

My First Stamp Collection Purchase

Scott US #5A by Norman Hinds

Back in the 70s I was working in a large coin shop in Wakefield, Mass and started a stamp department there. This was part time until high school graduation in 1971 and full time after that. One of my close friends knew I did that and said her mother had a stamp collection they would like to sell, so I agreed to drive to Malden, MA to their family home to look at it. Now this must have been about 1973-1974. I had already decided that if I could buy it, that would be for myself and not the coin shop. I was already getting the idea of becoming a dealer. Keep in mind I was 19 at the time.

It was a fairly decent US collection, but nothing of great value, I thought. I bought it, but I don't remember how much I paid for it and took it home to go through it more carefully. I have no memory of what I did with it, except for one stamp. There was an imperf One Cent 1851 issue that, when I bought it, I figured it was a #9 or #7 and figured \$5.00 for it. (Scott 9, \$22.50 & Scott 7, \$5 in 1971 catalog.) When I looked closer it looked different than most of the other ones, I had come across. There was a large top margin and more of the design than usually seen. I looked at the other numbers it could be and got excited over the possibilities.

As a newbie the only real expertizing company I knew about was APS which I had just joined with # 083032. In 1974 I got a form and sent it to them. When it came back, I was a little giddy as they said it was a # 5A, type 1b. They didn't plate it and I didn't know it made a difference. But it did catalogue for \$525 -- instead of \$22.50 for a #9. (Verified in Scott's 1974 Specialized.) I have tried to find how they described it, but don't see it listed on their website. I just put it away for a few years. Then in 1976 I was in business for myself and then knew about the Philatelic Foundation, so it was sent to them in 1977. This is the certificate below that came back. I was happy it was a plate 6R1E, as I now knew that it was worth \$800 (Scott's 1977 Specialized). But also dismayed at the corner crease that APS didn't mention.



Also shown on front cover of newsletter.

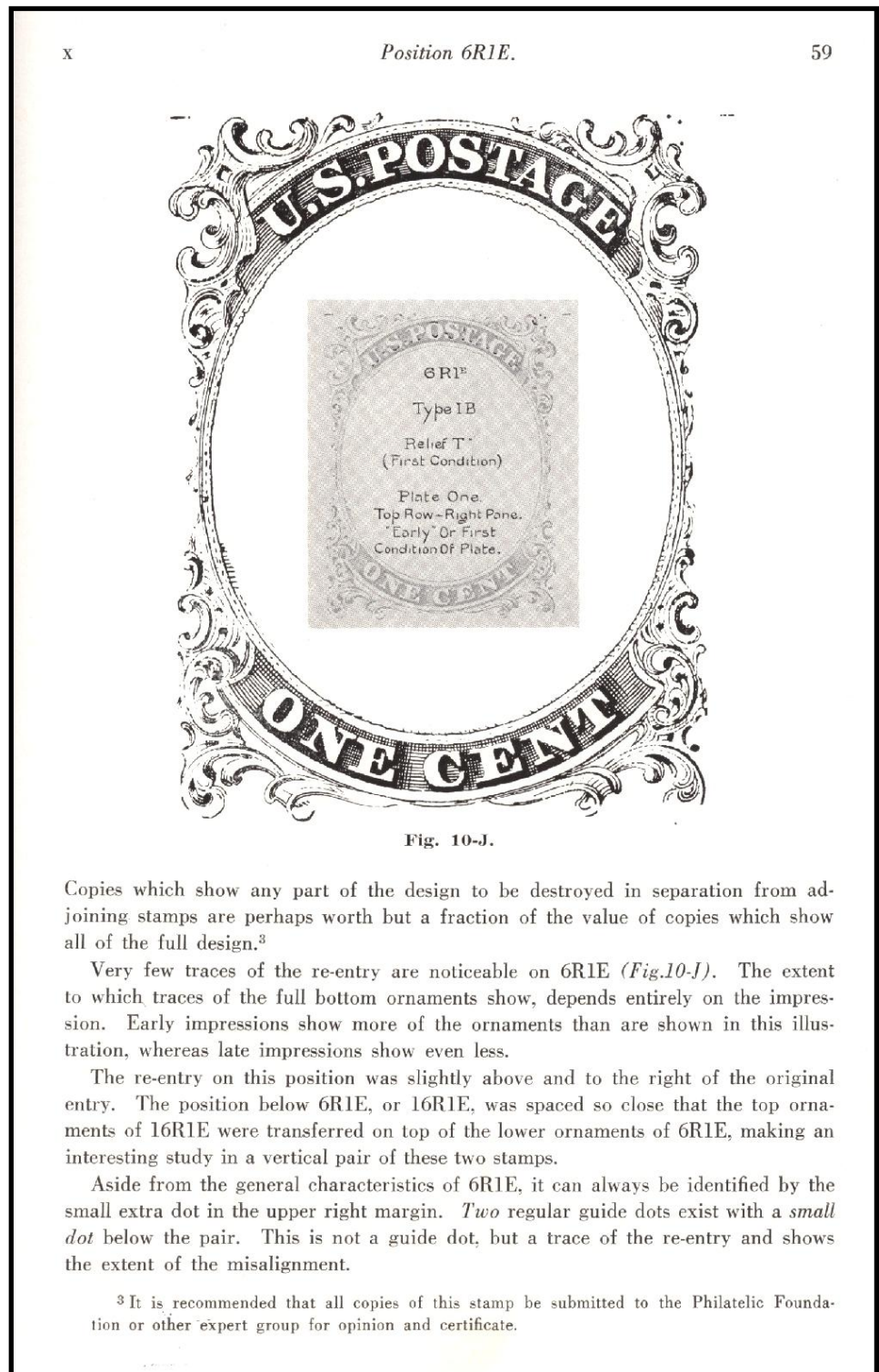
Cert No 590510
Submission Type Stamp
Symbol U
Grade -Hinged -
Subsequent Certs
Country: United States of America
Cat. No. 5A
Issue 1851
Denom. 1
Color blue

- POSITION 6R1E, TOWN PMK.
AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT
IT IS GENUINE WITH A CORNER
CREASE AT TOP LEFT

Type 1b was produced only as an imperforate stamp from Plate 1 Early. Six positions on Plate 1E furnished stamps qualifying as Type 1b — Positions 3-6R and 8-9R — distinguished by the complete design at top and nearly complete design at bottom. When first entered on the plate, these six positions (as well as 7R1E) had the complete design at top and bottom. However, unlike 7R, small portions of the bottoms were burnished away. Positions 6R and 8R had less of the bottom erased than the other Type 1b positions, and for this reason they are more desirable examples of the type.

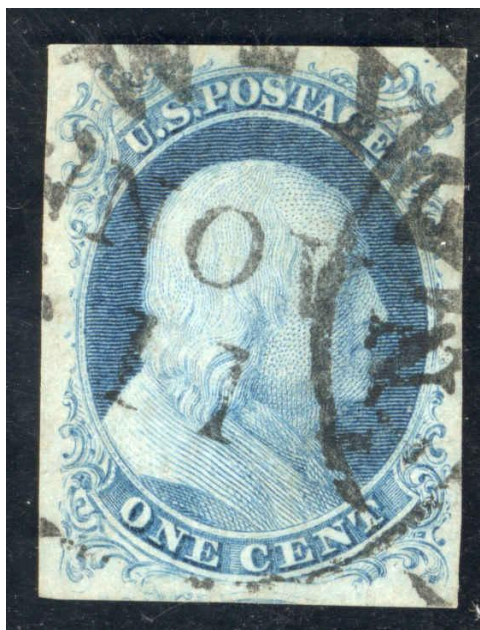
All Type 1b stamps are very scarce, and the two best examples (6R and 8R) are rare. These top-row positions usually have an ample top margin, but frequently the margins are close or cut into the sides or bottom. The less distinct examples from positions 3-5 and 9R1E currently have a CV of \$6000. The two best examples are 6 & 8 R1E and the CV is \$11,000. Position 7R1E is a # 5 (\$45,000). See the layout mentioned in the next paragraph.

If you are serious about collecting the 1851-1861 One cent issue, you need to get this book *“The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851 to 1861”* by Mortimer Neinken published by the USPCS, who have a wonderful amount of detail on all early US issues under Resources on their website. The book is an invaluable resource. It will probably cost you \$100. even for used copies. They can be found on eBay or from dealers that sell philatelic books. Below are pages of the layout of Plate One Early and the Neinken write up of Position 6R1E as examples.



LEFT PANE										RIGHT PANE									
NORMAL RELIEF ROWS ↓																			
1L	2	3	4	5	MDT	7	8	9	T	DT.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	DT.
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II		II	II	IB	IB	IB	IB	TYPE I	IB	IB	II
1IL	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	A	DT.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
III A	II	II	II	II-III A	II	II	II	II		II	II	III A	II-III A	III A	II	III A	III A	II	II
2IL	22	23	24	25	26	DT.	27	28	B	DT.	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
3IL	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	A	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	II
II	II	II-III A	II	II	II	II	II	III A		II	III A	II	II	II	II	III A	III A	II	II
4IL	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	B	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
5IL	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	A	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	II
III A	II	III A	II	III A	II	II	II	II		III A	II	II	II	III A	II	III A	II-III A	II	II
DT.	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	B	DT.	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
6IL	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
INVERT	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	A	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	II
7IL	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79		III A	II	II	II-III A	II	II	II	II	II	II
II	II	II	II	II-III A	II	II	II	II		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
INVERT	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	B	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	II
8IL	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
III A	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II		II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II
INVERT	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	B	REL B	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
9IL	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99		9IL	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II	II-III A	II	II	II	II	II	III A	II	II	II	II-III A

Also, I have included below a few examples of position 6R1E. And a strip of 3 of positions 4-6R1E. It was in a Rumsey Sale on May 25, during the Boston Expo. It is a great sale of the Gregory Black Collection of the One Cent issue. It will be over when you see this but will be available on Schuyler's website with prices realized. The 5A strip of 3 sold for a bargain price of \$5,500 + 18% against a CV of \$25,000. I wished I had an extra 6K sitting around to buy it.



04 o **1¢ Blue, Type 1b**, Positions 4-6R1E, top margin horizontal strip of 3 (positions 4-6R1E), blue grid cancels and faint red Louisiana town on left stamp, margins clear to touching at bottom left and slightly in at left side, rich bright Plate One Early color, right stamp with the slightest of crease and tiny margin tear at right, **Very Fine**, accompanied by cover front from which this strip originated, Scott catalog value for 4-5R1E pair and 6R1E single, *ex-Waterhouse, Neinken, Wagshal & Merlin*.
 Scott No. **5A**; \$25,000 Estimate \$10,000 - 15,000

AN EXTREMELY RARE 1851 1¢ TYPE 1B TOP MARGIN STRIP WHICH INCLUDES 6R1E - ONE OF THE TWO BEST TYPE 1B EXAMPLES.

Type 1b was produced only as an imperforate stamp. Six positions on Plate 1 Early provided stamps qualifying as Type 1b - Positions 3-6R and 8-9R - distinguished by the complete design at top and nearly complete design at bottom. When first entered on the plate, these six positions (as well as 7R1E) had the complete design at top and bottom. However, small portions of the bottoms were burnished away, with the exception of 7R. Positions 6R and 8R had less of the bottom erased than the other Type 1b positions, and for this reason they are more desirable examples of the type.

Another nice item from that sale was lot 549. It was a #19 graded Superb 98J. It has a SMQ value of \$160,000 vs Scott \$10,000. The price realized was \$85 K + 18% = \$100,300.

I consigned my 5A to Siegel and it appeared in Sale # 783, lot # 820 in October of 1996. Since then, it has appeared in other large national auctions, so it has had a lot of daddies. I must assume it never made it to a big sale until I consigned it in 1996, considering it was hidden in a lower-level collection for many years. There is still hope for us to find another hidden gem!

As always, I hope this was useful and entertaining.

Editor's Note: The cert information on page 1 was copied and redone by me because I could not get the original to format properly.