cover offered here, which once reposed in the Alfred H. Caspary collection sold by Harmer in 1956. It was acquired by Raymond Vogel in a 1968 Siegel sale that included United States covers from the J. David Baker collection. When the Siegel firm sold the Vogel collection in 2010, Mr. Gross acquired the cover to complement his cover with three 1¢ stamps for the 3¢ domestic rate, including a single Scott 5.

What makes the cover here so special is the 7R1E stamp’s soundness and four margins, as well as the blue Philadelphia datestamp, which is lightly struck and complements the blue stamp and pastel blue paper of the printed circular. It is a symphony of rarity and quality in blue. ■