

The Weill Brothers Stock Part One: Major US Stamps.

[Editors Note: In the next two years, Beginning on October 12 and 13 in their Park Avenue Galleries, Christie's will auction the renowned Weill Brothers Stock. Raymond and Roger Weill of New Orleans spent over half a century gathering this distinguished material, and it truly represents one of the most significant philatelic holdings to appear in the U.S. in the last few decades. In 1988, Raymond and Roger Weill received The Philatelic Foundation's Mortimer Neinken Award for Service to Philately.]

*The Philatelic Foundation is examining and expertizing the key items from the Weill Brothers Stock, (including the unique C3a plate block shown on the front and back cover) and in the next few issues of **The Bulletin** we will present some of the highlights of this breathtaking collection of material as it is expertized by the Foundation. It should be noted that many of the items had previous Foundation Certificates, and some have been re-submitted for a more recent Certificate. This is done because the advanced technology now used by the Foundation makes more exact description and expertization possible than a few decades ago.]*



Raymond (left) and Roger Weill

review each patient. The stamp itself is what counts," says Philatelic Foundation Consultant Austin Menaker. "Provenance—in and of itself—is of course important," he continues, "but is only one of many factors that enter into an assessment. Nothing can take precedence over the examination of the item itself, in painstaking, minute detail, using the most advanced technological resources, philatelic knowledge, and state of the art equipment."

It's pretty hard to compete with the Airmail invert plate block, but each Consultant and expert has their own private favorite. "I know everyone's excited about the inverted Airmails," says Austin Menaker, "but for beauty and rarity, I would have to say that I am most impressed by the 2 cent block of four of the Pan Am Invert. This is one of only two surviving blocks." Menaker concludes: "I think, relatively speaking of course, that this is an underrated rarity."

Even The Philatelic Foundation's experts and staff, who routinely handle many thousands of "patients" per year, admit to being "impressed" by the philatelic parade of rarities assembled by the Weill brothers over the last five decades. "It's not every day you see items like the unique plate block of [Scott #] C3a," comments Foundation Curator Peter A. Robertson, referring to the legendary inverted "Jenny" Airmail issue, "and next to that a guide-line block. If seeing that doesn't raise your blood pressure a little, how about blocks of four of the 1 cent, 2 cent and 4 cent Pan Am inverts?" added Robertson.

It's all in a day's work for The Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee. But many admit that the dazzling Weill stock of blue chip material has really raised some eyebrows and perked up the usually demure atmosphere at the Foundation.

How does one approach and expertize great rarities of unquestioned provenance, like much of this material? "We still have to thoroughly examine and



PFC # 214,586, Scott # 27, block of four, 5 cent Brick Red.
The only unused intact block of four.



PFC # 214,589, Scott # 132, imprint and plate number block of twelve.
The only recorded plate number block of the 90¢ pictorial stamp of the
1869 Re-issue.

The Pan-American inverts



PFC # 214,617
Block of four of the 1 cent 1901
Pan-American invert.



PFC # 214,618
The rarest of the Pan-American inverts, one
of two known blocks of four of the 2 cent
invert.



PFC # 214,619
The only existing plate number block of the 4
cent Pan-American invert.



Certificate # 214,616

Scott # 293

Left arrow block of ten. One
of the largest multiples of the 2
dollar 1898 Trans-Mississippi Issue.



PFC # 214,620, Scott # 478, imprint and plate number block of six.



PFC # 214,623, Scott # C3a, block of four with horizontal guideline, positions 43-44/53-54.



PFC # 214,622, Scott # C3a, bottom margin plate number block of four, positions 87-88/97-98.

Photos of items from Weill Stock courtesy of Christie's, 502 Park Avenue, New York