

THE FRELINGHUYSEN COLLECTION

Introduction to The Frelinghuysen Collection

The collection presented in this catalogue will be offered at unreserved auction on March 28, 2012. The collection was started more than three-quarters of a century ago, and for much of that time the collecting community was unaware of its existence. With the passing of the Honorable Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. (1916-2011), a former United States congressman, the stamp collection he started as a child and formed with the help of the legendary stamp dealer, Warren H. Colson, will be unveiled.

The emergence of the Frelinghuysen collection answers many questions about the whereabouts of important philatelic rarities, which were known from old photographs, but had seemingly vanished. The collection of Postmasters' Provisionals contains many of these "phantom" rarities, most of which were acquired from the Lapham family during the years following the death of Henry G. Lapham in 1939.

These spectacular provisional rarities were exhibited by Henry Lapham's son, Raymond, at the Third International Philatelic Exhibition (TIPEX) in New York City in 1936. The Lapham collection of Postmasters' Provisionals won the Grand Award at TIPEX, the first time a United States collection won an international grand award. After Henry's death, items from the Lapham collection were slowly sold into the market by Colson. The youthful Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. was a major buyer of provisionals from the Lapham dispersal.

The period from 1940 to 1955 was an opportune time to collect this challenging area, because many of the giants of philately had stopped competing, and others had not yet started. Ferrary, Hind, Worthington, Gibson, the Earl of Crawford and, of course, Lapham, had died or sold their collections. Alfred H. Caspary already owned the major provisional rarities. When Caspary died, and his collection entered the market in 1955, the Weills of New Orleans represented their secret client, B. D. Phillips.

The Weills bought most of Caspary's provisionals and dominated that market for the next 35 years, buying for their clients or for inventory. During the same period, important provisional collections were formed by John R. Boker Jr., T. Cullen Davis, Josiah K. Lilly Jr. and A. T. Seymour. And, of course, more specialized collections of specific post office issues were formed by other collectors, such as John and Elizabeth Pope (St. Louis) and Dr. and Mrs. Hayes (Baltimore).

Shortly before the Weills sold their inventory in 1989, they acquired the "E.G." collection, which they had helped form over many years. The 1989 Weill Stock sale of Postmasters' Provisionals is essentially the "E.G." collection.

When the Boker collection was dispersed privately, many of his covers were acquired by Rolf-Dieter Jaretzky of Germany, who still maintains and, on rare occasions, exhibits his collection. The Alexandria "Blue Boy" cover and several important covers from the 1989 Weill sale are in the collection of another collector in Germany. Finally, the Annapolis and Millbury covers from the 1989 Weill sale, along with several other rare provisional covers, are in the collection of another anonymous private collector.

This sale is an opportunity to delve into one of the truly American areas of philately: the innovative, primitive and elusive Postmasters' Provisionals.

Arrangement of Sale and Information Sources

The Frelinghuysen collection of Postmasters' Provisionals is offered in 96 lots, arranged in alphabetical order by post office. In the case of important items, the basic description is followed by extensive background information about the postmaster, post office and sale history of the item.

In many of the descriptions we have included biographical information about past collectors who have owned these items and other provisional rarities. Some of this information about famous philatelists has never been published. Much has been gleaned from Dr. Stanley M. Bierman's published biographies and Charles J. Phillips' series of profiles published in *Stamps* magazine in the 1930's.

Philip T. Wall's articles on Postmasters' Provisionals in the *Chronicle* and more recently in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* are a valuable source of information. Wall's articles in the *Chronicle* can be downloaded for free by members of the U.S. Classics Society with access to the Member's Domain of the website.

On pages 139-160 we have provided a photo census of all known examples of the Alexandria, Annapolis, Baltimore 10c, Millbury and New Haven provisionals.

Particular attention should be paid to the story of the Alexandria stamp offered in this sale (lot 1). The September 9th letter from which the stamp originated was lost after 1879, found in 1960, sold in 2006, and now apparently has been lost again, but we hold out hope that it will be found in response to this catalogue.

Because a number of lot descriptions are separated by several pages of text, the following page index will be helpful to bidders who need to locate lot descriptions.

<i>Lot and Page Reference to Postmasters' Provisionals</i>		
Post Office	Lot(s)	Description Pages
Alexandria D.C. (Va.)	lot 1	20-29
Annapolis Md.	lot 2	30-37
Baltimore Md.	lot 3 (10c cover)	38-43
	lot 4 (5c pair on cover)	44-46
	lots 5-12	47-53
Brattleboro Vt.	lot 13 (cover)	54-56
	lot 14 (stamp)	57
Millbury Mass.	lot 15	58-61
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New York N.Y.	Introduction	68-72
	lots 17-89	73-123
Providence R.I.	lot 90 (cover)	124-129
	lots 91-93	130-131
St. Louis Mo.	lot 94 (11X2)	132-135
	lots 95-96 (11X1)	136-137