

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

July 1, 2023

In the May 2022 issue of *The PhilateliKid*, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter “B,” “C,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CB,” “CO,” “E,” “D,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “K,” “L,” “LO,” “O,” “PR,” “PN,” “PS,” “WS,” “BK,” “Q,” “JQ,” “QE,” “CVP,” “WX,” and “QI.” This month we will look at the prefix “#X.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “#X” (First a number, then a capital X, then a number)



The stamps listed in the Scott Catalogue that begin with #X are **Postmaster Provisionals**. Prior to the first stamps issued by the United States’ government, individual cities’ Postmasters created and issued their own stamps. Previous to 1857, senders of mail were allowed to send letters without any pre-paid postage. Those letters, when delivered to the recipient, had their postage paid by the recipient when received. However, senders who did not want to burden the recipients of the mail with paying for the postage, could pre-pay the postage. Sometimes the letter was hand-signed “Paid” To expedite matters, some post offices prepared hand stamps saying “Paid.” Then, along

came the idea of selling a stamp to the sender that said “Paid” or otherwise indicated that the postage was pre-paid. Postmaster Provisionals were used by the following East-coast cities (that we know about): Alexandria, VA, Annapolis, MD, Baltimore, MD, Boscawen, NH, Brattleboro, VT, Lockport, NY, Millbury, MA, New Haven, CT, New York, NY, Providence, RI, and also, “way out west,” St. Louis, MO. Stamps from all eleven of those cities issuing Postmaster Provisionals are scarce, some with a price listed in Scott for over \$1 million, but most available for prices ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. There are exactly two Postmaster Provisionals available for prices less than \$1,000: the New York, NY Scott 9X1, (shown above on cover) and the Providence, RI Scott 10X1. Because many fakes exist, anybody desiring to purchase a Postmaster Provisional is wise to require a certificate of authenticity to ensure it is genuine, and that the cancel is genuine and contemporaneous where cancelled stamps are more valuable than uncancelled stamps, such as the Providence RI provisional, 10X1, which catalogues at \$350 mint, but \$2,250 with a genuine cancel. Postmaster Provisionals were first issued in 1845, but effective July 1, 1847, Postmaster Provisionals they were no longer valid for postage.

Certificates of Authenticity

In the United States there are several organizations that will examine a stamp and issue an opinion as to whether it is genuine, or has been altered, such as by adding a fake cancel. Some expert individuals have offered their

opinions. There are called **Certificates of Authenticity**, or simply "**Certs**" for short. They only offer **opinions of genuineness**, and do not **guarantee** anything. In many cases, especially foreign stamps, the expertiser put a tiny handstamp on the reverse side of the stamp, in permanent ink, indicating genuineness.

Because technology, and experience, improves every year, it sometimes happens that a stamp and/or cancel once thought to be genuine, is now determined to not be genuine. For many valuable stamps, collectors are uncomfortable relying on a certificate of authenticity issued over 10 years ago, so a new certificate is obtained. On the left you will see a certificate issued on May 21, 1962 by Friedl Expert Committee, and on the right a second certificate issued by The Philatelic Foundation on 2/22/2017 for the exact same stamp on cover, 9X1.

F. E. C.

FRIEDL EXPERT COMMITTEE

FOUNDED BY OTTO W. FRIEDL

HERBERT J. BLOCH
EDWIN MUELLER

10 EAST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

May 21, 1962

CERTIFICATE NO. 8496

United States, Postmasters' Issues, 1845, New York, 5c (Scott No.9X1), tied to cover, pictured below, is in our opinion genuine in every respect. It is signed

Herbert J. Bloch *Edwin Mueller*



Mr. Walter Duschek, Wien, Austria

Expertizing Terms, Par. 13: "The work of the experts is performed according to their best knowledge and with the greatest possible care but neither the experts nor the Friedl Expert Committee accept any responsibility for losses resulting from errors of any kind which nevertheless may occur."

Note at the bottom of each certificate is the name of the person requesting the cert. The cert on the right was obtained by the late Stanley Pillar, a well-known stamp dealer. Certs should always be kept in your collection near the stamp, or in a safe place labeled as "Certificates of Authenticity." They add value to the stamp. In addition to the Philatelic Foundation other organizations issuing certs in the United States are the American Philatelic Society, Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading, and Professional Stamp Experts. Also, certain organizations will offer certs about their specialty, such as the Hawaiian Philatelic Society for Hawaiian stamps and the Civil War Philatelic Society (formerly named the Confederate Stamp Alliance) for stamps and covers for used during the U.S. Civil War.

The Philatelic Foundation No. 541069
341 West 38th Street • 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018
02/22/2017
EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

| Cat. No. | Issue | Denom. | Color |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 9X1VAR | 1845 | 5¢ | black |

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

SINGLE, "A" NOT CONNECTED, TIED BY "PAID" IN ARC, ON PART FOLDED LETTER TO GERMANTOWN, PA. RED "NEW-YORK 5 CTS 17 NOV" PMK.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS NOT SCOTT 9X1 VARIETY, RATHER IT IS A SCOTT 9X1, SIGNED "A C M", WITHOUT ANY BREAKS BETWEEN THE INITIALS. *****

541069

For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

Submitted by **STANLEY M. PILLER**

G 293021

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.

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