



Where the past meets the future.

The 2016 Rarities of the World sale will be the Siegel firm's 53rd and my personal Silver Anniversary Rarities sale. This year it will be held at the Javits Convention Center during World Stamp Show–NY, on Tuesday, May 31st, which happens to be my birthday.

The wonderful photograph shown above was taken at the first Rarities sale, held in the Crystal Room of the Plaza Hotel on February 27, 1964. The gentleman in a bowtie seated up front is Bob Siegel, who was 50 years old at that time. The auctioneer at the podium is, I think, Gregory Mozian. The item pictured on the screen is, of course, the unique 24¢ Inverted Jenny centerline block, which brought \$67,000, making headlines in the daily newspapers.

Stamp collecting is built on the past. The things we collect and study, and the stories of famous collectors and collections, are philately's folklore. The older I get, the more stories of the past I tell, and the more I enjoy telling them.

The future, however, is more important. Changing and improving the way we do things is the only way for me to enjoy what I do. Otherwise, I would be a rat on a wheel, perfunctorily performing and mindlessly waiting for my next meal.

This year we completely revitalized our website. As I write these words, the launch of InvertedJenny.com is just two weeks away, coinciding with the 98th anniversary of William T. Robey's good fortune at the post office on May 14, 1918. Our descriptions and methods of presentation are continuously improving. Soon, we will look at how we can raise the bar in live internet bidding.

Our firm's past is the mantle I received from Bob Siegel. Our future comes from the evolutionary process that pushes us to be better.

— SCOTT R. TREPEL