

# The World Traveler Collection

## *One of the Last, Great “Old School” Collections*

Anyone who remembers collecting stamps as a school child will fondly think back to the countless hours of fascination they provided. The stamps came in all sorts of shapes and sizes. They were issued by countries with names that no longer existed. A single stamp from a far-flung island nation could take the collector on a journey to that remote destination. Your stamps could take you to New Caledonia and back in time for dinner!

Traditionally, a beginning stamp collector’s goal was to “collect the world,” attempting to fill all of the spaces in an album or, even more ambitiously, a multi-volume set of international albums. For many, the challenge of collecting the world eventually became too daunting, and the twin realities of budget and space limitations brought an end to the journey.

However, there are still collectors who are excited by the challenge of collecting the world. The owner of the World Traveler collection is one of these rare individuals—a collector who has achieved an extraordinary degree of completeness. The collection has been formed over 60 years by a father and his son. Together, they started with Great Britain’s 1840 Penny Black and Two-Pence Blue and ended with stamps issued in 1981, a span of 141 years. In that time period there are approximately 260,000 major Scott Catalogue listings and another 33,000 Scott-listed varieties, such as overprint errors, color variations, imperforates, and others.



The World Traveler collection is one of the most complete worldwide collections ever assembled for the time period covered, comprising all but about 1,600 major listings (over 99% complete) and more than 85% of the minor varieties. It is a remarkable collecting achievement. As the photograph captures in part, the collection fills more than 725 Scott Specialty Albums!

The owner has decided it is time to start selling the collection in a series of auctions. For this first offering, held in conjunction with Siegel’s Rarities week of sales, the owner gave us instructions to pull out a wide variety

of interesting stamps from as many different countries as possible, with an eye towards selecting stamps that are rarely offered at auction, are in choice quality, and in almost every instance are either signed by recognized experts and/or are accompanied by certificates of authenticity. The result? One of the most fascinating offerings of worldwide stamps in years. This sale is filled with extremely scarce stamps and a plethora of unusual errors of surcharges, overprints and colors.

Why is the collection dubbed the “World Traveler” sale? The owner now wishes to travel to all of the exotic countries he learned about from collecting stamps and imagined visiting. The sale of the collection will take him there.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Charles F. Shreve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Charles F. Shreve