1P1a & 2P1a Die proofs on white bond paper
5c Red-brown & 10c Black die proofs on white bond paper, the 5c with complete crosshatching, and the 10c with 90% crosshatching. Sound set with razor sharp die impressions. A beautiful set. SCV: $1,600.00 (EP93-02) $1,475.00

22 – With near perfect centering for this issue
1c Blue Type IIIa, plate IV tied by bold blue Keene N.H. Mar 23, 1858 CDS on local drop rate cover. One of those covers that has lights! With PF certificate. (PH93-01) $475.00

3P3-4P3 – Plate proofs on India paper
5c Red-brown & 10c Black, 1875 reprints, plate proofs on India paper. It is difficult today to find sound sets with nice large margins for this issue. A gem set! (EP93-03) $750.00
In This Issue

This turned out to be an interesting issue to put together. Since all of January and part of February were spent travelling and then heading for Georgia on the 4th of March it didn’t leave much time to work on new material. Most of the material has either come from material put away over the years and forgotten or provided by consignors. Some of my favorites are the four covers offered on pages four and five, the Massey patent sheet, and the 158 black trial color sheet. However, the one that stands out the most is the original artwork for the 1959 Arctic Explorations stamp. There is additional material not shown on page 13, which includes newspaper articles and a few preliminary sketches.

Marking from the back of an envelope from the Patent Office in Washington sent to Chicago

Thomas Wegner’s Gold Medal Dead Letter Office Postal History Collection

I have known Tom Wegner for probably 25 years or more. Our paths crossed when he decided to publish his book on Dead Letter Office Mail. Instead of a traditional hard bound book Tom chose to go the on-demand route and had it produced by Dick Sine, the former Scott Publishing editor. Without any promotion sales for the book did not get off the ground. Somehow a copy crossed my desk and I saw an opportunity to market the book. Here was a topic of great interest to collectors and hardly anything had been written about it in depth. Over the years I think I moved about 100 copies.

About two years ago Tom started to talk to me about selling his collection. The exhibit portion of the collection won the grand award at Texpex around 1990 or 1991. It was then shown in the Champions of Champions competition at StampShow in Cincinn-

Our Show Schedule for 2020-21

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>APS StampShow</td>
<td>August 20-23, 2020</td>
<td>Hartford, Connecticut</td>
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<td>Chicagopex</td>
<td>November 20-22, 2020</td>
<td>Westin Chicago Northwest</td>
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<td>400 Park Boulevard</td>
<td>Itasca, Illinois 60143</td>
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<tr>
<td>APS Great American</td>
<td>August 12-15, 2021</td>
<td>Rosemont Convention Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamp Show</td>
<td>We will have a booth</td>
<td>Rosemont, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicagopex</td>
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In addition, he has several hundred covers that serve as back up to all the time periods and topics covered in the exhibit. We finally were able to meet a couple of weeks ago and I now own an incredible holding of Dead Letter Office mail which goes all the way back to 1824.

I am just starting to work on breaking down the collection. If you have an interest in Dead Letter Office mail, I suggest a phone call: 847-910-6048. This may well be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Timely Update on Bi-Weekly Email Newsletters

In addition to our printed newsletter I send out a Bi-Weekly Email Newsletter on Thursdays at 10:00 AM CST. There are usually two each month unless we are travelling. Over the past 10 years over 435 separate newsletters have been sent out. It features essays, proofs, postal history, stamps, and literature. The focus is on moderately priced items. Clients who set an alert for the 10:00 AM email blast are usually successful if they spot something that they want to add to their collection. The sell through rate is usually about 75%. Shipping is free except for literature. If you would like to start receiving our email newsletter just send me your name and email address to: jim@jameslee.com

Production Challenges

I have always written “Philately” in my office, at home, over a couple of days. This is the first time that I have crafted it over a period of weeks, while travelling. There have been some challenges. Several of the larger items did not fit my scanner so I used cellphone pictures. This, of course, resulted in shadow and lighting (color) issues, most of which have been resolved. However, pages 10, 11, and 14 are a little less than envisioned. Please be assured that the actual material is sharp, bright, and amazing in every way.

The artwork for the 1959 Arctic Explorations stamp, on page 14, is much larger than shown. This is one of the reasons why this material is so spectacular to look at. The base art is on white Bristol board about 14 by 20 inches. The chalk rendering, produced to suggest color, is about 9 x 12 inches. The entire file of material that comes with these as part of the lot tells the full story from conception to completed artwork. I have never handled anything so detailed and complete for a single stamp. Obviously, this material could form the beginning of a very rewarding philatelic exhibit.
Essay & Proof Auction Catalogs

The Clarence Brazer Collection of U.S. Essays and Proofs
Robert A. Siegel Sale No. 726, June 27, 1990, with 2190 lots, illustrations and P/R. At the time of this sale the collection was owned by the state of Morton Dean Joyce. He has purchased the collection from Mrs. Brazer after her husband’s death in 1956. This is one of the finest accumulation of essays and proofs ever offered at auction $40.00

The “Chesapeake” Collection of U.S. Proofs and Essays
Matthew Bennett International Sale No. 300, Mar. 14, 2006, 541 lots in full color, includes prices realized. Brazer’s office was burglarized in 1951 with his entire retail stock taken. It was not recovered in his lifetime. However, much of it reappeared at New York shows in the early 1980’s. It was offered in small lots by a collector. The missing Brazer stock was the main source of this collection. $20.00

The Falk Finkelburg Collection of U.S. Essays and Proofs
Robert A. Siegel Sale No. 816, Sept. 29, 1999. This full color catalog is proving to be an invaluable reference for collectors of essays and proofs. The Finkelburg collection contains many items which are not found in the 1990 Brazer sale. Hardbound copy with prices realized, $35.00 softbound, $25.00

The Lake Shore Collection of Essays and Proofs - Three Parts
RAS, Sale nos. 890, 900, and 909, Feb. 5, Sep. 27, 2005 and Apr. 20, 2006, over 1500 lots illustrated in full color, includes prices realized. One of the greatest private collections ever formed. $75.00

Lilly - The Josiah K. Lilly Collection - Part V
RAS, Sale No. 321, Sept. 13, 1967, 982 lots, images and P/R. 256 lots of large die proofs and complete India and card proof sheets. They are said to be the ‘Earl of Crawford’ sheets. $25.00

Lopez - The Frederick Lopez, Sr. Collection of 1869 Pictorial Issue - Two Parts
JCS, Sale Dec. 1 & 8, 1990, contains many rare 1869 essays and proofs including the safety papers. $30.00

Rust - P.G. Rust Collection of U.S. Die and Plate Proofs
May 16, 1962 HRH Sale no. 1439, May 16, 1962, 518 lots, photo plates, with prices realized. $15.00

Schaffner - The William Schaffner Collection of United States
HRH, Sale nos. 1008-1010, May 7-9-1956, 1037 lots of which 80 lots are essays and proofs, three photo plate, includes prices realized. $15.00

19th & 20th Century Essays and Proofs
DFK, Sale no. 533, Jun. 28, 1977, 465 lots, well-illustrated throughout, strong in 20th century. $20.00

United States Proof and Essays
GMA, Sale Sep. 18-19, 1974, includes 132 lots of better essays and proofs, well-illustrated. $15.00

United States Stamped Envelopes and Postal Cards including Proofs and Essays
CEP, Oct. 17-18, 1941, 1387 lots of which 274 are postal stationery and postal card essays and proofs. Great sale! $35.00

Schiff Elite Auction No. 17
JCS Elite Sale no. 17, May 26-28, 1995, 2523 lots of which 149 lots are essays and proofs. The primary focus is on 20th century U.S. material. $15.00

Shipping: $5.00 for the first book, $1.00 every book thereafter.

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63 – Valentine’s Express
1c Blue three singles, tied by large blue, Chicago Supplementary Mail cancel to (1863) cover going to Sansingburgh, New York. Slight reduction at the left. Only six one-cent covers known with this marking. This is the only known express company cover. F. A. Chapman was the agent for Valentine’s Express in Chicago, with offices in Tremont House. According to a citation in volume 2, *A History of Chicago, From town to City, 1848-1871.*, Valentine’s carried freight between New York and Chicago (*The Press & Tribune* Sept. 26, 1859). (PH93-02) *Ex-Stiss* $875.00

26 – Lincoln Campaign cover
3c Dull red tied by blue Chicago, Ills. Duplex CDS. Full cover with blind embossing (which has been highlighted using an HB lead pencil) and reads: Front: Slavery, Sectional Union & Liberty, Freedom, National Onward to Victory Back: Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Ill. For President, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of ME for V. President. A marvelous Lincoln cover, the highlighting can be erased if you like. (Milgram No. AL-108) *Ex-Walcott* (PH93-03) $500.00