

NEVIS:

THE BICENTENARY OF AUDUBON'S BIRTH

Scott #'s 407, 408, 411, 412, 417, 418, 421, 422 ERRORS one color missing plus some overprinted Specimen.

In checking sheets of the 1985 Audubon set printing inspectors, discovered a major error; the yellow color was missing from some sheets on which are printed no less than eight values, the 1¢, 40¢, 60¢ and \$2.50.

There are two printing guides for each color used. For these stamps four colors were used; blue, black for the lettering, red and yellow. These guides, known as 'traffic lights' and 'color controls' appear at the bottom of the sheet and advise the printer if one or more are missing. However the yellow color is most difficult to spot if one looks only at the two guides.

So how could the yellow color be missing on no less than eight stamps? Surely this is a deliberate error?

First of all, these stamps were printed in an interesting fashion. It is a long set of 16 different Bird stamps, reproductions of Audubon's famous and now most rare paintings of birds. On one big sheet of 200 stamps no less than four values were printed at one time in panes of 50. Each pane of 50 has two different birds but same values, se-tenant over the entire 50 stamps.

Thus one sheet of 200 stamps can have eight different errors, if one color is missing, as in this case the easily overlooked yellow color. One other big sheet has the remaining eight values, for the total of 16 different birds.

My reasons for considering these to be genuine errors are as follows:

1. No errors 'made to order' so to say on the other eight values
2. No other colors missing. If one wanted deliberate errors, it would be a simple matter to remove the red, or the blue, or the black or any other combination possible.

Whoever was in charge of the Archives selected four sheets of the missing yellow error, making thus possible only 100 sets of eight errors. And to emphasize these he also put in four normal sheets except that these are overprinted SPECIMEN, a rarity in themselves. All were locked up in the Archives.

And that is all that exists: 100 sets. No other errors on these have ever appeared on the market since 1985.

I am selling these strictly on the basis that only 100 sets exist as verified by Robson Lowe.

Missing colors or lettering in a multi color job are a fact of life in any printer's life no matter how large or careful the company is. Consider Canada with all its missing lettering, which sell \$500 to \$5,000 per stamp. USA has plenty such errors and they sure are not cheap. Take a look at Scotts and see how many there are with this or that color omitted. Plenty cost over \$1,000.00 each.

My price for one of the 100 sets of errors + one of the normal sets, but overprinted Specimen is

\$1,000.00

Kasimir Bileski

Continuing my bonus offers, here's quite a show of the only major error that was in the Format Archives.

There is a single set all eight errors.

And there are the grand units that have the gutters, the full imprint and the alphabet plus "traffic lights" color guides.

The Specimen set shows all colors complete.

The error set shows the yellow color missing and no wonder it was missed even with two color guides as that yellow color is most difficult to see even on the Specimen set!

There must have been quite a printing run with the yellow color missing, but when the presses were stopped, likely automatically, the printers selected only four sheets, put them in the Archives along with four Specimen sheets and destroyed the rest of the error sheets.

Robson Lowe found only the four sheets there. So we have a total of 100 possible sets of eight of the errors, well worth \$1,000.00.

As for enclosed units, only four can exist which should make these worth at least \$5,000.00 what with all the extras as here.



Mr. McLean:

Enclosed \$8,000.00 is quite a bit of spare change and while it is from a group on which I will be lucky to break even, am doing pretty well on the Format Archive, unissued, etc.

Robson Lowe could only find one grand major error (the Nevis Audubon missing yellow color) plus some minor varieties in other Commonwealth issue stamps of no great consequence. Not a bad record after some 30 years of printing.

I've already sent you a set of eight of this error.

But to sweeten this \$8,000.00 offer, here is a block set with four sets showing horizontal gutter and a strip set with two more sets showing vertical gutter. These are of considerable rarity as only four each are possible. Normal sets are well worth \$1,000.00. These complete gutter sets are worth a considerable premium, say \$8,000.00 for the two units.

As a bonus you would get enclosed at no charge, except you would have to pay the GST in this instance, namely \$560.00.

Both the imprints are here complete except that the error set is minus the two color guides used in two ways: lettering and the bullseye. The yellow color for both is missing on the errors and you can see why it is difficult to make out the two yellow guides on the finished specimen sheets.

Sincerely,

