



The Don David Price Iconic Collection of United States Bicolored Postage Issues of 1869, 1873 & 1901

I BEGAN STAMP COLLECTING IN 1992, WHEN MY FATHER'S COLLECTION WAS SOLD. Milton Price was an avid collector of U.S. stamps through the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, until he unexpectedly died in 1961. His collection—housed in nineteen Elbe Albums and inventoried on 22 single-spaced typed pages—sat dormant in a vault for more than three decades.

When the collection was sold, I decided to create a legacy to my father and retained five of the rare Invert stamps: four Pan American Inverts (1¢, 2¢ and two 4¢—one with a “Specimen” overprint—all of which are offered in this auction) and the world-famous Inverted “Jenny.”

Starting with these five stamps, I continued to amass more than a thousand items, including the bicolored postage stamp collection now offered. I decided to specialize in Bicolors because these issues produced the Inverts, which formed the small but significant core of my philatelic holding. I was also fascinated by the stories behind these government printing errors. The collection eventually grew to include the 1869 Pictorial bicolored high values, the 1873 State Department dollar values (the only Officials printed in two colors), the 1901 Pan-American Issue, and items related to the 1918 24¢ Air Post Issue, which of course depicts the flying Jenny biplane.

As I became more deeply involved in philately, I learned about exhibiting and wanted to develop my collection into an exhibit I could share with others. I soon discovered that in order to exhibit, one needed to explain all aspects of the issues, so I started to acquire production material (essays and proofs), more stamps (used, varieties, multiples) and covers. Although the collection was growing, I lacked the skills to organize and mount it into an exhibit. However, around 2001, Andrew Levitt and Randy Neil began advertising an exhibit-mounting service in *Linn's Stamp News*. Their advertisement said “send us your collection and we'll format it into an award-winning exhibit.” So, that's what I did.

Over the next two years, Levitt and Neil assembled my first exhibit, which included the 1869 Pictorial, 1901 Pan-American and the 1918 Jenny issues. It was first shown at the Garfield-Perry March Party in 2005 and won a Gold medal. The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors critiquing service then advised me how to revise the exhibit, and it evolved into two different exhibits. The 1918 Jenny collection became a single-frame stand-alone exhibit. The exhibit of Bicolors was expanded with the 1873 State Department issue, with many items purchased from the auction of Robert Markovits' Officials collection. Within each issue, the breadth and depth of material presented was enhanced through the acquisition of more and more significant items that came to market.

The Bicolors exhibit was shown internationally for the first time when I was living in Portugal. Entering at five frames (80 pages) for FIP competition, it won Gold medals, qualifying it for eight frames (128 pages). Since then the exhibit has consistently won Gold medals or Grand Awards. At various times during the last sixteen years, sections of the Bicolors collection were made into single-frame exhibits, which also received Gold medals and Grand Awards.

The Bicolors collection offered in this sale is the culmination of 24 years of effort. What started as a legacy to my father has grown to become a great personal achievement. Now, in time for collectors and exhibitors to enhance their own collections before World Stamp Show, I would like to give others the opportunity to own the items I have collected and exhibited with so much enjoyment and success.

— DON DAVID PRICE