



Chas S Carstairs  
Care of John Latow & Co.  
N<sup>o</sup> 261 South Front St  
Phila<sup>a</sup> Penn<sup>a</sup>

Lot 2

# Annapolis, Maryland

## Lot 2

**5c Carmine Red on White entire (2XU1).** 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

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, POSTMASTER’S PROVISIONAL. ONE OF THE RAREST OF ALL UNITED STATES POSTAGE ISSUES AND OFFERED AT AUCTION FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ITS DISCOVERY 117 YEARS AGO.

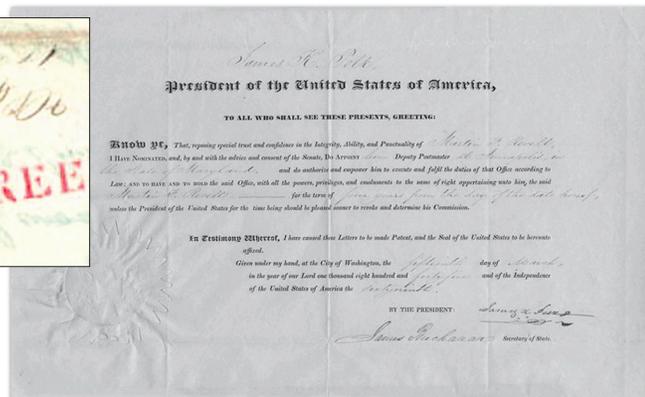
Census No. 2XU1-COV-01. Ex Burger, Castle, Earl of Crawford, Caspary and (possibly) Lapham. Small “W.H.C.” handstamp at lower right (Warren H. Colson). With 2011 P.F. certificate. Scott value \$300,000.00. Estimate \$200,000-300,000

### *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 here). Revell served until 1849, when the Whig Party’s candidate Zachary Taylor won the presidency and entered office.



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



### **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.

Past writers have made some incorrect statements about the method by which the Annapolis provisional envelopes were produced. Contrary to Luff’s statement that he



The two recorded examples of the Annapolis provisional envelope: 2XU1-COV-01 and 2XU1-COV-02

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

believed “the device and ‘5’ ‘PAID’ to have been printed on a press, rather than handstamped, and all at one impression,” the three separate markings were not fixed into one immovable position on a printing press. Using Photoshop overlays, it is obvious that the seal, “5” and “Paid” are in slightly different relative positions, and the circular seal impressions are slightly rotated relative to the envelope and other markings. They were most likely applied in separate operations.

Another disproved observation was made by Philip T. Wall (“The Annapolis Postmaster’s Provisional Envelopes,” *Chronicle* 119, August 1983). Working from photographs of the two Annapolis envelopes, Wall claimed that the “O” of “Annapolis” was tilted on the March 20 impression, and it was upright on the April 8 impression. Wall concluded that “two distinctly different dies were used to emboss the envelopes.” Again, using Photoshop it is possible to overlay one impression on the other, and from that direct comparison it is obvious that only one die was used for both impressions. The so-called “tilted O” is an optical illusion created by the slight rotation of one impression relative to the other.

### ***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 entire letter, as quoted by Luff, reads as follows:

New York, Sept. 3, 1895

To Whom it may Concern:

Sometime in January 1895, during our Mr. G. A. Burger’s stay in the city of Philadelphia, he received permission to look through the old correspondence of the firm of Carstairs.

Among other rare envelopes and stamps he found a small white envelope stamped ‘Post-Office, Annapolis, Md.’ with Eagle in center and ‘5’ ‘Paid,’ on the upper right hand of the envelope in red, and the regular Annapolis post mark on the left side of the envelope in blue.

From information which we received in Annapolis from Jas. Revell, son of the Postmaster there from 1844-49, we are convinced that this is a post-master’s provisional stamped envelope, like the New Haven. We guarantee it to be a genuine original stamped envelope.

Burger & Co.

Burger obtained a statement from Postmaster Martin F. Revell’s son, James, which is also quoted in Luff:

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Annapolis, Md., April 25, 1895.

[A pen and ink sketch of the Annapolis Envelope]

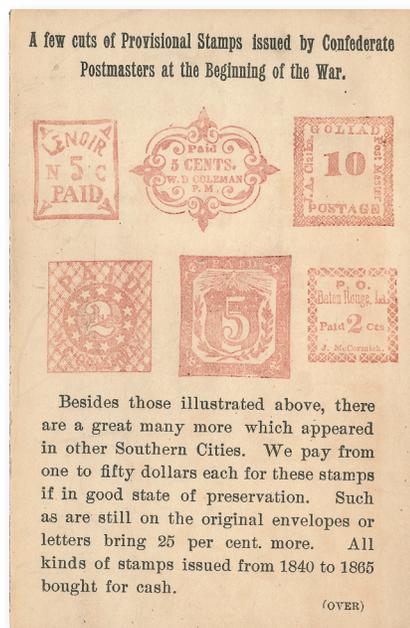
An envelope with the above address and stamp has been presented to me for identification. I have quite a distinct recollection of the stamp ‘Annapolis, Md., 20 Mar.’ as having been used by my father (now dec’d) in the Annapolis P.O., of which he was Postmaster some time prior to 1849. The stamp with eagle center has also a very familiar appearance and carries me back many years, when I was quite a lad, going to college (St. John’s, Annapolis), often assisting my father, Martin F. Revell, in the office. I am decidedly of the opinion and such is my strong impression that these stamped envelopes, with eagle center in stamp and marked ‘paid,’ were sold by my father for the convenience of the public.

Jas. Revell,

Associate Judge of 5th Judicial Court of Maryland



Burger & Co. advertising card (front and back) soliciting offers of Confederate postmasters' provisionals



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 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). A history and picture of the Latour warehouse at 261 Front Street can be downloaded at [www.qvna.org/wordpress](http://www.qvna.org/wordpress).

### ***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 1890's. 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.



James Ludovic Lindsay (1847-1914)  
The 26th Earl of Crawford

THE PHILATELIC GAZETTE

**THE NASSAU STAMP CO.**  
Purchased in 1915  
The three most celebrated  
**UNITED STATES COLLECTIONS**  
which have come on the market in years.

April, 1915  
**THE C. E. CHAPMAN COLLECTION**  
International Exhibition, New York, 1913.  
Gold Medal, Class B, Section I. U. S. Government Issues  
Gold Medal, Class B, Section II. U. S. Postmasters and  
Carriers.

August, 1915  
**THE HENRY J. CROCKER COLLECTION**  
together with fourteen other complete countries.  
The choice of this well known collection.

November, 1915  
**THE EARL OF CRAWFORD'S  
COLLECTION**  
The most historically complete Collection of United  
States Issues in existence.

These holdings of the Nassau Stamp Co. are an extensive stock of United States stamps, including the 20th Century issues, and are available for sale on receipt.

118 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y.



John A. Klemann of the Nassau Stamp Co. and the announcement of three major acquisitions in 1915, including Lord Crawford's collection

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).



Arthur Hind (1856-1933)  
Owner of the Annapolis April 8  
envelope from 1922 to 1933

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



Charles J. Phillips (left) and William C. Kennett Jr. (right), who held the auction of the Hind collection of United States and Confederate States in November 1933



Alfred H. Caspary (1868-1955)  
Owner of both Annapolis  
provisional envelopes in 1933

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.

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. We list Henry and Raymond Lapham as a possibility.

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



The Annapolis April 8 envelope is on the page just above Raymond Weill's forehead in this photo of the Weills' 1956 FIPEX exhibit

acting as agent for B. 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 Robert A. 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.

The Annapolis April 8 envelope and other major provisional rarities in the Phillips collection were subsequently sold to "E.G.," 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 E.G. 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 an anonymous collector bidding by telephone. The same collector offered the Annapolis 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. With an estimate of \$300,000 to \$400,000, the April 8 envelope did not reach the reserve. Subsequently it was sold privately to a collector of United States covers, with whom it remains today.