



Lot 3



Lot 3
Detail of Stamp

Baltimore, Maryland

Lot 3

10c Black on White (3X2). Position 11 from the bottom left corner of the sheet (according to Hayes plating) with complete framelines at left and bottom, intense impression on bright white paper, cancelled by criss-crossing pen strokes, affixed with two small red wax seals at each end causing slight wrinkling and two tiny internal tears to the left of “10”, corner crease at lower left, blue “Baltimore Md. Feb. 27” circular datestamp (no year date, but believed to be 1846), matching “Paid” and “10” in oval handstamps on folded cover to Reverend R. H. Ball, in care of another Reverend (“A. A.”, which we believe to be Reverend A. A. Lipscomb) in Montgomery Ala., evidently Reverend Ball had returned to Baltimore, original Montgomery address and “Paid” crossed out, redirected to Baltimore, blue “Montgomery Ala. Mar. 7” circular datestamp and matching “10” due handstamp, addressees’ last names obliterated in 19th century ink to create anonymity

VERY FINE. ONE OF FIVE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, 10-CENT BLACK PROVISIONAL STAMP ON WHITE PAPER, EACH USED ON COVER (TWO OTHERS ON BLUISH PAPER ARE KNOWN). AN IMPORTANT CLASSIC UNITED STATES RARITY.

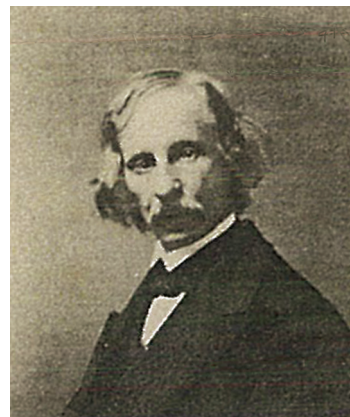
Census No. 3X2-COV-02. Ex Townsend, Ferrary (with his purple trefoil handstamp at lower right) and Lapham. Small “W.H.C.” (Warren H. Colson) handstamp at lower left. With 2011 P.F. certificate. Scott value for 10c on White, No. 3X2 (on cover only), is \$70,000.00. Estimate \$30,000-40,000

The Baltimore Postmaster

James Madison Buchanan (1803-1876) was a relative of President James Buchanan and a Baltimore lawyer with strong political ties. He received his postmaster’s appointment on April 8, 1845, from President James K. Polk, the Democratic candidate elected in 1844. Buchanan served four years under the Polk administration, but was replaced when the successful Whig candidate, Zachary Taylor, entered office in 1849. Buchanan later served as U.S. Minister to Denmark (1858-1861).

As Baltimore’s postmaster, Buchanan was one of the first to issue provisional stamps after the Act of 1845 postal reforms took effect on July 1, 1845. The July 15, 1845, edition of *The Baltimore American* published the first announcement of Buchanan’s new issue:

Post Office Stamped Envelopes, — We learn that the Postmaster of this city, with laudable desire to promote the convenience of businessmen and others, has caused to be prepared five and ten cent envelopes, with which letters may be mailed at any hour of the day or night



James M. Buchanan (1803-1876)
Baltimore Postmaster 1845-1849
Courtesy Herbert A. Trenchard

without the trouble attendant upon paying postage at the window, waiting until office is opened, etc. These envelopes may be procured at the office from the clerks; sixteen of the five cent sheets are furnished for a dollar. We observe that this system has been adopted in some of the Eastern States.

Similar notices were published in *The Baltimore Patriot* and *The Baltimore Sun* (Muriel B. Hayes, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 1, January 1970). The earliest recorded date of use of a Baltimore provisional envelope is September 7, 1845 (offered in lot 7).

The Baltimore adhesive stamps on Bluish paper (Scott 3X3 and 3X4) were issued at the same time or shortly after the handstamped envelopes. The earliest recorded date of use is August 3, 1845 (5c on Bluish, Scott 3X3). The subsequent printing on White paper (Scott 3X1 and 3X2) must have been made at the end of 1845 or very early in 1846, because the earliest recorded date of use for any Baltimore stamp on White paper is January 15, 1846.

The Baltimore Adhesive Stamp Plate Layout

The identity of the engraver and printer of the Baltimore adhesive stamps is not known. According to the Muriel B. Hayes plating study (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 2, March 1970), the Baltimore provisional stamps were printed from an engraved plate of twelve subjects, arranged in two vertical columns of six, comprising nine 5-cent and three 10-cent denominations. The bottom three positions of the left column in a printed sheet — Positions 7/9/11 — were “10 Cents” denominated stamps. The other seven positions — 1-2/3-4/5-6 and 8/10/12 — were “5 Cents” denominated stamps. Ruled lines were engraved between the subjects and around the perimeter, creating framelines, but these lines were shared. Therefore, when two adjoining stamps were separated, the line between them could not appear complete on both stamps.

The Earliest Discoveries of the Baltimore 10-cent Provisional

The earliest discoveries of the Baltimore 10c provisional adhesive stamp were made in 1895 and 1896-97. Based on reports published by various writers, it appears that the damaged 10c on Bluish paper, which is tied on piece and repaired (3X4-PCE-02),



This repaired example of the 10c on Bluish paper is the first Baltimore 10c adhesive discovered

was the first 10c denominated Baltimore adhesive found. It was discovered in 1895 by Dr. Arlo Bates and sold to W. Elliot Woodward, an early dealer in coins and stamps. Woodward offered the stamp at auction on March 11, 1896, but it failed to reach the reserve price of \$1,500 (L. N. Williams, *Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps: The Biographies*, page 174).

Sometime after the 1896 auction, the piece was sold to the New England Stamp Company, and it was presumably sold by them to Henry J. Duveen. After Duveen died in December 1919, the estate consigned the United States collection to Charles J. Phillips for private sale in 1922. The Baltimore 10c piece was listed by Phillips as one of the rarities in the Duveen collection. The Williams book reports that Arthur Hind acquired all of the Duveen United States material, but this piece was not in the 1933

Hind sale (the 10c on White and on Bluish were each represented by full covers in the Hind collection). Based on the year of sale (1922), it is far more likely that the piece was acquired by Henry G. Lapham, who displayed it at the Collectors Club of New York on April 4, 1928, along with the Baltimore 10c cover offered here.

When Lapham's collection was sold privately by Warren H. Colson, after Lapham's death in 1939, the 10c on Bluish was not sold to Frelinghuysen, but neither was it in the Colson stock when he died in 1963, as reported by 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*). It does not appear again until the sale of the T. Cullen Davis collection of Postmasters' Provisionals (Part II, Siegel Sale 278, November 19, 1964, lot 8). The census appended to this catalogue provides the complete sale history of Lapham's 10c piece (3X4-PCE-02).

Two more Baltimore 10c provisional stamps, including the one on this cover, were discovered soon after the appearance of the 10c on Bluish paper on piece (Census Nos. 3X2-COV-01 and 3X2-COV-02). The two stamps were printed on White paper, not Bluish, and were found on separate covers from different correspondences. The cover offered here was discovered in 1896 (or possibly 1897). According to J. Murray Bartels ("The Baltimore 10c Issued by Postmaster James M. Buchanan in 1846 (or 1845?)," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. VII, No. 3, July 1928), it was the first copy of the 10c on White to be discovered, and it was found by the daughter of the addressee, Reverend R. H. Ball. Bartels' article states:

It was found in Washington by Capt. Addison C. Townsend, now Sec'y of the Package Medicine Ass., Chicago, then a partner of H. F. Colman with an office in the Loan & Trust Building in Washington, D.C. It was addressed to the Rev. R. H. Ball and found by his daughter, a private school teacher in need of funds. Townsend offered her \$1500 cash or would sell it for her on commission. She accepted the selling plan as she had been told much more might be realized when he could find a customer. Townsend came elated to show his great acquisition to the writer, then located about two blocks away in the same city. This was in 1896 or early in 1897. It so happened that the New York dealer R. F. Albrecht was about to start for Europe and he agreed to submit it personally to Ferrari in Paris who for many years was known as the best prospect for a high price when a new rarity was discovered. A sale was made at \$3000 and each of the two dealers deducted their 10% commission while Miss Ball received the balance.

The two last names in the address on this cover have been obliterated in ink — probably at the time of discovery — but the addressee was Reverend R. H. Ball, and the letter was addressed in care of a reverend in Montgomery with the initials "A. A." Living in Montgomery at this time was a prominent Methodist Protestant Church pastor named Reverend Andrew A. Lipscomb, and he is almost certainly the person to whom Reverend Ball's letter was directed. Both were members of the same church organization, and from 1842 to 1849 Reverend Lipscomb was pastor of the Bibb Street Methodist Protestant Church. Reverend Ball was probably visiting Montgomery when this was mailed to him. In 1851 Reverend Ball became president of Madison College in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, but he resigned in 1852 due to health reasons.

This cover has no year date. An article by Delf Norona was published in the *American Philatelist* as a follow-up to Bartels' July 1928 article and census of the Baltimore 10c

provisional. Norona attempted to determine the year dates of undated Baltimore provisional covers by analyzing the Baltimore postmarks found on 200 stampless covers during the 1843-49 period. In the case of the “10” oval handstamp, he identified three different types: Types 3 and 3-A have a downward sloping serif on the “1,” while Type 4 has a horizontal serif. Norona determined that the cover offered here, listed as the “Lapham” cover, was a February 27 date in 1846, because the latest stampless use of the Type 3 “10” oval (with sloping serif) was February 26, 1846. We cannot be certain that Norona’s analysis is correct, but it is presented here for further study and verification.



Philippe la Rénotière von Ferrary
(1850-1917)

Sale History of the Baltimore 10c Cover to Reverend Ball

Philippe la Rénotière von Ferrary’s only Baltimore 10c provisional was the stamp on this cover. It was sold in the April 7, 1922, auction of Ferrary’s collection (Gilbert sale 3, lot 542). In that sale it realized FFr 60,000 plus 17.5% government surtax, for a total of \$6,430 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). The Baltimore 10c cover sold to Warren H. Colson, who acted as agent for Alfred H. Caspary and Henry G. Lapham in the third Ferrary sale. Arthur Hind, the other major American buyer in the sale (and the buyer of the

British Guiana One-Cent), was represented by Hugo Griebert.

In February 1922, just two months before the third Ferrary sale, another titan of American philately, Henry C. Gibson, sold his Postmasters’ Provisionals collection privately (Philip H. Ward, *Mekeel’s*, March 11, 1922), which explains why he was not a contender for Ferrary’s provisionals. The majority of Gibson’s provisional items went to Lapham and Caspary (it was Caspary who acquired the “Blue Boy” cover at this point). The Baltimore 10c cover to Reverend Ball was bought by Lapham in the Ferrary auction. He exhibited the cover and the 10c on Bluish on piece (purchased from the Duveen collection) in his display of United States Postmasters’ Provisionals at the Collectors Club of New York on April 4, 1928. Henry Lapham later transferred ownership of his collection to his son, Raymond W. Lapham, who was the exhibitor of record at the 1936 Third International Philatelic Exhibition (TIPEX) in New York City. Lapham’s five frames of Postmasters’ Provisionals, including the ex-Ferrary Baltimore cover, won the Grand Award at TIPEX, the first time a United States collection won an international grand award.



Henry G. Lapham (1875-1939)

GROUP 5. POSTMASTERS

61. Section I, Group 5, Class A.
RAYMOND W. LAPHAM, Boston, Mass.

United States. Postmasters. Alexandria; Baltimore, 5c on white, one of two known pairs on cover, 10c white on cover, 10c bluish on piece; Brattleboro, reconstructed plate of ten, all but No. 5; Millbury; New Haven; Providence; St. Louis, all four reconstructed plates with pairs and strips. A most extensive collection and study of this stamp; reconstructed plate of uncancelled copies; reconstructed plate of horizontal and vertical pairs tying together horizontal and vertical rows proving the plate to consist of forty stamps beyond doubt; reconstructed plate in overlapping horizontal pairs; reconstructed plate of red cancellations only; examples of all papers, signatures, cancellations and varieties; unique block of six on cover. This is a repaired item, but the block of four is the only one known unbroken and is almost untouched by repairs. 5 frames (223-227).

1936 TIPEX listing for the Postmasters' Provisional collection formed by Henry G. Lapham and exhibited in his son's name—the Baltimore "10c white on cover" is the cover to Reverend Ball offered here

Sometime after Henry G. Lapham died on December 13, 1939, Colson started selling items from the Lapham collection. When Colson died in 1963 he still had Lapham items on consignment under the code name "Benson." The Baltimore cover and other Postmasters' Provisional rarities from the Lapham collection were sold to Frelinghuysen, but the identity of the buyer was kept secret, even from Colson's close friend and eventual philatelic executor, John R. Boker Jr. Regarding the portions of Lapham's Postmasters' Provisionals sold by Colson to Frelinghuysen, Boker wrote (in 1989): "I do not know if this lot [New York provisionals] had been sold to one or two collectors, nor do I know if it contained the block of six on cover mentioned in an article I read [lot 86 in this sale]. I have no knowledge of the whereabouts of this block or the major portion of the collection." Colson, even after death, had successfully protected Frelinghuysen's identity. As Boker wrote, Colson "could keep confidences."