

THE JOHN B. FIELD COLLECTION



SUPERB UNITED STATES STAMPS

It's in the Blood

JOHAN FIELD STARTED COLLECTING STAMPS WHEN HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD. His father's relative had a substantial collection, and when the time came to sell, he held out some of the common stamps and sent them to John's father. Rather than simply give the stamps to John and his brother, their father told the boys to divide the collection by taking turns picking one stamp at a time. John's love of stamps and of trading was born.

When John was ten, his Cub Scout troop held a show-and-tell event. He painstakingly created a montage of unused stamps on a presentation board, affixing a hinge to the back of each stamp to create his densely packed display. His father let him take the bus alone to downtown Dallas to buy stamps.

His meticulous nature would become extremely useful as John expanded his collection. He stepped up his buying activity in the mid-1980s, going to many stamp shows over the years and picking out the best stamps from dealer inventories. Each new acquisition was placed on a specially created inventory card with the particulars noted, and the stamps on cards were stored in metal file boxes.

Completeness was never the goal—John's objective was to obtain stamps he liked in superior condition. He gravitated towards late nineteenth and twentieth century issues, but reached for earlier issues when a stamp met his criteria. At a certain point he focused on subtleties of shades, as will be seen in some of the group lots offered in this sale. He also never hesitated to acquire stamps in both hinged and Mint Never-Hinged condition, if the centering of the hinged example was superior. In addition to basic stamps, John occasionally bought unusual items which appealed to him. The Davy Crockett free frank and the Beaumont postmaster's provisional are tributes to his deep Texas roots as a multi-generational resident of Houston.



John is also a collector and dealer of collectible children's books. Specially engineered supports were added to the house to handle the sheer weight of his library. He is also actively involved in many Houston charities. Every year, John and his wife Peggy donate thousands of copies of *A Student's Dictionary & Gazetteer* to third graders in lower income schools throughout north Houston, delivering them in person until Covid made that impossible. They are also involved in several other charities and with his alma mater, the University of Michigan, where he met Peggy.

John is all-in on his passions. He and his family have made the difficult decision to return his stamps to the marketplace. We are sure they will be appreciated.

—JOHN ZUCKERMAN