

Collecting Poster Stamps

An occasional periodical dedicated to the study of United States poster stamps

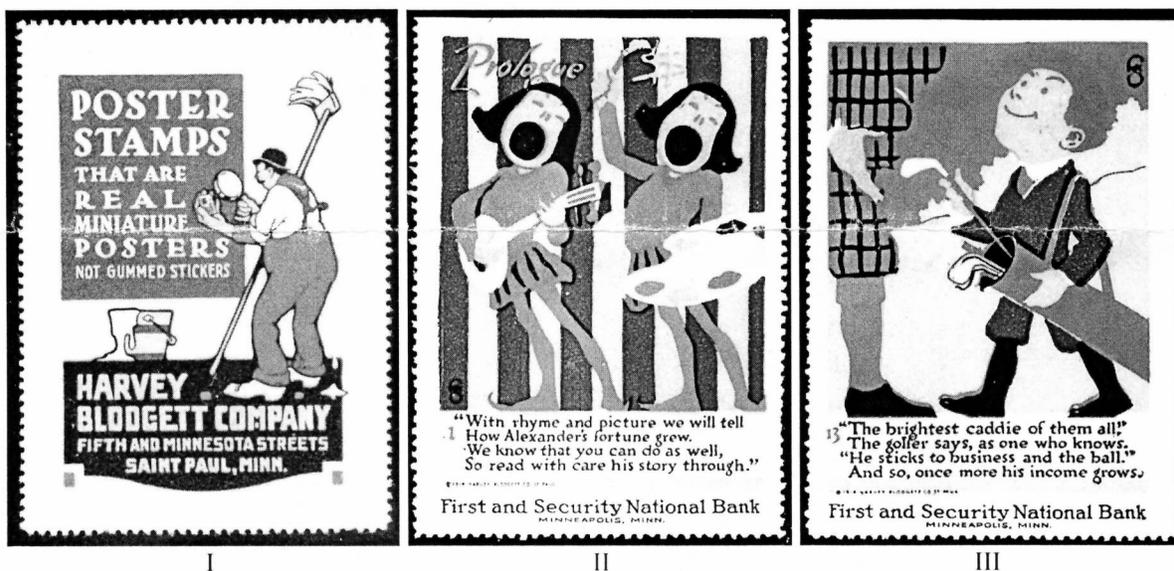
Number 39

September 2018

Harvey Blodgett Company, St. Paul, Minnesota

Harvey A. Blodgett had a long career in the printing business in St. Paul, Minnesota. He worked for Brown, Treacy and Sperry Company becoming a partner when this company was renamed Brown, Blodgett & Sperry Company in 1916. He also operated the Harvey Blodgett Company in St. Paul, the purpose of which was to promote poster stamps. Blodgett Co. published two poster stamp sets, doing the design and artwork itself and probably having the printing done by Brown, Treacy & Sperry Co.

Blodgett issued a stamp promoting poster stamps. (I) This image has become a classic: a poster hanger with his long brush and glue bucket pausing to look at a poster stamp through a magnifying glass.

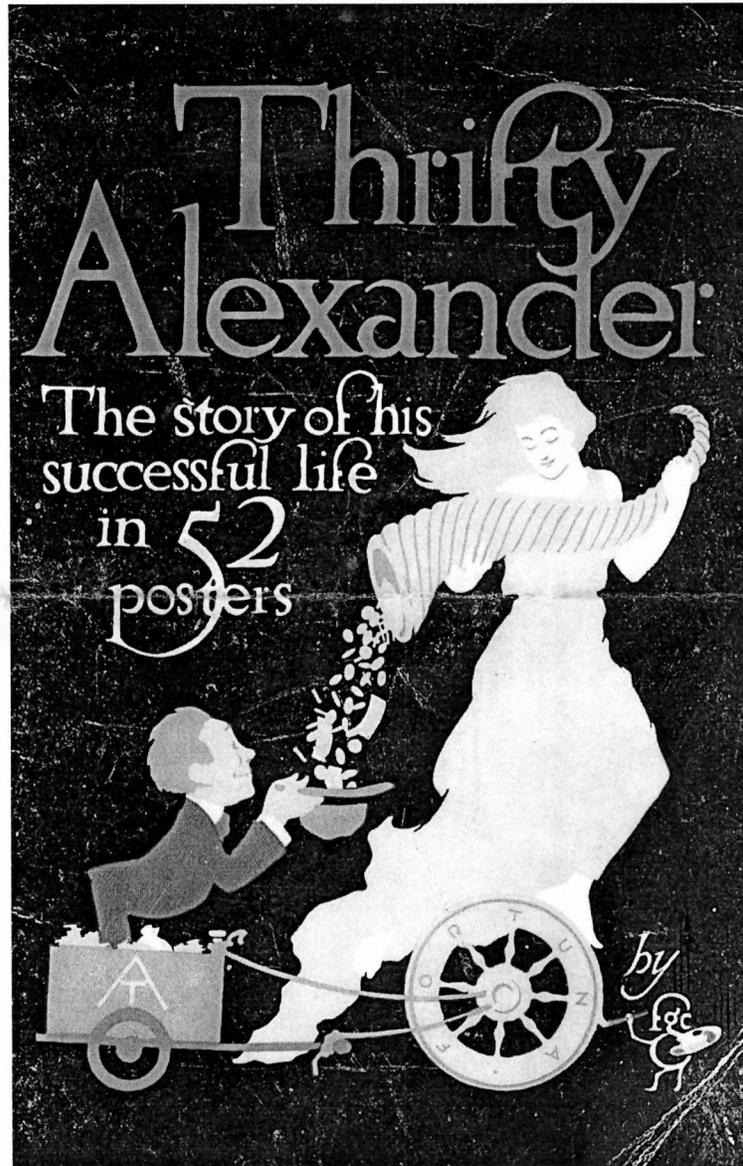


The *Thrifty Alexander* stock poster stamp series for banks has 52 numbered stamps and was published in 1914 by Blodgett. (II-III) These stamps tell the story of a man who saves his money and becomes successful. These stamps have a space at the bottom for a specific bank imprint. I have seen the names of 11 different banks on these stamps. This set was also issued without a bank name perhaps for selling them directly to collectors since Blodgett advertised their availability in magazines such as *St. Nicholas*.

Robert C. Bradbury, *Books & Poster Stamps*, 879 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602.

(508) 754-2954, e-mail rbposterstamps@gmail.com

The “U. S. style” poster stamps of the classics era catch the viewer’s eye with bold colors and bold designs that are somewhat imprecise or loose. These *Thrifty Alexander* stamps are wonderful examples of this style and are much sought by collectors today. They received high praise when issued as shown by this statement from the *Inland Printer*, April 1915, p. 253: “From the standpoint of art in their design, from the standpoint of printing mechanics in their execution, and from the advertising standpoint, this probably is the most notable series of poster stamps yet issued by any firm.”



IV

Blodgett printed an album for these *Thrifty Alexander* stamps that has spaces for the 52 stamps along with room for miscellaneous stamps. (IV) This album contains advertising for a particular bank so they were custom ordered from Blodgett. Inside this album is printed: “Copyright 1914 by Harvey Blodgett. Published by Harvey Blodgett Company. Drawings by F. G. Cooper. Verses by Harvey Blodgett.” The album covers and several pages of text promote

savings, advertise the specific bank, encourage poster stamp collecting and tell collectors that they can bring the album to the bank each week to get an additional stamp.

F. G. Cooper was a commercial artist who created many poster stamps including several series for New York Edison Company. The following information is taken from the *Thrifty Alexander* album.

“Mr. Cooper is a man of few words, but nevertheless swings a mighty pen. The story of his life is an inspiration, for it shows what a young man, a stranger in New York, without money, but with GRIT can do. Here’s the story in his own words:

Born in Willamette Valley, Oregon, in 1883. Left home at 16, spent four years in San Francisco as bell boy, roustabout, shipping clerk, elevator boy, and finally as commercial artist. Landed in New York ten years ago and promptly went broke. Year of hunger and discouragement, followed by peritonitis and resignation to death. Splendid order came while I was in the hospital, and I sat up in bed and began its execution. That brought me some recognition. Early in 1906 got enough together to send for Mrs. Cooper-to-be. Had \$30 when married. Then two years of plugging and consistent progress and the tide came my way. Every boyhood dream came true, and I still feel like a kid who is just beginning. To work for less than \$100 a day would be an injustice to those who demand all the time I’ll give them at that figure and more. Am grateful for a father with boundless resourcefulness and a mother of unusual strength of character and steadfastness of purpose.

That is Mr. Cooper, age now 31. A manly young man who honors his father and mother. His past is one of inspiring achievement. His future is full of boundless opportunity. His head is not turned. He is a simple gentleman. While prominent publishers clamored for his work he bid them wait and threw his whole heart into *Thrifty Alexander*. He said he ‘got a lot of fun out of it.’ ”



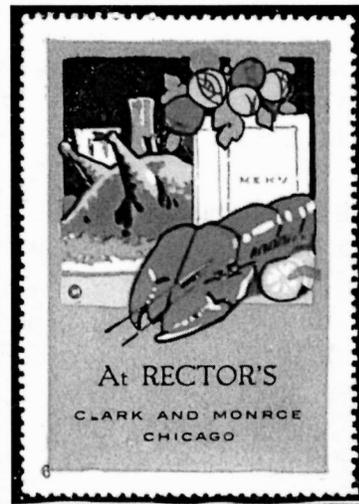
Harvey Blodgett Co. also published a set of 28 numbered stock poster stamps. (1-28, these numbers appear at the bottom of each stamp) These stamps were copyrighted on March 29, 1915 by Harvey Blodgett Co. The copyright record contains the same imprints as shown on the illustrated stamps. (Library of Congress. Copyright Office. *Catalog of Copyright Entries*. 1915. p. 8819). I have only found one stamp (15) without a company imprint and only three stamps with company imprints other than those illustrated: Capper & Capper (4, 9) and Roessler Stamp Co. (15).



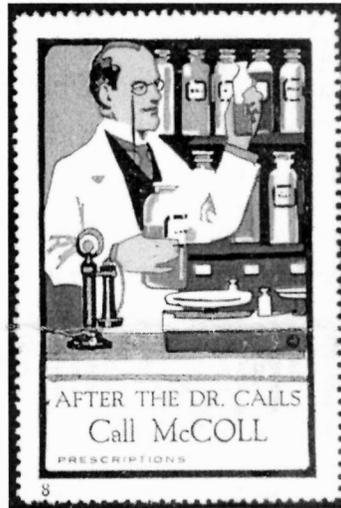
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5



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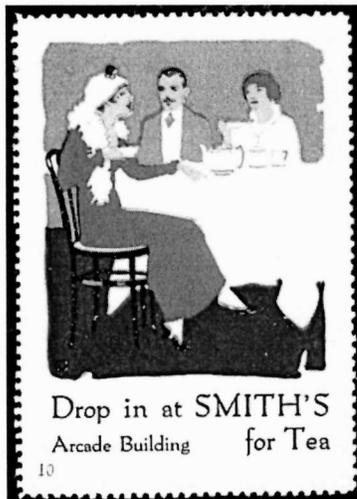
8



9

Silvers. Smokers. no photo

7



10



11



12

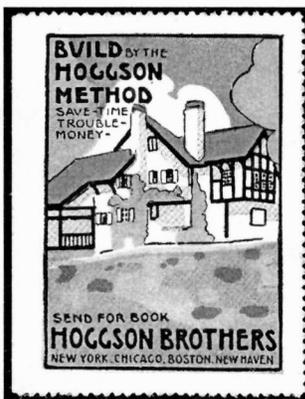
(to be continued)

Auction #30

The following poster stamps will be sold to the highest bidder providing minimum bid listed is met. All stamps are in very good condition with no tears, creases, scuffs or thins. Returnable within 14 days for full refund. Return postage not reimbursed. Auction ends on September 30, 2018. Bid increments must be \$0.50. Tie bids will go to the earliest bid received. Bids may be submitted by email (rbposterstamps@gmail.com) or regular mail. No telephone bids please. Postage is free within the United States. **No shipments will be made outside the United States.** Payment due when winning bidder receives stamps in mail with invoice. Payment by check or money order only. B numbers from Bradbury, *U. S. Advertising Poster Stamps, 1912-1915*, revised edition, 2014. C numbers from Bradbury, *U. S. Advertising Poster Stamps, 1912-1915*, full color edition, 2018.



1 not in Bradbury. Erie, Pa. \$7.



3 B4554 C5136 \$7.



4 B2709 C3051 \$20.



5 B534 C624 \$25.



6 B987 C1115 \$20.



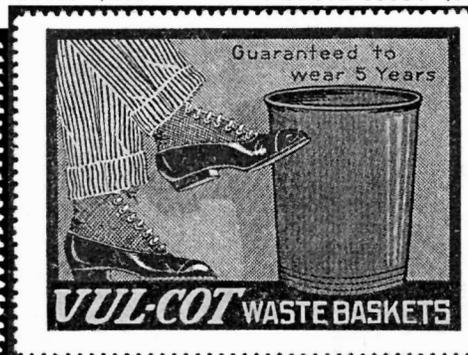
7 B2072 C3330 \$9.



8 B5611 C6255 \$8.



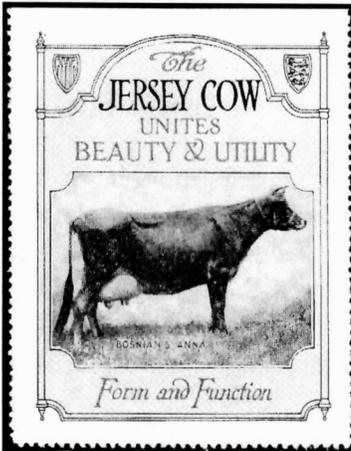
9 B4976 C3013 \$8.



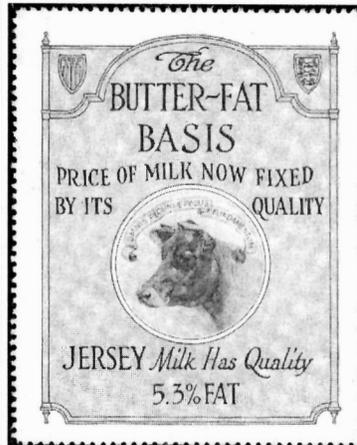
10 B5437 C6065 \$10.



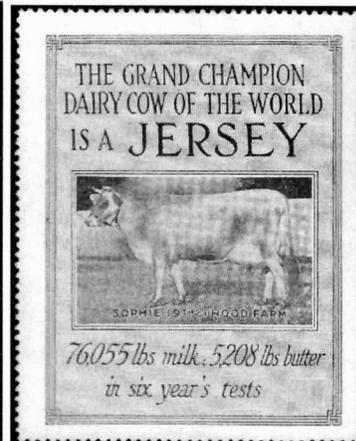
11 B5045 C5641 Strobridge Litho. \$20.



12 B138 C153 \$10.



13 B141 C156 \$10.



14 B134 C149 \$10.



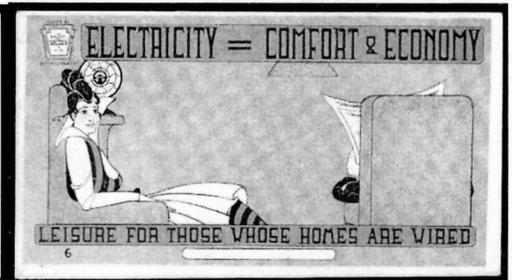
15 B1814 C2044 \$4.



16 B3033 C3455 \$9.



17 B4787 C5420 \$8.



18 B4787 C5417 \$8.



19 B4370 C4930 \$10.



20 B4371 C4931 \$10.



21 B4494 C5091 \$6.



22 B4793 C5430 \$10.



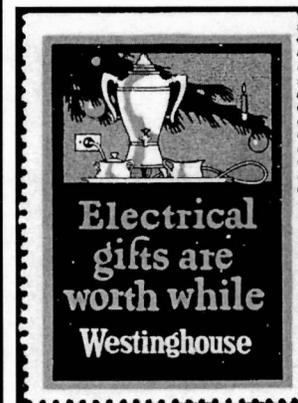
23 B2734 C3078 blue \$9.



24 B5739 C6384 \$8.



25 nib. Horstmann 1916. \$6.



26 B5567 C6210 \$7.



27 B5439 C6067 \$7.



28 B4086 C4585 \$7.



✓ 29 B4073 C4566 \$7.



30 B4070 C4562 \$7.



31 B3818 C4283 \$8.



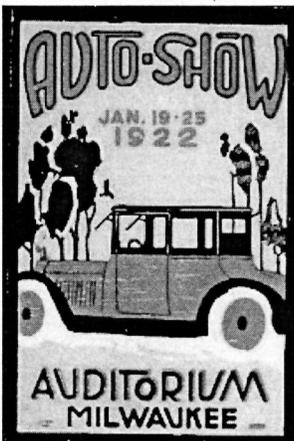
32 B3820 C4285 \$8.



33 B3817 C4282 \$8.



34 B4064 C4545 \$7.



35 Milwaukee Auto Show 1922 \$10.



36 Milwaukee Auto Show 1923 \$10.



37 B4776 C5408 \$9.



38 B3803 C4268 \$9.



39 B5702 C6347 \$8.



✓ 40 B3463 C33918 \$7.



41 Ross Gould List & Letter Co. St. Louis ca 1920s \$9.



42 B3970 C4444 \$7.



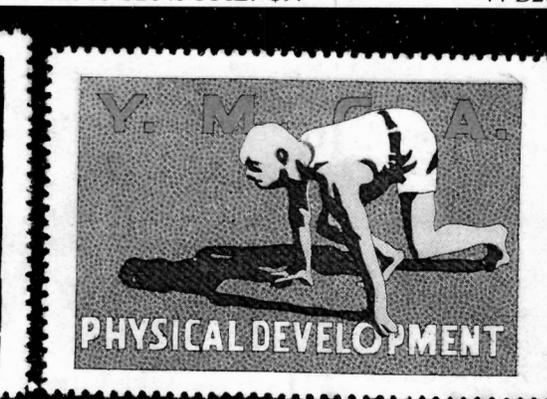
43 B2540 C2845 PPIE. \$9. ✓ ✓



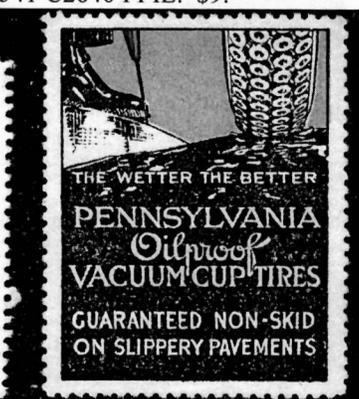
✓ 44 B2541 C2846 PPIE. \$9. 12



45 B4594 C5179 \$7.



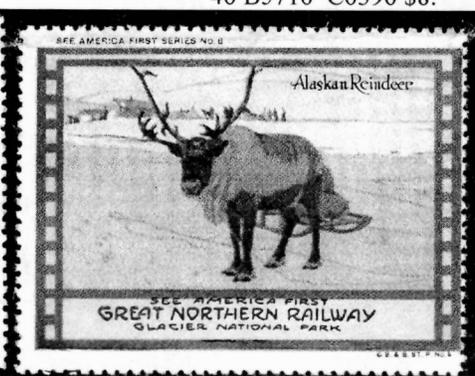
46 B5716 C6396 \$8.



47 B3913 C4386 \$7.



48 B2162 C2443 \$5.



49 B2164 C2445 \$6.



50 B2159 C2440 \$7.



51 B2765 C3108 \$12.



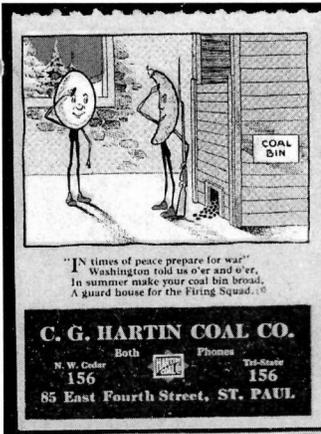
52 Elgin. not in Follansbee \$10.



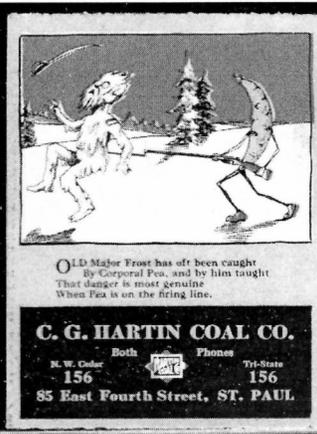
53 Indianapolis 500. \$45.



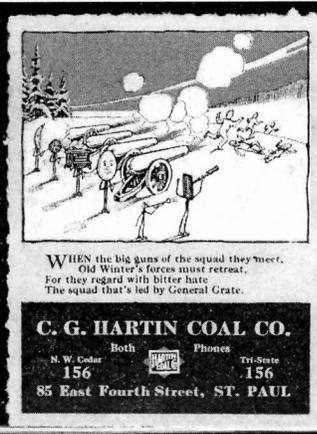
54 B1119 C1250 \$10.



55 B2302 C2586 \$6.



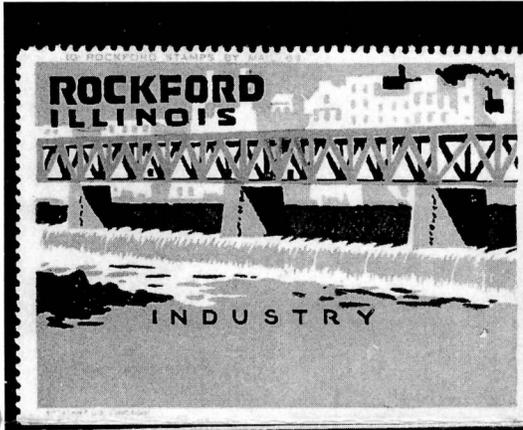
56 B2305 C2589 \$6.



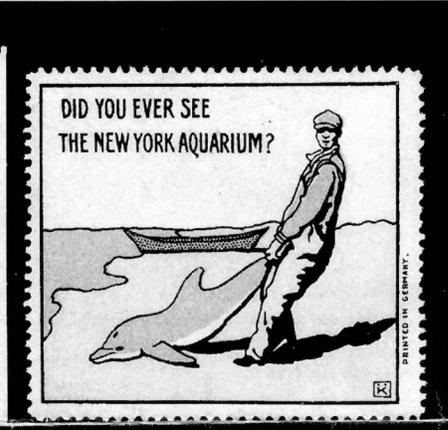
57 B2297 C2581 \$6.



58 B1194 C1368 \$8.



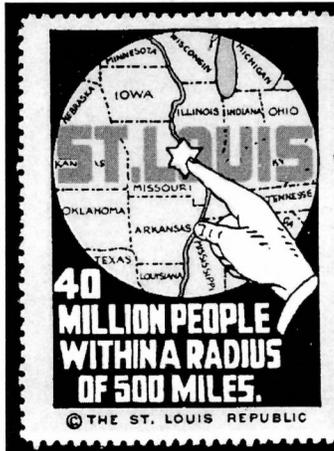
59 B4427 C4993 \$8.



60 B3429 C3885 \$5.



61 B3193 C3631 \$8.



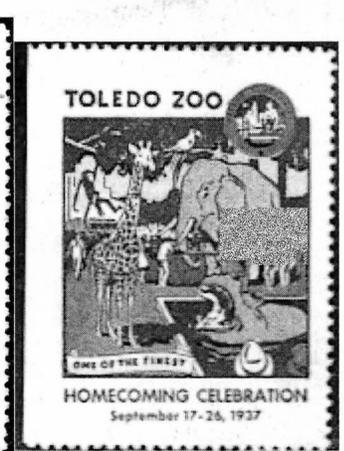
62 B4506 C5083 \$8.



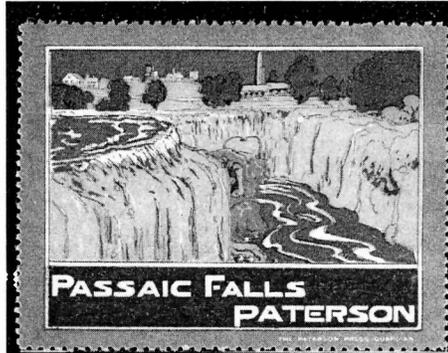
63 B4504 C5081 \$8.



64 B2987 C3395 \$6.



65 Toledo Zoo 1937 \$5.



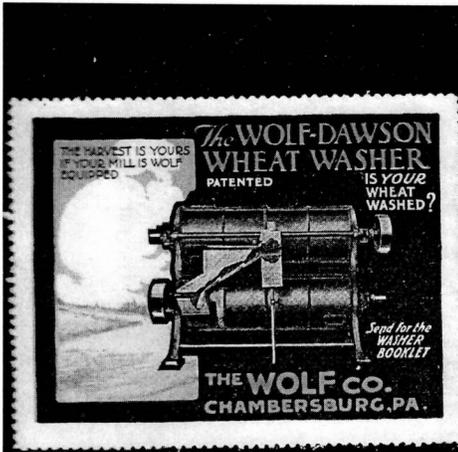
66 B3875 C4347 \$8.



67 B3879 C4351 \$8.



68 B88 C101 \$8.



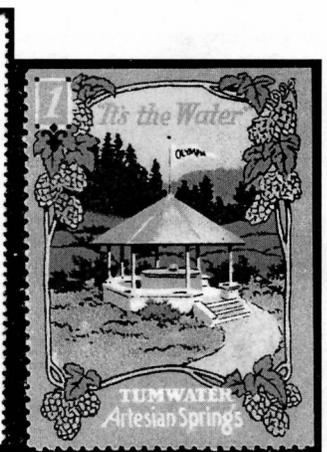
69 B5685 C6328 \$8.



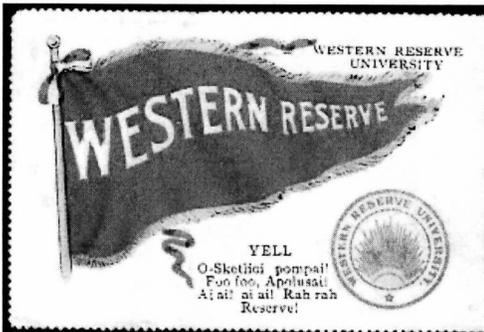
70 B4896 C5537 \$10.



71 B4899 C5540 \$10.



72 B5201 C5803 \$7.



73 B1719 C1942 \$14.



74 B1682 C1905 \$14.



75 B5148 C5750 \$8.



76 B2243 C2526 \$8.



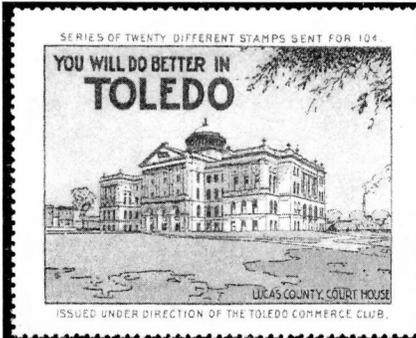
77 B2242 C2525 \$8.



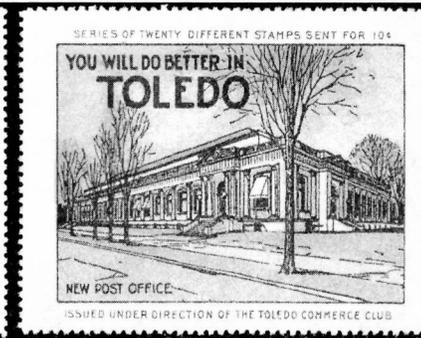
78 Cleveland Auto Show \$9.



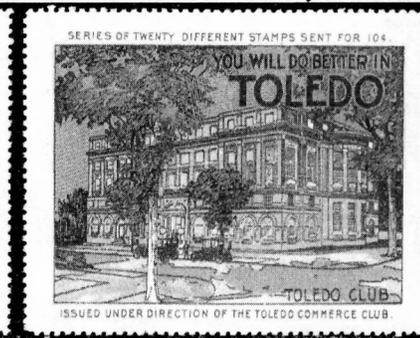
79 Syracuse Auto Show \$9.



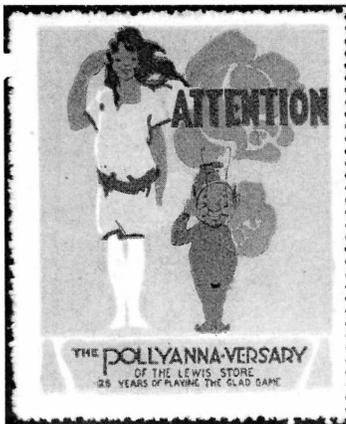
80 B5156 C5758 \$6.



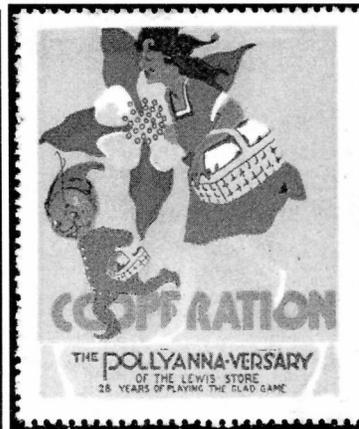
81 B5153 C5761 \$6.



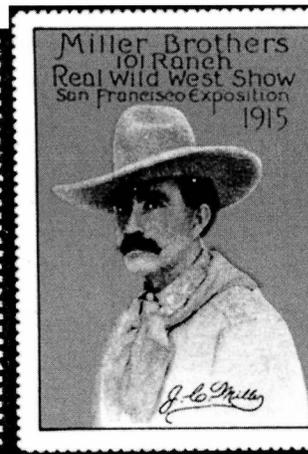
82 B5166 C5768 \$6.



83 B2898 C3246 \$10.



84 B2899 C3247 \$10.



85 B3810 C3616 \$30.



86 B3812 C3618 \$30.



87 World War I \$20.



88 Allentown Fair 1919 \$9.



89 B3806 C4271 \$8.



90 Exide Battery 1930s \$8.



91 Canada, Howell Litho. \$10.



92 Canada, Howell \$10.



93 B4083 C4579 \$10.

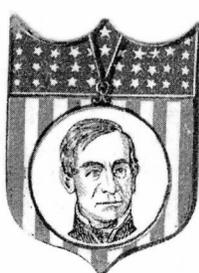


94 Omaha Auto Show 1930 \$10.

Civil War stickers, die-cut, ca. 1865. See Warda, *Political Campaign Stamps*, 1998.



95 Warda CW-4 \$25.
ca 1865 red, blue, black.



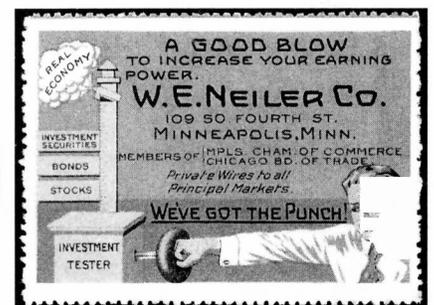
96 Warda CW-6
red, blue, black. \$20.



97 Warda CW-7
red, blue, black. \$20.



98 Warda CW-5
red, blue, black. \$20.



99 B3375 C3826 \$9.



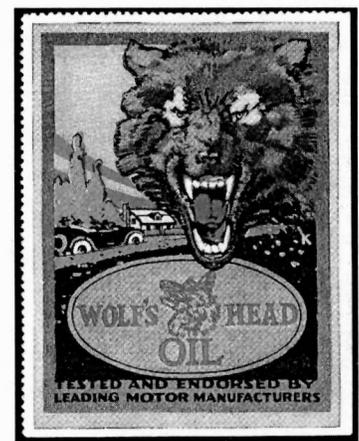
100 Golf. Canada. \$15.



101 B5749 C6419 \$20.



102 B5751 C6421 \$15.



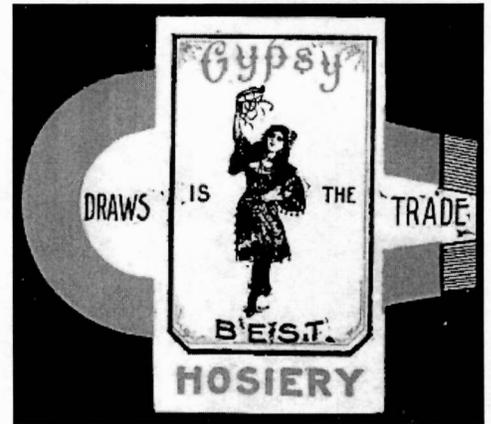
103 B5688 C6332 \$20.



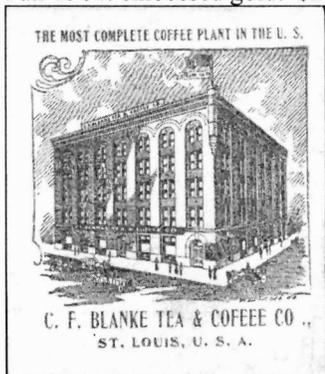
104 Standard Underground Cable World's Fair 1904. embossed gold. \$20.



105 S401 Iron Mountain Route. 50 mm. World's Fair 1904. red & black on white. \$35.



106 (Hargadine-Mckittrick Dry Goods. St. Lou. 68 x 80 magnet shape. red & black. \$20.



107 Blanke ca 1902 green 66 x 58 \$12.



108 Busy Bee ca 1902. 35 mm. black on gold. \$12.



109 Noble Printing Co. red on white. ca. 1902. 46 x 76. \$12.



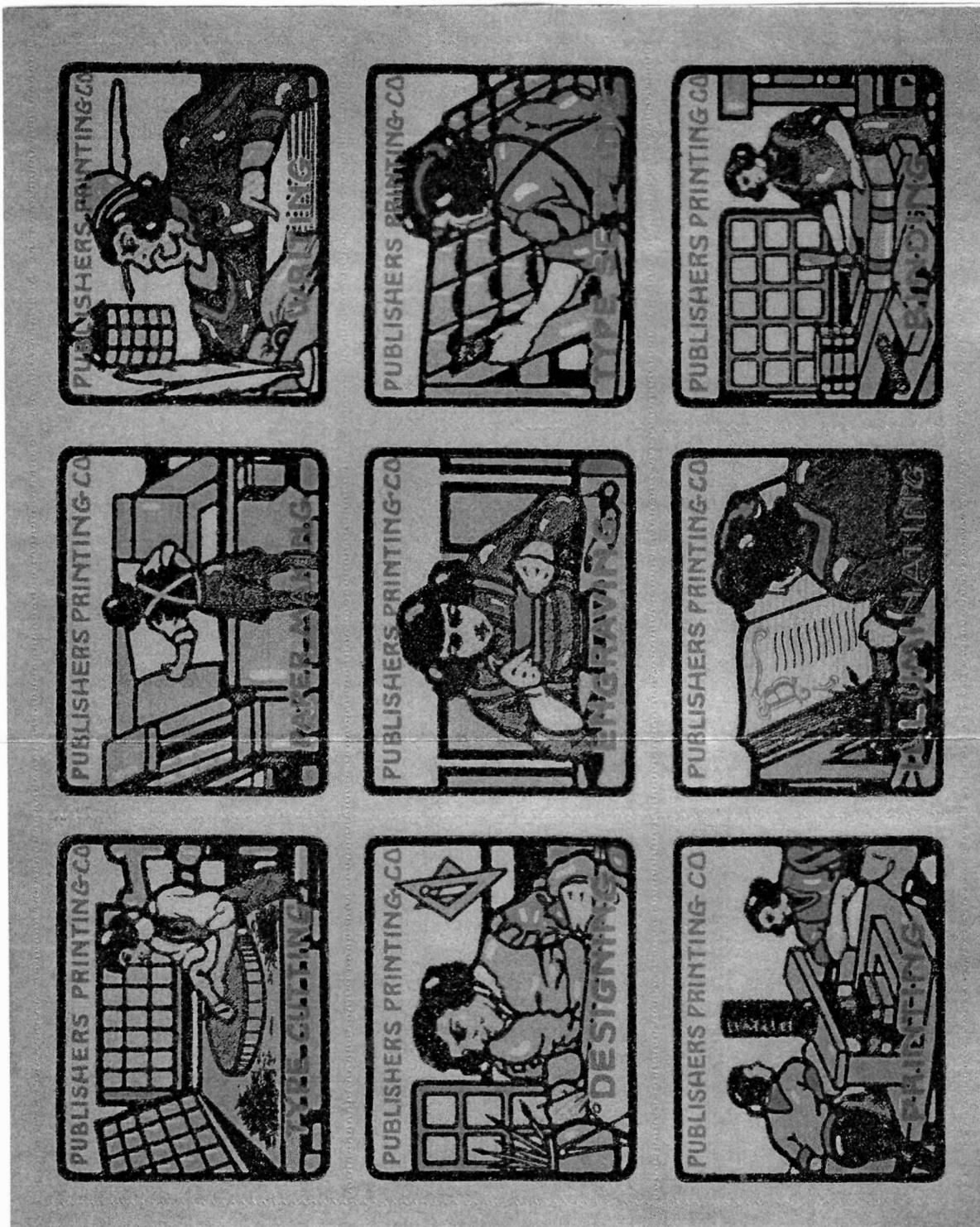
110 Holmes Cigar. red. ca. 1902. \$15.



111 Adams Printing. ca 1902 green on black \$25.



112 Friedman. ca 1902 65 mm. red. \$15.



113. Publishers Printing Co.

C4676, C4679, C4682, C4685, C4688, C4691, C4694, C4697, C4700
(gold background, perforations are very small and indistinct).

One of the earliest sets of United States poster stamps likely issued in late 1913.
Individual stamps are difficult to find and often have major edge faults due to the poor perfs,
a complete sheet is rare. \$150.



114 B3242 through B3249, C3685 through C3692 \$95.



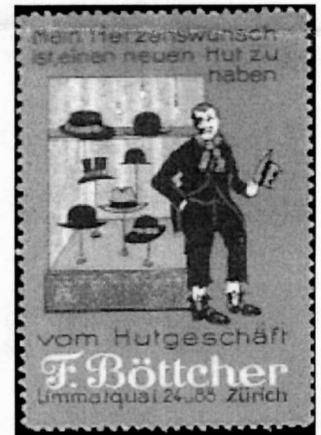
115 Netherlands. chocolate \$6.



116 Germany. chocolate \$7.



117. Germany \$6.



118. Swiss. Hats \$7.



119 Germany \$5.



120 Germany. beer truck \$6.



121 Netherland Antilles \$5.



122 Prague \$5.



123 Germany. Hohlwein artist. \$7.



124 Austria 1914 locomotive. \$7.



125 Austria 1914. \$6.



126 Germany Baratol \$6.



127 Germany. Piano. \$6.



128 Canada Federated Press \$8.



129 Austria 1914 \$6.



130 Germany \$9.

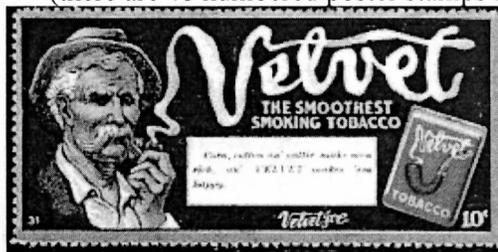


131 B5353 C5973 Velvet #29 \$6.



132 B5354 C5974 Velvet #30 \$6.

(there are 48 numbered poster stamps in this series each with a different quote)



133 B5355 C5975 Velvet #31 \$6.



134 B5355 C5975 Velvet #32 \$6.

✓
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