

Andrew Jackson and the 2¢ Black Jacks - SYNOPSIS (APRIL 2018)

Introduction: I consider myself a relative newbie to the Philatelic world. I collected with my father, the late Dr. John “Jack” B Flannery Jr., from ages four to thirteen, and then pivoted into baseball cards and comic books (I do still have my first two stamp albums). My father was a true Philatelist, as he was board member and trustee to the APS, was integral in the new library at Belafonte PA, and had a passion for Rhode Island postal history. He collected from 1951 until his death in 2015. In his later years I tried to get him to show me some of his work, but his body and mind had been too ravaged by the four cancers he fought so courageously. It wasn’t until his death that I got a true look at his magnificent material. One such item, a Blackjack cover of five to Canada reignited my interest in the hobby. As a child, I loved the Black Jack and the Daniel Boone 6¢ stamp. Seeing the Blackjack in my hands was a sign from him to me ... a passing of the torch. Since that moment, my focus has been learning as much on the subject. I have studied the works of the greats and continue to do so... Russo, Rorke, Metzger, Allen, Cole, Atherton, Fosdyke-Ray and now Faust. I am lucky enough to have some of their material in this exhibit, as well as some new discoveries.

As for exhibiting, I am very new to this discipline. In fact, my first and only foray into exhibiting was last year at ROPEX. It was a very worthwhile and rewarding experience, as I learned much about exhibiting, my material, and received great feedback from friends and judges. It was a single frame Black Jack exhibit which earned Large Silver and I earned the Novice Award for Best Exhibit of a First Time Exhibitor. This year, I have expanded into 4 frames as I have expanded my breadth and depth on the subject. Enjoy!!!

Treatment: I organized this exhibit as the journey a student of the Black jack would endeavor on. Andrew Jackson ephemera, examples of how the stamp evolved in the pre-production phases (Essays, Trial Colors, Proofs and Specimens), the stamp itself, re-issue of 1875, paper varieties and shifts, blocks, margins and plate number imprints, the Bisects and a study of the Black Jack on cover. Lastly is a piece of Political Satire.

Importance: The Black Jack 2¢ was an important stamp of its time. The 2¢ was not put into use until July, 1863, at which time it was issued because the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1863, abolished carriers' fees and established a prepaid rate of two cents for drop letters. Prior to that, there was no need for a 2¢ stamp. You will see a used example of the stamp dated July 2nd, 1863, which is the earliest known use of the Black Jack.

Knowledge, study, and research: My hope with this exhibit twofold: first, to challenge the astute philatelist with new material and information that may not be as prevalent or available on first inspection. Second, to gain and an audience with the newcomer by displaying jaw dropping material and to educate the audience on the intricacies of the Black Jack.

Rarity: One would think that with over 300 million Black Jacks produced such a stamp would not be rare. Maybe ... maybe not. It isn’t difficult to find this stamp on the marketplace or from a dealer. The difficulty lies in finding this stamp well centered and in good condition, as Andrew Jackson’s enormous head takes up almost all of the stamp. Varieties are extremely rare and can be cost prohibitive. There are many items that are indeed rare within this exhibit, many of which

have been certified (please note all material with certificates are identified with a red double asterisk **). 1 of 2, 1 of 5, and 1 of 27 are some examples of these rarities.

Presentation: I have tried to make this presentation both educational as well as aesthetically pleasing. Important or Rare items are boxed with a red border. Extremely Rare finds are boxed in red and highlighted with a yellow background.

References:

- The Black Jacks of 1863-1867 – Maurice F. Cole, 1950
- The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century, Vol II – Lester G. Brookman, 1966
- The Harry F. Allen Collection of Black Jacks: A Study of the Stamp and Its Use – Maryette B. Lane, 1969
- The Anthony C. Russo United States Specialized BlackJack Collection – Sothenby, 1979
- A Census of United States Classic Plate Blocks 1851-1882 – John C. Chapin, 1982
- The Dr. Joseph F. Rorke Collection of the United States 1863-`868 Two-Cent “Black Jack” Issues – Christie’s, 1988
- The Making of the Black Jack – Joseph F. Rorke, 1992
- The Dr. Peter M. Burrows Collection of the Andrew Jackson Issues – Siegel Sale 867, 2003
- The Dies of the Two Cent Black Jack - Thomas Kendall 2007
- The Barbara Fosdyke-Ray Black Jack Collection – Schuyler Sale 38, 2010
- The Black Jack Specimens – David Schwartz - 2011
- The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, #235 - 2012
- The Bernard Faust Colelction of the United States 1863-1868 BlackJack Issue – Siegel Sale 1181, 2018