

Stupid eBay by Francis Ferguson

A Continuing Series

Just about every morning I find a chuckle or two on the vast site known as eBay. Some are obviously crude attempts to be duplicitous – while others are artful in their misinformation – or lack of detail.



This offering by an old hand at eBay who has been featured repeated times in this series continues to show the sellers odd grip on reality. His fantasy world is truly wonderful; this offering struck a little close to home. As a teenager in the middle 1970s, I would examine any stamps that my mother would buy for her business mailings. I struck gold one time with a full coil of this exact stamp. My mother was somewhat annoyed with me for breaking up the continuous roll to get at the 4 or 5 of these partial coil numbers. I seem to recall selling them at the Gold Coast Stamp Club for a \$1 each. This seller has provided the correct information of “US #1402 (1970) 8c Eisenhower - MNH - EFO: JLP w/2 plate numbers”. The seller goes off-the-rails with the assigned price of \$149.95 with free shipping; returns allowed. As a long-time collector of EFO material – these types of freaks have a real value of \$5 to \$10 – on a good day. Plate numbers that appear with higher than 50% showing can command much higher numbers. The rarely seen 90% or higher -- can bring serious dollars – if there are multiple buyers competing.



Next up is an interesting listing by an experienced seller of nearly 15 years. The description of “ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1958 4 CENT STAMP US # 1058” should make even a beginner collector wonder. This stamp was one of the workhorse stamps of the era with billions printed (in three different formats) to meet the demands of the public. This offering is not even correctly identified – it is Scott number 1036 or 1036a. Both are extremely common stamps whether the difference of dry/wet printing. The seller is asking \$1.29 for this fine specimen with a whopping \$1.49 for shipping and does not accept returns. With very little effort I could find hundreds if not thousands of these at any bourse as they are common as dirt.



“US 233a used-Rare-value \$16,500.00 Blue error!!!” Includes free shipping. Seller notes: “vf-XF. no significant faults. We encourage you to examine both scans closely to determine actual condition.” The headline on this listing screams. This EBay seller has been around since 2015 with no negative posting. There is no evidence of a cert by a recognized organization making this a highly suspicious listing to anyone with a tiny amount of common sense. The item has been run at least a half dozen times and it currently available for \$1,600. This listing is just nonsense without a cert, I have seen the blue error, and this is not it. Additionally, the description of “vf-XF” is so far off it is laughable. Oh, and the seller is an APS member according to

the listing. All I can say is: Wow!

The Better Side of eBay by Francis Ferguson



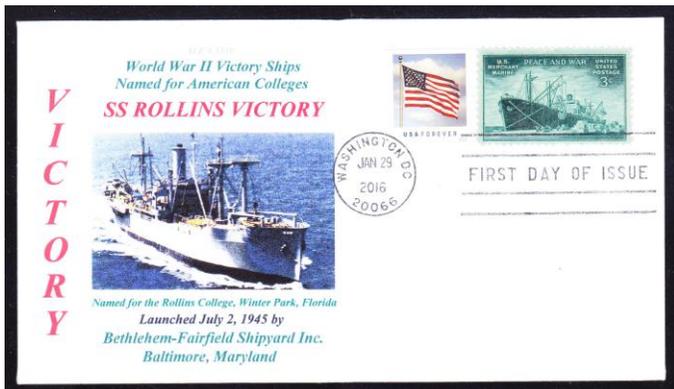
This imperf stamp is represented by 7 different major Scott's numbers – and another 7 perforated. While it does have so many numbers, there are relatively minor differences in the totality of the design which becomes more complete or incomplete with the different varieties. I hope that makes sense.

The bottom line is, because of the very tight spacing on the plate, elements of the side and top designs were hacked off to make it fit. This method of making things fit was rather crude, but it worked and caused all the different stamp listings we see today. The most complete design would be Scott 5 and it has an eye-popping \$65,000 value. The common Scott 9 has a much more reasonable \$85 – and can be found easily in decent condition.

This stamp was actively printed from 1851 to 1857 with a final special printing in 1875. There were a lot of them printed! To fully appreciate this stamp -- pick up the best recognized reference book by M. L. Neinken. *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1861* was published in 1972, with about 550 pages it is the go-to reference piece. The book can be found from resellers for \$75 to \$100.

This listing appeared on eBay about two months ago from a seller that I have been doing business with for many years. I was heartened to see the headline listing “Never Hinged; Corner Sheet Margin Position 1L2; APEX Certificate”. The APEX certificate dated 10.16.2009 states “United States, Scott No. 7, Pos. 1L2, unused, full original gum, never hinged, genuine.” The Scott's catalog assigns a value of \$1,000 – but does not have a listing or price for mint never hinged. This nearly 170 year old stamp is truly an interesting find. The listing has a starting price of \$930 with free shipping and a 14-day return policy. Anyone interested?

Phil's Fleet by Phil Fettig



Is anybody here a Rollins College alumnus? Why do I ask? Well, believe it or not, a World War II Victory Ship, the SS Rollins Victory, was named for the college. Figure 1 shows a cover for this vessel. Note the use of the Merchant Marine stamp.

During the mid-1930s it was clear that war was approaching. England needed supplies to arrive by ship and expected ship losses from submarines would be high. Contracts were made with shipbuilders in the U.S. to build new cargo ships. American assembly line production lent itself to this effort. Ships were soon made for England and the U.S. in record time.

Two types of cargo ships, called Liberty and Victory, were produced. The effort produced 534 Victory types with most named after Allied nations, American cities or counties and 150 vessels named after educational institutions.

The Rollins Victory was 455 feet long and 62 feet wide. She weighed 7,200 tons and carried 10,600 tons of cargo. Work was started on May 17, 1945, and delivery was 74 days later on July 31, 1945. Few details of her history remain; however, I did determine Rollins Victory carried troops home after WWII. You can visit a similar ship, SS American Victory, tied up in Tampa as a museum ship.

The CFSC has a connection to this type of service. Former member --- and dealer Herb McNeal was a Radio Operator in the Merchant Marine during WWII. As far as Rollins grads - we have at least one ... I received my BS in 1976.