



Lot 4



Lot 4  
Detail of Stamps

## Baltimore, Maryland

### Lot 4

**5c Black on White (3X1).** Positions 3/5, vertical pair, trace of frameline at bottom left, tied by cross-hatched pen strokes, matching manuscript “10” rate, clear strike of blue “Baltimore Md. Mar. 21” (1847) circular datestamp and matching “Paid” handstamp on cover to Miss Mary Floyd in Port Tobacco Md., the pair has a pre-use horizontal crease mostly along the frameline between stamps

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED PAIRS OF THE 5-CENT PROVISIONAL ISSUED BY BALTIMORE’S POSTMASTER, JAMES M. BUCHANAN. BOTH PAIRS ARE ON WHITE PAPER, AND THEY ARE THE ONLY MULTIPLES OF A BALTIMORE PROVISIONAL KNOWN ON OR OFF COVER.

Illustrated in the Luff book. Ex Ayer, Worthington, Gibson and Lapham. Small “W.H.C.” (Warren H. Colson) handstamp at lower right. With 2011 P.F. certificate. Scott value for a pair on cover is \$35,000.00, which does not correspond to the \$40,000 1989 auction realization for the other pair on cover. Estimate \$15,000-20,000

### *The Baltimore Adhesive Stamp Plate Layout*

According to the Muriel B. Hayes plating study (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 2), 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 Two Recorded Multiples of Baltimore Adhesive Provisional Stamps*

When Muriel B. Hayes published her census of Baltimore provisional covers in January 1970 (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 1), she listed 26 covers with the 5c on Bluish (3X3) and 30 covers with the 5c on White (3X1). The only multiples of any Baltimore provisional stamp known to Hayes at the time were the two 5c on White pairs, and the current record of multiples remains the same. In J. Murray Bartels’ article on the Baltimore 10c adhesive provisional, published in July 1928 (*Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. VII, No. 3), he mentions “Two known [5c] pairs on white.”

One pair comes from Positions 4/6 and is used (cancelled by pen but not tied) on an 1846 folded letter to Abraham Richards in New York City with a blue Baltimore November 12 datestamp, “Paid” and “10” in oval handstamps. This must be one of the two covers noted by Bartels in his July 1928 article. The November 12 cover was offered as lot 19 in the November 15, 1955, Caspary sale and was purchased by the Weills for \$3,800. Although most of the Postmasters’ Provisional lots purchased by the Weills in the Caspary sale were bought for B. D. Phillips, this cover does not appear in

the Phillips inventory. Nonetheless, it does not appear at auction again until the Weill Brothers Stock sale held by Christie's Robson Lowe in October 1989. Shortly before selling their stock, the Weills acquired the "E.G." collection of Postmasters' Provisionals, including the November 12 Baltimore cover. It realized \$40,000 plus 10%



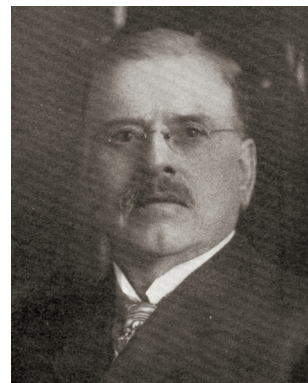
Henry C. Gibson (1885-1987)

buyer's premium as lot 625 in the Weill sale, selling to John R. Boker Jr. as representative for another collector.

The other pair, Positions 3/5, is on the March 21 cover offered here. Although the November 12 cover (ex Caspary and Weill) was described in the 1989 sale catalogue as having been owned by Henry C. Gibson and Henry G. Lapham, it is certain that the March 21 cover offered here is the same one which Gibson owned when he sold his Postmasters' Provisionals in February 1922 (specifically noted by Philip H. Ward in an article announcing the private sale), and which Henry G. Lapham (and his son) displayed at the Collectors Club of New York in 1928 and at TIPEX in 1936. Gibson

acquired the March 21 cover when portions of the George H. Worthington collection were sold privately by Warren H. Colson in 1915, at a time when Worthington's financial position was beginning to falter. Gibson sold his Postmasters' Provisionals shortly before the April 1922 Ferrary sale (Gilbert sale 3), with Caspary and Lapham buying most of the items (it was Caspary's good fortune to acquire the Alexandria "Blue Boy" from the Gibson collection).

Worthington's 1903 purchase of the March 21 cover from the Ayer collection is described by his philatelic assistant, Alvin Good, in his book, *The Life and Adventures of a Philatelist* (page 65): "Among the big lot of stamps Mr. Worthington purchased out of the Ayer collection were quite a few United States Postmaster's Provisionals, a number of Baltimore Envelopes and a pair of the 5c Baltimore stamps on cover, but no 10c stamp." The back of this cover has Worthington's source information written in pencil with his "BULFINCHES" cost code: "11/20/03 New Eng S. Co. ESS.SS" (New England Stamp Company, \$900.00).



George H. Worthington  
(1850-1924)

The Ayer collection belonged to Frederick Wellington Ayer (1855-1936), who was president of the Eastern Manufacturing Company of Brewer, Maine, and a noted antique collector and authority. Between 1892 and 1897 Ayer embarked on a philatelic buying spree, spending (by some reports) as much as \$750,000 on his collection, some of it with borrowed money (Bierman, *The World's Greatest Stamp Collectors*, page 95). When Fred's conservative banker-father learned of his son's extravagant philatelic spending, he presented Fred with a choice between liquidation or disinheritance. Fred chose the former. Beginning in 1897 portions of the Ayer collection were sold through various dealers, including Charles J. Phillips, Warren H. Colson and Colson's former employer, the New England Stamp Company. Years later, when the Lapham collection was sold privately by Colson, the March 21 cover was purchased by Frelinghuysen.