



## New Largest-Recorded Block of CSA 2-Y – Stone Y

**A** newly recorded unused block of 18 of the CSA 2-Y, 10¢ milky blue lithographed issue (2012 CSA catalog number)<sup>1</sup> has recently come to light. It has serious defects, but so does the prior largest reported block of 15. The newly reported block is shown in Figure 1, prior to restoration.

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 block of 15 was in the Wickersham collection sold by Robert Laurence in 1940, which is now part of the Hartmann collection. There is also mention by August Dietz of an unused block of 10, which may be referring to the defective block of 15. There was a block of 6 and a block of 4 in the Hall collection, which had been off the market for many decades when Hartmann wrote his article and were unknown to him. The second row of that block matches a strip of 7 Hartmann also owns.

The subject block of 18 lists for \$22,500 in Scott as singles, with no premium for the multiple, but it is clearly not worth anything near that price because of the faulty condition. It does have the benefit of full original gum, although this is a debatable term since gum can be toxic and 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 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. Steele was born on the campus of Porter Military Academy in Charleston, S.C., June 30, 1920. He attended



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

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, where he had a long career as a mechanical engineer at the Savannah River Plant. He was a member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance from 1975-99.

### Interlude: Inverted Jenny connection

The new owner of the Stone Y block asked if I knew the provenance of the block, which I did not. I asked Jack's son if he had a receipt for it from his father or if he knew from

whence it came. He did not. But he told me that his father bought most of his multiples from John W. Kaufmann, Inc. Well, obviously that rang a bell.

Kaufmann auctions ran from 1971-89. I sat down with my bound run of Kaufmann auction catalogs and, without any serious expectations, I began to page through them one by one. About halfway through the catalog run, I hit pay-dirt.

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, nearly 40 years ago. It was the official auction at the 1981 convention of the American Philatelic Society in Atlanta, Ga.

This was the sale in which we sold the first of the recovered inverted Jenny (Scott C3a) stamps stolen from Ethel McCoy as a block of four (positions 65, 66, 75 and 76). 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). Funds were used for operations of the APRL and we charged no seller commission, as a donation 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 at a high level. Bidders were on the phone as well as on the floor with and without agent representation; there was no Internet bidding in those days.

The late Dr. Joseph L. Kurtzman – coincidentally, a member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance 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, as the press hovered around to rush the podium after the sale. An elated Kurtzman walked quietly out of the room without a soul but Kaufmann staff knowing the identity of the successful bidder. It was a delightful conspiracy of silence.

Thus, this was an auction I well remember because of the Inverted Jenny, not because of the Stone Y block, which was,

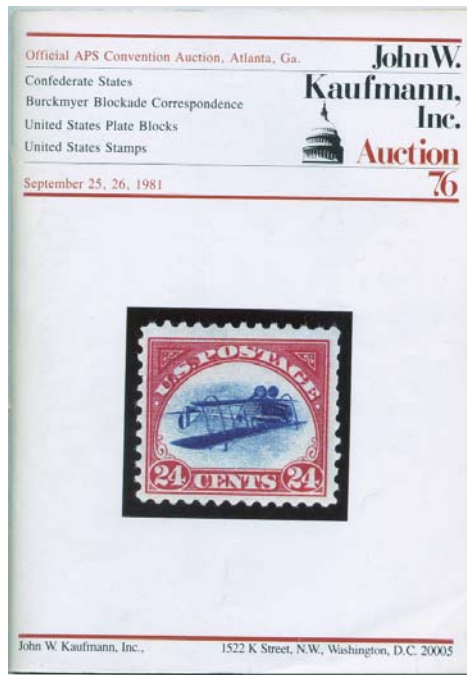


Figure 2. Front cover of 1981 John W. Kaufmann auction catalog, which included the largest-recorded Stone Y block, as well as the complete Burckmyer blockade correspondence and the first recovered McCoy Inverted Jenny.

frankly, not even on my radar. Also, the significant Confederate section in that sale revolved around the incredible Cornelius L. Burckmyer blockade correspondence between Charleston, S.C., and Paris, France, which had never been offered on the market.

### Back to the Topic at Hand

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 sold for \$325.

I may well have been the person who wrote the auction description, although I didn’t write the description of every Confederate that ever went through our hands. The description is “sort of” correct. To clarify, you need a background on this issue.

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 portrait of Thomas Jefferson, used on both the Hoyer & Ludwig print and the Paterson print, was the same portrait used on the U.S. 5¢ issue of 1851-57, which is shown in Figure 3. Marks added by Paterson to the transfer stones distinguish it from the Hoyer & Ludwig prints of the same design. The most typical use was for the 10¢ rate after July 1, 1862.

The following designations are CSA catalog numbers. The 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 for this issue. There were 1,400,000 printings from one stone with the imprint “Lith. of Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va.” Plating has been

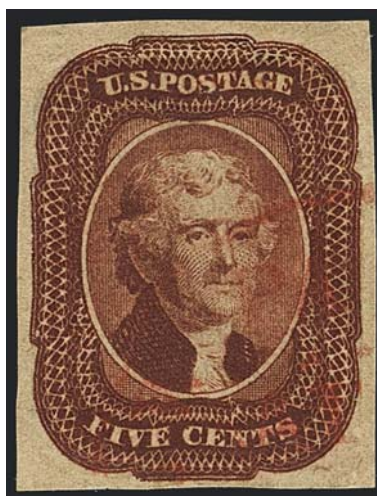


Figure 3. U.S. 5¢ red-brown (Scott US 12) designed from the same Gilbert Stuart portrait of Thomas Jefferson as CSA 2.

Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.

completed. There were sheets of 200, panes of 100 and a transfer stone of 50. The color is a uniform dark blue with clear and distinct impressions. Plating marks are distinct and repeated. There are a couple known with private perforations. It is estimated that the printing was 1,403,000, based on incomplete records (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 imprint is "J.T. Paterson & Co. Augusta, Ga." The earliest recorded date of use is July 25, 1862. There is an unknown plate arrangement, but it is also believed to be a sheet of 200 with panes of 100, and a transfer stone of 50. 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 printings, other than from Stone Y, are far more common than the Hoyer & Ludwig printings. There are an estimated 4,918,000 Paterson printings from an unknown number of stones (Figure 5).



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

the *Confederate Philatelist*. Another key characteristic is the lighter hair forelock. The Stone Y color is typically a light milky blue or greenish blue. Impressions are poor and of 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. A printing estimate has not been determined (Figure 6).

Unfortunately, I have no idea who owned the subject block when it was offered at auction. All Kaufmann auction records were systematically destroyed decades ago. 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 materialize in current day philately. The block has long been hiding in plain sight, but no one realized the significance of it (including Kaufmann Auctions) until it made its way to my doorstep last year. This information will be added to the long list of updates I am keeping for future editors of the CSA catalog. ☐

**Endnote:**

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

Trish is always happy to hear from readers. You may write to her at [trishkauf@comcast.net](mailto:trishkauf@comcast.net).



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

**Stone Y (CSA 2-H):** 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 referred to as that) until somewhat recently proven otherwise by Kevin Andersen in the 3rd Quarter 2016 issue of



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

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