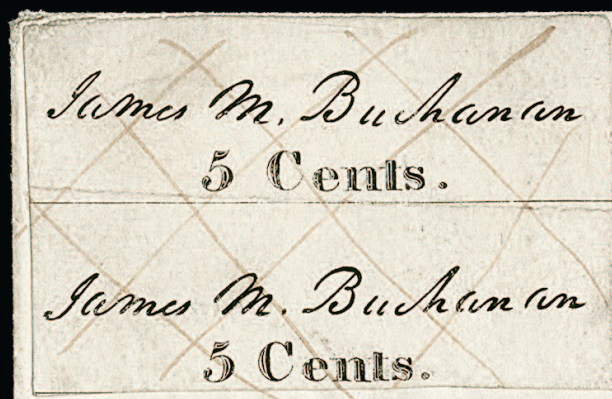




Lot 4



Detail

LOT 4°

One of two recorded pairs of the provisional stamps issued by Baltimore postmaster James M. Buchanan, whose engraved signature appears in the distinctive design—both pairs are on white paper, and they are the only known multiples of this celebrated postmaster’s provisional issue

ESTIMATE \$75,000-100,000

DESCRIPTION

Baltimore, Maryland, 5¢ Black on White (3X1), Positions 3/5, vertical pair, trace of frameline at bottom left, tied by cross-hatched pen strokes, matching manuscript “10” rate, clear strike of blue “Baltimore Md. Mar. 21” (1847) circular datestamp and matching “PAID” handstamp on cover to Miss Mary Floyd in Port Tobacco, Maryland

PROVENANCE

All sales private until 2012 Frelinghuysen auction

Frederick Wellington Ayer

George H. Worthington

Henry C. Gibson, Sr.

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 4, to William H. Gross

CENSUS, LITERATURE AND EXHIBITION REFERENCES

USPCS census no. 20122

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

Hayes census no. 27

New York International Philatelic Exhibition 1913 (Worthington)

TIPEX 1936 (Lapham)

CERTIFICATION

The Philatelic Foundation (2011)

CONDITION NOTES

Very Fine appearance; the pair has a pre-use horizontal crease mostly along the frameline between stamps

Worthington’s source code in pencil on back: “11/20/03 New Eng S. Co. ESS.SS” (New England Stamp Company, \$900.00)

Small “W.H.C.” handstamp at lower left (Warren H. Colson)

HISTORY AND COMMENTARY

The Two Recorded Baltimore Provisional Multiples

The Baltimore provisional stamps were printed from an engraved plate of twelve subjects, arranged in two vertical rows of six, comprising nine 5¢ and three 10¢ denominations. Ruled lines were engraved between the subjects and around the perimeter, creating framelines. The stamps were printed on white and bluish papers—the denominations and papers have their own Scott numbers.

Two pairs, each used on cover, are the only recorded multiples of any Baltimore provisional stamps. The pair on the March 21 cover offered here comes from Positions 3/5. This cover was owned by Frederick W. Ayer, George H. Worthington, Henry C. Gibson, Sr., Henry G. Lapham (and his son Raymond) and Senator Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen.

Frederick Wellington Ayer (1855-1936) was president of the Eastern Manufacturing Company of Brewer, Maine, and a noted antique collector and authority. Between 1892 and 1897 Ayer embarked on a philatelic buying spree, spending (by some reports) as much as \$750,000 on his collection, some of it with borrowed money (Bierman, *The World’s Greatest Stamp Collectors*, page 95). When Fred’s conservative banker-father learned of his son’s extravagant philatelic spending, he presented Fred with a choice between liquidation or disinheritance. Fred chose the former. Beginning in 1897 portions of the Ayer collection were sold through various dealers, including Charles J. Phillips, Warren H. Colson and Colson’s former employer, the New England Stamp Company. Worthington’s 1903 purchase of the March 21 cover from the Ayer collection is described by his philatelic assistant, Alvin Good, in his book, *The Life and Adventures of a Philatelist* (page 65). The back of this cover has Worthington’s source information written in pencil with his “BULFINCHES” cost code.

Gibson acquired this March 21 cover when portions of the Worthington collection were sold privately by Colson in 1915. Gibson sold his provisionals in February 1922, with Caspary and Lapham buying most of the items. The Laphams displayed their collection, including the Baltimore cover, at the Collectors Club of New York in 1928 and at TIPEX in 1936. Years later, when the Lapham collection was sold privately by Colson, the March 21 cover was purchased by Senator Frelinghuysen.

The cover reappeared in the market when the Siegel firm offered the Frelinghuysen collection in 2012. It was acquired by Mr. Gross in that auction. ■