

Introduction to the Porter W. Venn Collection

Patience and a great aesthetic eye are two qualities a philatelist must possess if one wants to successfully collect any challenging area of philately. These two attributes are especially important in building a collection of classic worldwide unused stamps that are not only of premium quality, but still retain their full original gum.

Whenever I encounter a collection consigned to our auctions that clearly demonstrates the collector's penchant for eye-appealing stamps, as well as uncompromising standards of quality – resisting the urge to just "fill a space" – I instinctively know the sale will be a success. One such collection is Porter W. Venn's collection of France, which is offered in this special auction catalogue.

I have known Porter for years, as a long time buyer at auction, and he always has impressed me with his desire to only collect the best in his many fields of interest. He always insists that imperforate stamps boast large margins and perforated stamps are extremely well centered. The stamps must possess bright colors, have full original gum and, if particularly valuable, be accompanied by certificates from recognized experts. Every stamp in this sale of Porter Venn's collection of France meets these rigorous standards. Even the lesser catalogue value stamps in the collection balance, the last lot in this auction, are carefully selected examples. Anyone who has seriously attempted to collect the 19th century issues of France will appreciate just how challenging it can be to accomplish what Porter has done.

Porter is still building other world-class collections, all with the same stringent adherence to quality and eye-appeal, including French Offices and Colonies, Italy and all of its Offices and Colonies, in addition to what is, without question, the finest and most comprehensive assemblage of United States postal stationery entires.

In his spare time Porter also enjoys being partners with his son, Aaron Venn, and his daughter-in-law, Heather Venn, in a successful web-based "stamp store" called Post Road Company (www.postroadco.com), which we encourage you to visit.

Collectors who admire the beauty of the classic stamps of France, particularly in choice quality, will appreciate this opportunity to acquire stamps from Porter's personal collection, all of which will be offered without reserves.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Shreve
Director
Siegel International