

Postal History

Resourceful information for the collector and seller of the world's 19th and 20th century mail communications, manuscripts and historic documents

Treasures

Fall 2001

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This Issue's
Special Treasure...



Recently discovered: a French liquor broker's mailing label postmarked in Veracruz, Mexico.

When Selling Your Collection...

How About Auctions?

Public auctions are wonderful venues for acquiring everything from distinctive quality antiques to important and often unique postal history and stamps. Collectors often become addicted to them and millions of new buyers and sellers have entered this time-honored marketplace because of the new online auctions on the Internet.

Auctions are, obviously, an effective method for locating collectibles and selling them. But really: are they the best option for the seller?

As an active—and vigorous—buyer of postal history, manuscript, documents, autographs and other paper-related historical items over the years, we are, naturally, a competitor to the auction market when a seller is considering his options when disposing of one's holdings.

We believe that, in seeking to purchase a seller's properties, auctions have perhaps (and “perhaps” is a very important word here) **ONLY ONE** advan-



Auctions have been popular sales venues for over 250 years. Shown above: Enthusiastic bidders at a New York stamp show auction in 1949.

tage over the values we are able to offer the seller: competitive bidding *may perhaps* allow a seller to receive more money for his collectible(s). After all, this is the goal of the auctioneer.

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A Franklin D. Roosevelt Discovery

Fred Schmitt's PERSPECTIVE



An insured cover sent by Franklin D. Roosevelt to a stamp dealer in England during World War II. It contained stamps.

Many collectors—even some of the more experienced ones—continue to believe that there is little value in the postal history of the 20th century. After all, “it’s so recent!” This may have once been the case, but today it is virtually the opposite. For instance, look at the cover shown above.

President Roosevelt was a stamp collector and, in the heat of World War II, he continued to make purchases from stamp dealers. And he used the regular mails to do so. [Continued on page 2...]



An occasional bulletin from...

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