

# Linn's Stamp News

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WORLD'S LARGEST WEEKLY STAMP NEWS AND MARKETPLACE

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## Discovery in old engraver's proof book may hold key to plating the 5¢ 1847 issue

By Rob Haeseler

The key to solving one of the oldest puzzles in classic United States stamp collecting may have turned up in a book of engravers' proofs that will be auctioned at Pacific 97 in San Francisco on June 2.

The hitherto unrecognized find, which comes from the archives of the American Bank Note Co. in New York City, appears to be plate proofs of 100 of the 5¢ and 10¢ 1847 issue, the nation's first postage stamps.

As such, they may provide a vital record of how the stamps were entered on the printing plates from the transfer rolls used to rock the impression of each stamp into the steel plates.

The original plates were used only between 1847 and 1851, after which they were ordered destroyed.

"It's the most amazing news of the century for that issue," said Wade Saadi, who has written extensively about the 1847s in *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues* and in a series in the *American Philatelist* March, April and May issues.

"If indeed these panes are plate proofs as described, they are the most valuable discovery in the plating of the 5¢ 1847 stamps to date," Saadi said in an interview with *Linn's*.

While the 10¢ plate proof

is by itself a great treasure, it is the 5¢ plate proof that is causing the most excitement.

No one has succeeded in plating the 5¢ 1847 which, like the 10¢, was printed in two panes of 100 positioned side by side.

In the 1920s, dealer and philatelic scholar Elliott Perry, whose picture appears with this article on page 8, plated the 10¢ stamp despite predictions from such distinguished students as Carroll Chase that it could never be done.

Enthusiasm over the proof book find, however, is tempered by uncertainty over what it really represents to the 1847 cognoscenti.

The plate proofs — which are overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN." — are not fully visible at this point, leading to something of a guessing game.

At some point long ago, someone glued individual die proofs of the 5¢ and 10¢ stamps over the specimen proofs.

The 5¢ pane pictured in color on this page has 99 die proofs adhering to as many plate positions. Peeking from position 96 on the bottom row, however, is the underlying original plate proof in a trial color of orange-brown with its specimen overprint.

The 10¢ pane, shown elsewhere in this article, is entirely covered with individual

die proofs struck in the black ink of that issue and cut to size.

The sensational discovery came to light when the leatherbound proof book, its cover and spine stamped in gold, *American Bank Note Company — New York — Specimens of Postage Stamps*, was consigned to Ivy & Mader Philatelic Auctions in New York City.

Ivy & Mader is a subsidiary of Greg Manning Auctions Inc., the official auctioneer for Pacific 97. Between the firms, \$10 million in philatelic material has been taken to the show for auction.

The following description of the lot is excerpted from the auction catalog:

"Enormously valuable archival proof book... over 50 mostly double-sided pages with proof pieces which are nearly all in multiples of 99 or 100, approximately 120 different items and totaling nearly 12,000 proofs in all, being the issues of 1845 to the mid-1870s.

"The United States includes a page with the New York Postmaster Provisional showing the issued color and six trial colors (all singles).

"Astonishingly there are 99 and 100 copies respectively of the 5¢ Red brown and 10¢ Black 1847 all cut into singles and carefully placed over complete sheets (Please turn to page 8)



The orange-brown specimen of the 1847 5¢ issue showing in the bottom row is evidence of a proof sheet of 100 from the original plate over which 99 other proofs were glued.

## Publisher J. Oliver Amos succumbs at 87

J. Oliver Amos, a driving force behind *Linn's Stamp News* and the founder of *Coin World*, among other hobby publications, died May 19 at Wilson Memorial Hospital in Sidney, Ohio, following a brief illness. He was 87.

Mr. Amos, a longtime community benefactor, had served as chairman of the board of Amos Press Inc., as editor and publisher of the *Sidney Daily News* and as publisher of *Linn's* from 1969 to 1979.

"Oliver Amos was one of the great figures in hobby publishing," said *Linn's* editor-publisher Michael Laurence. "Building from the base of a small-town daily newspaper, he used both start-ups and acquisitions to



J. Oliver Amos

transform Amos Press into the dominant publisher in both stamps and coins.

"He was also a great gentleman."

While not as keen a collec-

tor as his cousin, William T. Amos, who died in 1992, Oliver Amos had a lifelong interest in stamps.

A year ago, when Amos Press renovated its offices, Mr. Amos cleaned out one of his file cabinets and came across a box containing hundreds of covers addressed to the *Sidney Daily News* and bearing the black Harding Memorial stamp of 1923.

The covers were from small Ohio towns, and all the postmarks were different.

Mr. Amos said he had retrieved them from trash baskets as a youth and had carefully preserved them.

"Oliver Amos changed the whole image of *Linn's* and helped make it what it is today," said John Van Emden, president of the In-

ternational Collectors Society, the mail-order company whose high-profile ads market stamps in national publications.

Mr. Amos hired Van Emden as advertising manager of *Linn's* in 1969, the year Amos Press acquired the newspaper.

Van Emden was 24 years old and just out of the service after a tour of duty in Vietnam.

"We sat at a double desk, and he taught me everything I know about advertising and layout," Van Emden said. "He had a vision of the stamp business and of stamp publishing that was different from anyone else's."

Van Emden said Mr. Amos took him around the country to introduce him personally

to all of *Linn's* advertising

accounts. "It was under Oliver Amos that the ads disappeared from the front page and the classified section was built up," Van Emden said.

*Linn's* had been printed on the presses of *The Sidney Daily News* since 1942, when George W. Linn, the founder, was forced into bankruptcy in Columbus, Ohio, during the wartime paper shortage.

Mr. Amos recalled that *Linn's* would show up every week, with a hatful of

money, to pay for that week's issue.

The relationship continued, a week at a time, for more than two decades.

Watching *Linn's* publish a successful weekly for stamp collectors gave Mr. Amos the idea that a similar opportunity existed in the coin hobby.

Despite the skepticism of most coin dealers and other observers of the numismatic scene, Mr. Amos pushed forward.

(Please turn to page 19)

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PRINTED with soy ink on recycled paper MAILED: May 22  
PAID CIRCULATION: 66,126 TOTAL DISTRIBUTION: 73,140  
POSTMASTER: Address changes to Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365

## Gem from Canal Zone has wrong portrait

A highlight of the Pacific 97 court of honor exhibit titled "Canal Zone Gems," from the Canal Zone Study Group, is a stamp picturing the wrong person. It is shown here.



This Canal Zone stamp says it pictures "Justo Arosemena," but the vignette really is Fernandez de Cordoba. Only a handful known, the stamp is displayed in the Pacific 97 show's court of honor.

This is one of the rarest types of printing errors: a bi-color stamp with the wrong vignette. The 1912 "Canal Zone" overprint on the underlying 5-centesimo Panamanian stamp by the American Bank Note Co. normally showed the head of Justo Arosemena, first president of the new Republic of Panama.

Although the stamp shown here is inscribed "Justo Arosemena," it pictures Fernandez de Cordoba.

found on the 2c stamp. To date, about eight or nine copies of the vignette error are known, all used. ■

## Scouts at Pacific 97

The Scouts on Stamps Society International Inc. will hold its annual meeting Sunday, June 1, as part of the Pacific 97 world philatelic exhibition in San Francisco, Calif. SOSSI president Lawrence Clay will preside.

tors, will be chaired by Randall Frank of San Diego. On June 2, John Ineson, an SOSSI vice president from England, will present a program titled "Hungarian Scout Philately — 1912-1948."

SOSSI is a nonprofit educational philatelic organization that promotes Scout and Guides stamp collecting worldwide to further better understanding among the peoples of the world through a common interest in Scouting and Scout philately.

The general public is invited to attend all SOSSI activities.

SOSSI also will present a panel June 1 titled "Philatelic Aspects of International Scouting and Guiding."

Also, 32 pages of Scouting stamps will be on display at the SOSSI booth.

The panel, consisting of four outstanding Scout collec-

SOSSI is preparing a cacheted first-day cover for the first day of Pacific 97 plus an event cover for the annual meeting.

Additional information about SOSSI is available from Carl Schauer, SOSSI Executive Secretary, Box 526, Belen, NM 87002. ■

## Fifty Years Ago

Linn's front page of June 2, 1947, reported the first-day frenzy at the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in New York City May 17-25. On opening day, collectors bought 7,586,267 of the new 3¢ Cipex commemorative (Scott 947), spending \$227,588.01 at 12 post office windows set up for the event.

Founder George W. Linn cut short his weekly editorial because of pressure to get to the show in Manhattan.

The Dena Stamp Store of San Francisco advertised mint sets of the 1933 Vatican Holy Year semipostals (Scott B1-4) for \$1.15. Today, the set catalogs \$110.

## Collectors of Ireland to meet at Pacific 97

The Eire Philatelic Association will hold its annual general meeting at Pacific 97 on Sunday, June 1.

The Eire Philatelic Association also will have a table at the show where Irish philatelic literature will be available to the general public.

On Saturday, June 7, at 1 p.m., Patricia Walker will give a presentation titled

"Postal History of Ireland: 1600 to 1840, the Start of Postal Reform."

Her talk, about 1½ hours, will emphasize rates paid for letters and the changes during the period covered.

For additional information regarding membership or the EPA activities at Pacific 97, contact David J. Brennan, Box 704, Bernardsville, NJ 07924-0704. ■

## FIP workshop June 7

During the Pacific 97 show, the International Federation of Philately (FIP) will conduct a workshop Saturday, June 7, titled "FIP in the Year 2000."

Led by FIP president D.N. Jatic, the afternoon portion of the workshop will be open to the general public.

The workshop will be conducted in Room 102 of the Moscone Center. The room also is known as the Theatre Room and is located next to the Golden Gate Club.

The public session begins at 1:30 p.m. with introductions and a presentation of

the results of the group work that morning.

Questions and answers (a panel discussion) will be held from 2:40 p.m. until 3:10 p.m. There will be a break from 3:10 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

A presentation of action points by A. Valdetaro will take place from 3:30 p.m. until 4 p.m.

This will be followed by questions from the general public until 4:15 p.m., and Jatic's concluding remarks.

The session is scheduled to end at 4:30 p.m. ■

### U.S. USED WITH MINOR DEFECTS

991	145.00	227	4.00	408	20	654	20	941	3.50
1	145.00	228	5.00	409	20	655	10	942	7.50
2	295.00	229	21.00	411	1.25	656	30	943	9.00
7	22.50	230	10	412	1.50	657	15	947	80
10	15.00	231c	15	413	15	658	1.25	948	75
11	1.45	232	2.80	414	30	660	20	949	20
12	250.00	233	1.20	416	10	662	2.00	950	50
13	165.00	234	1.40	417	1.00	664	5.00	952	1.50
14	55.00	235	6.00	418	75	666	15.00	953	2.25
15	55.00	236	1.95	419	4.00	668	3.50	954	2.85
17	67.00	237	1.40	420	4.50	670	80	955	2.50
19a	250.00	238	12.00	421	5.50	671	20	956	3.80
20	32.50	239	20.00	422	5.50	674	5.00	960	2.80
21	300.00	240	36.00	423	25.00	679	6.50	961	5.85
22	55.00	241	150.00	428	45	C1	11.00	962	4.00
24	6.40	242	175.00	427	15	C2	12.00	965	20.00
25	8.00	243	350.00	428	15	C3	14.00	967	37.00
26	70	244	440.00	429	35	C5	11.00	968	110.00
29a	13.00	245	490.00	430	1.15	C8	9.00	969	1100.00
27	198.00	246	75	431	45	C7	10	972	85
30	210.00	247	25	432	3.00	C8	85	973	85
30A	47.00	248	50	433	05	C9	45	974	30
31	140.00	249	25	434	2.00	C10	45	975	50
32	40.00	251	25	435	1.00	C11	15	976	3.25
33	40.00	252	70	437	1.70	C12	10	977	1.45
35	13.00	253	1.80	438	1.00	C15	75.00	978	85
36	25.00	254	70	439	5.00	C17	10	979	1.25
37	55.00	255	85	440	4.50	C20	36	980	10.00
38	70.00	256	4.50	443	2.25	C21	85	981	1.45
63	5.00	258	1.50	444	50	C22	1.80	982	1.45
64	55.00	259	10.00	448	1.00	C24	45	983	1.35
64b	20.00	260	17.00	LPR	8.50	C26	10	984	1.60
65	30	261	75.00	453	30	C29	10	985	45
67	80.00	261A	155.00	454	3.20	C30	10	986	1.05
68	6.00	262	250.00	455	20	C31	1.35	987	11.00
68a	6.00	263	450.00	456	25.00	C37	30	988	1.35
69	15.00	265	15	460	25.00	C43	10	989	1.25
70	17.50	266	20	462	10	C44	20	990	90
70b	45.00	269	25	462a	1.50	C46	45	991	25
71	18.00	270	40	463	10	C61	15	992	85
72	80.00	271	30	464	3.25	CE1	25	993	4.00
73	5.00	272	20	465	45	CE2	10	995	10.00
75	50.00	272a	35.00	466	50	E1	6.45	997	25
76	17.00	273	25	469	1.75	E2	1.80	998	20
76a	11.50	274	2.00	469	3.40	E3	2.85	999	20
77	20.00	275	4.50	470	1.25	E4	6.00	1002	50.00
78	10.00	276	22.50	471	5.00	E5	85	1007	24.00
78a	10.00	276A	80.00	472	25	E6	85	1008	60
83	115.00	278	150.00	474	1.90	E8	1.00	1009	1.10
94	300.00	280	25	476	2.85	E9	1.30	1010	5.80
95	89.00	280a	25	477	18.00	E10	7.50	1012	33.00
95b	79.00	280b	25	478	7.50	E11	10	1013	33.00
95c	158.00	281	15	479	13.00	E12	10	1014	40
96	55.00	282	55	480	15.00	E13	25	1015	40
98	2.50	282a	75	481	25	E14	40	1016	25
99	34.00	282c	45	482	35	E18	75	1017	20
99	33.00	283	40	483	2.75	E22	10	1019	1.25
91	65.00	284	1.05	489	30	F1	1.15	1021	40
92	27.50	285	1.25	491	100.00	FAT	10	1022	11.00
93	6.00	286	30	493	60	J1	1.10	1024	35
94	70	287	4.50	494	35	J2	1.00	1025	1.25
95a	60.00	288	4.50	495	1.25	J3	25	1026	40
96	25.00	289	8.50	496	20	J4	5.95	1029	25
97	25.00	290	4.00	497	3.00	J5	4.50	1030	10
98	35.00	291	32.50	499	20	J6	9.00	1036	50
99	110.00	292	200.00	500	10	J15	80	1038B	30
100	60.00	293	325.00	506	10	J16	80	LCP	15.00
101	290.00	294	80	507	30	J17	27.00	PP8	1.50
112	18.00	295	20	508	15	J18	4.40	PH1	5.00
113	5.00	296	4.50	509	55	J19	2.30	PH16	15.00
114	1.25	297	4.25	511	80	J21	35.00	PH17	15.00
115	18.00	298	14.50	512	10	J22	15	PH25	50.00
116	17.00	299	7.00	512a	10	J23	15	PH122	3.00
117	17.00	302	70	513	1.60	J24	1.25	PH123	3.50
118	27.00	303	30	514	20	J25	1.05	PH124	10.00
120	60.00	304	20	516	20	J26	2.15	RW1	40.00
122	60.00	305	60	517	20	J27	29.00	RW2	48.00
124	12.00	306	45	518	35	J28	29.00	RW3	25.00
125	12.00	307	25	524	10.00	J29	50.00	RW4	12.00
136	2.50	308	2.25	525	10	J32	30	RW5	14.00
138	68.00	309	1.20	526	1.10	J36	10	RW6	8.00
139	110.00	310	5.00	527	20	J41	25	RW7	8.00
141	225.00	311	14.50	537	75	J42	60	RW8	8.00
145	2.50	315	69.00	540	2.50	J45	1.00	RW10	10.00
146	30	319b	10	542	20	J49	4.25	RW11	10.00
147	15	320	5.00	547	11.00	J52	3.25	RW12	6.00
148	2.45	325a	10.00	549	60	J56	80	RW18	4.50
149	15.00	325	1.00	549	50	J58	200.00	RW19	4.00
150	3.00	324	35	550	4.50	J66	20	RW15	4.00
151	9.50	323	8.50	553	10	J69	35	RW16	4.00
152	20.00	326	5.00	555	30	J72	30	RW17	4.50
153	18.00	327	8.50	558	25	J74	29	RW18	3.50
154	22.00	328	70	559	20	J76	10	RW19	3.00
156	40	329	50	560	20	J78	10	RW20	3.00
157	1.90	330	5.00	561	35	J85	10	RW21	3.00
158	10	331	70	563	10	J91	75	RW22	3.00
159	1.75	334	25	565	25	J93	85	RW23	3.00
160	18.00	335	50	568	15	J94	14.00	RW24	3.00
161	2.25	335	1.20	569	10	J95	30	RW25</	