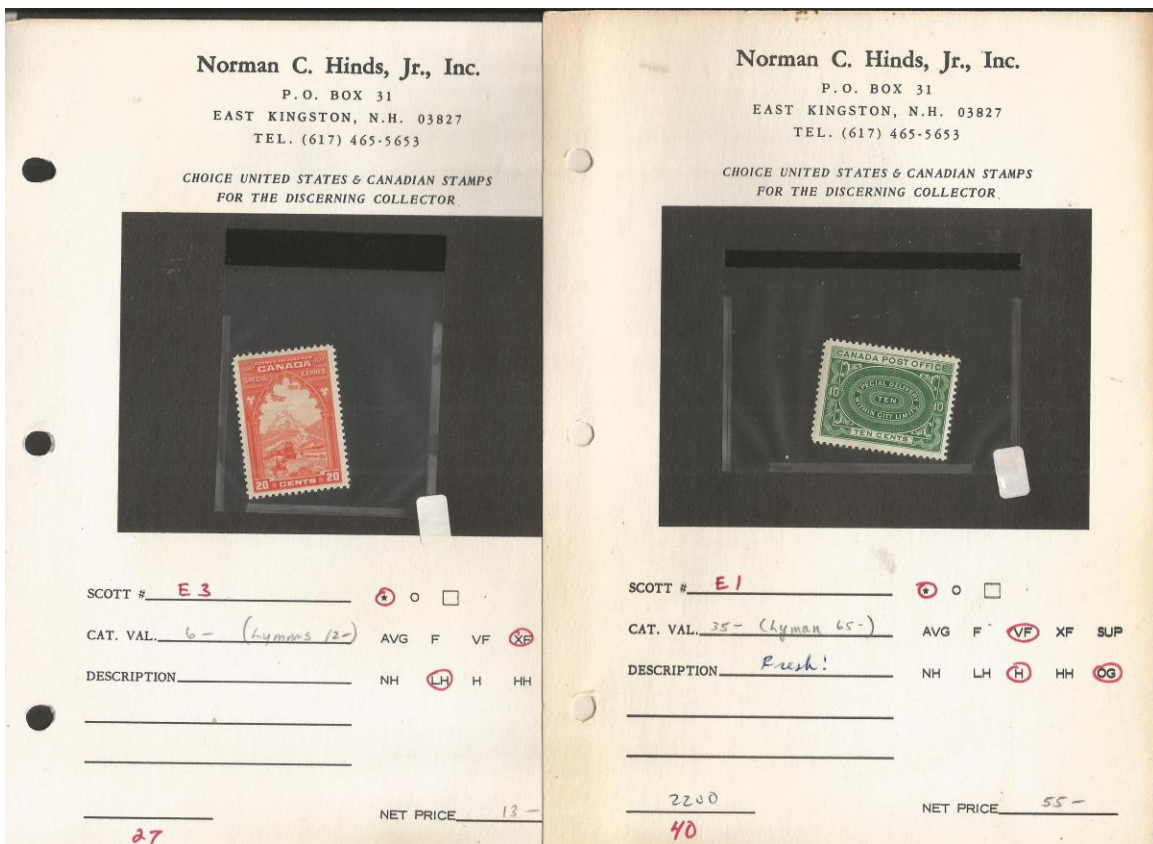


Appearance After 40 Years Old Friends

by Norman Hinds

Last week I was looking at a Kelleher sale to place some bids. There was a section on Canadian lots, so I looked. The special delivery lot had a video. Now these go quick while someone turns the pages. I saw something quickly and said to myself, I need to see that again. So, starting over, I hit pause after each lot. I watched it 3 times. What interested me is there were 2 of my sales sheets with the original stamps. Now that doesn't sound amazing, but they were from 1987-8, as I was still in NH and not in Newburyport yet. They were at least 49 years old. This is the first time I have seen my pages from '87-'88 appear in an auction. I HAD to buy the lot and I did, paying probably \$50.00 too much. It arrived today and I'm proud to own two old friends again! Scan is below.



Questionable eBay, #43 Frankenstein 5 Cents

Francis Ferguson



The listing reads: “1311 SIPEX SOUVENIR SHEET EFO FANTASY INVERT STAMP WITH FAKE PF CERT DC4650.” Starting bid of \$19.99 with free shipping and returns are allowed. Because I was following the listing I receive an extra special offer to buy the item for \$18.39. The offer was ignored.

The seller is long established on eBay with a rating number in the middle 20,000s. They have hundreds of stamp listings for some really nice material which are really expensive and (cert’ed) -- that contrasts strongly with this piece of junk.

There are at least two dozen of these types of “fantasy” listings currently running. Someone had a lot of time on their hands to say the least. While the addition of a fake certificate of “authenticity” has to make one laugh – the more important point to consider should be: Why? On the surface any somewhat knowledgeable stamp collector should be able to recognize the obvious fake – one has to wonder if there are those that are tricked into thinking on some level that this is real – especially with the “cert” present.

In my mind this is just another piece of

noxious junk that pollutes the philatelic ecosystem.

What do you think?

Editor’s Note: It makes me wonder, what is the driving rationale for this type of fraud? Is the perpetrator trying to make a few bucks vicariously or is he thumbing his nose at stamp collectors in general?