

SET OF COLUMBIAN ISSUE PANES OF 100 FROM THE 1 CENT TO THE 2 DOLLAR ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

Lester Brookman begins his chapter on the Columbian issues with *"Few, if any series of stamps are so sought after by U.S. collectors as the "Columbians." The degree of completion of the Columbians in any collection is one yardstick by which a collection is measured."*

Brookman continued, *"I have seen panes of all denominations thru the \$1....."*

...All of the Columbian stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company. For many years, it was assumed that all of the Columbian stamps were printed from plates containing 200 subjects. In Ralph A. Kimble's book "Commemorative Postage Stamps of the United States", credit is given to Prof. L.L. Steimley of the University of Illinois for discovering that only the One and the Two Cent values were printed in sheets of 200 stamps and that all of the other values were printed in sheets of 100 stamps cut into panes of 50 before distribution to the post offices. The Two Cent stamp was also printed in sheets of 100 stamps as the American Bank Note Company did not have enough large presses which could accommodate the 200 subject plates to keep up with the need for this value. 45 plates were made in the 100 subject size and these plates were used on the smaller presses of the company...."

"All of the Columbian stamps were issued on January 2, 1893, except the 8c which was issued March 3."

Given the 3c to \$5 sheets of 100 were supposed to be cut into panes of 50 before distribution to the post offices, it does beg the question of how full panes of 100 made it out.

The 1 cent to \$1 issues

are all never hinged except for hinge slivers around the edges affecting the stamps with the straight edges; the exception is the 50c which only has 2 straight edged stamps with hinge slivers; the plate blocks and the other non-straight edged stamps are Never Hinged and in archivally safe sealed thin clear plastic. The panes appear to be completely intact. As always with panes of this vintage, centering varies from Fine to Extremely Fine. The 1c, 2c, 5c, 8c, and 30c are top and the 3c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 15c, 50c and \$1 are bottom. The 50c is only known with bottom selvaige. For the 10c to \$1 issues, very few panes of 100 are known.

THE UNIQUE COMPLETE PANE OF 100 OF THE \$2.00 COLUMBIAN

All stamps have stunning, gorgeous color and sharp proof-like printed impressions plus perfectly and beautifully preserved Mint Never Hinged gum in its pristine original state as when sold over a post office counter over 133 years ago, featuring two plate blocks at top and ten to fifteen potential Extremely Fine to Superb Gems

THIS IS BY FAR THE LARGEST KNOWN MULTIPLE OF THE FIRST AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVE SERIES ISSUED JANUARY 2, 1893. AN AWESOME RARITY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER THAT NO ONE KNEW EXISTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 2016. ONLY 45,500 WERE PRINTED.

No one knows who originally bought this pane of \$2 Columbians and why it was quietly stored away in a foreign country for 123 years. What is known is that the pane had been carefully stored in a German bank vault, folded up in a parchment envelope. The acid-free parchment preserved the fabulously rich color and perfect gum, but the folding led to perforation separations affecting the left plate block and splitting the pane into blocks of 70 & 30.

This incredible pane contains **the only two plate number and imprint blocks of 8 with top selvage**. The only other plate block of 8 has bottom selvage was last sold April 2009 for \$235,750. In addition, there are only 3 plate blocks of 6. They are ex Lilly, Kobacker and Gross, ex Col. Green, Eno and "World's Fair", and the third is in the Miller collection and permanently off the market.

Prior to the discovery of this pane, the largest known multiple of the \$2 Columbian issue was a block of 22 with three stamps added to make a block of 25. But 23 of the stamps have the gum removed, one stamp is defective and the block is rejoined. The second known largest multiple is a block of twenty that is also in Mint Never Hinged condition, and it sold for \$41,250 when it last appeared on the market in May 2001.

Last, the \$2 Columbian issue is one of the rarest stamps to find in Extremely Fine and Never Hinged condition. For example, Mr. Zoellner, with all of his resources, failed to find a suitable Never Hinged single and thus possessed only a lightly hinged example. We could list many more famous American collectors who could not find a perfectly centered Never Hinged \$2 Columbian stamp for their collections. In fact, only 16 examples of the \$2.00 Columbian issue have been P.S.E. graded 85 or higher (VF-XF 85 (7), XF 90 (3), XF-S 95 (5) and S 98 (1) with no Jumbos). Ten years ago, only 3 stamps were graded by P.S.E. as XF-S 95. Demand is extremely high. The most recent P.S.E. graded XF 95 Never Hinged \$2.00 Columbian was sold at our auction 7 months ago for \$57,000 (Scott catalog value \$3,600).

Scott Catalog Value

Plate Blocks \$435,200 x 2 (1c-\$2)	= \$870,400*
74 NH singles (1c-\$1)	= \$798,535
10 singles with hinge slivers (1c-\$1)	= \$ 33,965
50c 8 NH singles	= \$ 7,600
\$2 10 NH singles	= <u>\$36,000</u>
Total catalog value	\$1,746,500 (as singles and plate blocks; no premium for pane)

Note on the Scott Catalog value of the \$2 plate blocks:

The Scott Catalog value for a hinged \$2 plate block of 8 is \$225,000. It is unpriced never hinged because there are no never hinged plate blocks of 8, except for the one in this pane. The Scott Catalog prices a hinged single at \$1,100 and a Never Hinged single at \$3,600. Therefore, we estimate the Scott Catalog for a Never Hinged plate block to be $\$3,600 / \$1,100 = 3.27272727 \times \$225,000 = \$736,364$ which we round down to \$725,000.

Thus, the catalog value calculation is

Plate Blocks \$435,200 x 2 (1c-\$2)	=\$1,370,400
74 NH singles (1c-\$1)	= \$ 798,535
10 singles with hinge slivers (1c-\$1)	= \$ 33,965
50c 8 NH singles	= \$ 7,600
\$2 10 NH singles	= <u>\$ 36,000</u>
Total catalog value	\$2,546,500 (as singles and plate blocks; no premium for pane)

Scott Catalog value for the \$2 pane

84 NH singles (\$3,600 each)	\$302,400
Estimated for the right NH plate block	\$725,000
left plate block that will be called hinged by the P.F. and P.S.E. when the perfs are rejoined	
	<u>\$225,000</u>
	Total \$1,252,400