

# NEW LARGEST-RECORDED BLOCK OF CSA 2-Y – STONE Y

Patricia A. Kaufmann

**A** newly recorded unused block of 18 of the CSA 2-Y, 10¢ milky blue lithographed issue (2012 CSA catalog number) has recently been recognized. Although defective, so was the prior largest-reported block of 15. The newly reported block is shown in Figure 1, prior to restoration. It was first reported in the April 2020 issue of *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer* (pp. 56-58).



Figure 1. Newly recorded largest-reported unused block of 18 of CSA 2-Y, 10¢ milky blue lithographed issue.

Leonard H. Hartmann, in an article on the 10¢ Stone Y stamps (*Chronicle* 186, May 2000, p. 121), stated that he had seen only two singles and a faulty block of 15 from Stone Y in unused condition.

The subject block of 18 lists for \$22,500 in Scott as singles, with no premium for the multiple, but it is not worth anything near that figure due to its defective condition. It does have the benefit of full original gum, although this is debatable whether that is a real benefit, since such gum has been shown to destroy paper over time.

This new multiple will undoubtedly help in the challenge of plating this scarce unused lithographed issue. Plating refers to the reconstruction of a pane or sheet of stamps printed from a single plate by using individual stamps and overlapping strips and blocks of stamps. Stone Y multiples are difficult to find. Thus, Stone Y plating is not complete.

The newly discovered block was found in the collection of the late Jack Steele in October 2019, sold by his son a decade after his death. Jack was a member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance from 1975-99. He was born on the campus of Porter Military Academy in Charleston, S.C., June 30, 1920. He attended Porter and graduated from the Citadel (Charleston) in 1941. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II, in Panama and, later, in Europe, attaining the rank of Captain. After the war, he moved to North Augusta, S.C., where he had a long career as a mechanical engineer at the Savannah River Plant.

North Augusta, S.C., is on the north bank of the Savannah River and is part of the Augusta, Ga., metropolitan area. Coincidentally, J.T. Paterson & Co. produced the 10¢ lithograph stamps in Augusta.

### Interlude: Inverted Jenny Connection

The new owner of the Stone Y block asked if I knew the block's provenance, which I did not, nor did his son. But he knew his father bought most of his multiples from John W. Kaufmann, Inc.

Kaufmann auctions ran from 1971-89. I sat down with my run of Kaufmann auction catalogs and slowly paged through them. About halfway through the catalog run, a photo plate of large Confederate multiples caught my attention. There it was.

The block was last sold in John W. Kaufmann, Inc. Auction 76 as lot 39 (Figure 2). The sale was held Sept. 25-26, 1981. That was the official auction at the 1981 convention of the American Philatelic Society in Atlanta, Ga.

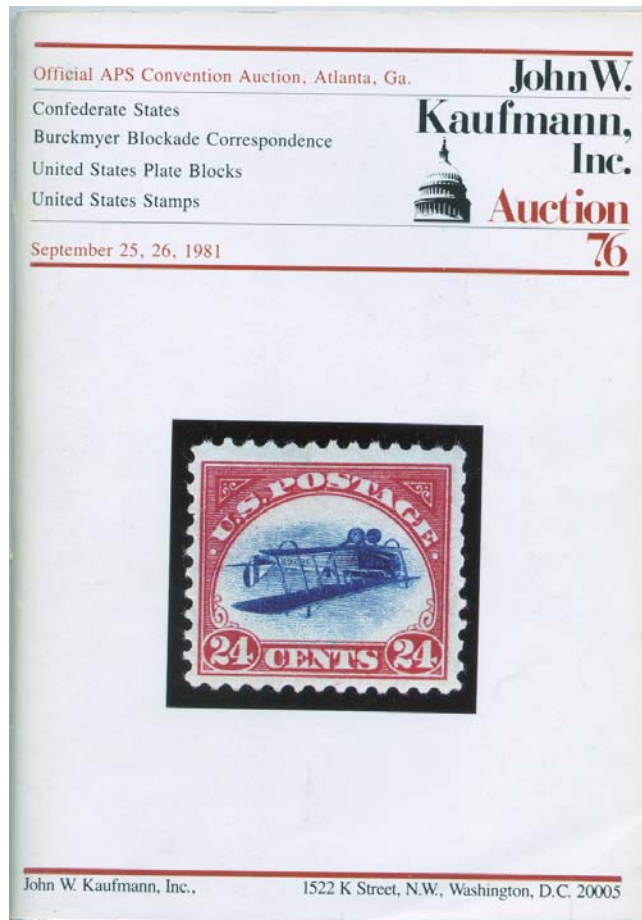


Figure 2. Front cover of 1981 John W. Kaufmann auction catalog, which included the largest-recorded Stone Y block, as well as the complete Burckmyer blockade correspondence, and the first recovered McCoy inverted Jenny.

This was the sale in which we sold the first of the recovered inverted Jenny stamps (Scott C3a) stolen from Ethel McCoy as a block of four. It was offered on behalf of the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) and was hammered down at a then-substantial \$115,000 (plus the buyer premium, so \$126,500 actual price paid), despite being altered on the right side to disguise the position number (position 75). We charged no commission, for the good of the hobby.

The high price achieved for the inverted Jenny was doubtless because of its notoriety. The excitement of the Kaufmann staff and that of the auction room floor was palpable. Bidders were on the phone as well as on the floor both with and without agent representation; there was, of course, no Internet bidding in those days.

The late Dr. Joseph L. Kurtzman – a member of the CSA and a serious Confederate collector – was in the front row. He bid with a series of pre-arranged body signals. We were giddy with the thrill of it all. The press rushed the podium after the sale, but Kurtzman walked calmly out of the room without anyone but the Kaufmann staff aware of the successful bidder's identity.

I well remember the Atlanta auction because of the inverted Jenny, not because of the Stone Y block. Also, the significant Confederate section in that sale revolved around the amazing Burckmyer blockade correspondence, which had never before been offered on the market.

### The Stone Y Block

In the Kaufmann auction catalog, the Stone Y block was described as “10¢ blue Paterson (2), irregular block of 18, OG, w/paper adhering, major faults including creases, tears, thins, etc., nonetheless a very rare multiple.” It was not noted as Stone Y, which did not seem to attract as much attention as it does today. It was simply described as a Paterson printing. It sold for \$325.

The 10¢ blue lithograph is really three distinctive stamps, three designs and at least two different printing contractors. The stamp's central motif is a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, designed by Charles Ludwig of Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va.

Both Hoyer & Ludwig and J.T. Paterson & Co., of Augusta, Ga., printed this design. The Thomas Jefferson portrait used on both the Hoyer & Ludwig and Paterson printings was the same one used for the U.S. 5¢ issue of 1851-57, which is shown in Figure 3.

Marks added by Paterson to the transfer stones of the Confederate design distinguish it from Hoyer & Ludwig prints of the same design.

The following designations are CSA catalog numbers. Scott catalog separates the printers and listings, but groups them all under one number – CSA 2. CSA catalog editors stayed with the familiar Scott system, but made it easier to follow with appropriate sub-designations, such as “H” for Hoyer, “P” for Paterson and “Y” for Stone Y.

**Hoyer & Ludwig (CSA 2-H):** The earliest-recorded date of use is Nov. 8, 1861. This was the first printing stone used

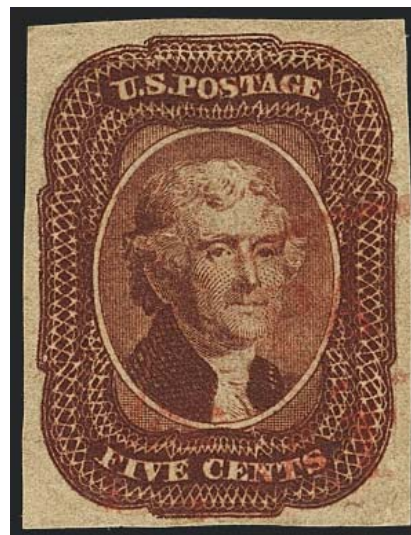


Figure 3. U.S. 5¢ red-brown (U.S. Scott 12) designed from the same Gilbert Stuart portrait of Thomas Jefferson as CSA 2. Image courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

for this issue. Plating has been completed. The color is a uniform dark blue with clear and distinct impressions. Plating marks are distinct and repeated (Figure 4).

**J.T. Paterson & Co. (CSA 2-P):** Although designed by Charles Ludwig, this issue was engraved by J.T. Paterson and printed in Augusta, Ga. The earliest-recorded date of use is July 25, 1862. Colors include light blue, dark blue, greenish blue, light milky blue and the rare indigo shade. All purported indigo shades should be authenticated. Impressions are usually poor and blurred; they are considerably less clear than the Hoyer & Ludwig printing. Paterson



Figure 5. J.T. Paterson & Co. (CSA 2-P), 10¢ lithograph.

printings, other than from Stone Y, are far more common than the Hoyer & Ludwig printings (Figure 5).

**Stone Y (CSA 2-Y):** The earliest-recorded date of use is Aug. 25, 1862. It is thought to have been produced by J.T. Paterson & Co., as it has the same defining markings, as well as some other specifically defining characteristics, such as the visible colorless ear. The ear was long thought to be a flaw at the back of the head (and so referred to) until proven otherwise by Kevin Andersen in the 3rd Quarter 2016 issue of the *Confederate Philatelist*. Another key characteristic is the lighter forelock of hair.

The Stone Y color is typically a light milky blue or greenish blue. Impressions are poor, with a blurred appearance. The designation of Stone Y dates back to the 1920s, although there is no indication of why the “Y” was chosen over another designation (Figure 6).

I have no idea who owned the subject block when it was offered at auction. Thus, the provenance begins with Jack Steele, unless someone finds record of it in an earlier name sale.

This discovery is typical of how things emerge to change philatelic statistics. The block has long been among collectors, but no one realized its significance until November 2019.

**ENDNOTES:**

Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, editors, *Confederate States Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, 2012, Confederate Stamp Alliance, [www.csalliance.org](http://www.csalliance.org).



Figure 4. Hoyer & Ludwig (CSA 2-H), 10¢ lithograph.



Figure 6. Stone Y (CSA 2-Y), 10¢ lithograph also thought to be produced by Paterson.