

Philatelic Stamp Authentication & Grading , Inc.



National Postage Stamp Show Workshop

Third-Party Independent Expertizing and Grading

1. An accepted professional organization of Experts who render opinions based on the most current knowledge, use of forensic equipment and reference material.
2. This objectivity forms the basis of confidence of opinions between buyers and sellers.
3. This confidence makes the sales transaction much easier and reduces the level of anxiety on both sides.

WHY GRADE A STAMP?



Value: \$500



\$37,500

Because the price of a stamp is based on the soundness and centering of a stamp, commonly referred to as a certain GRADE.

When to get a stamp EXPERTIZED?

1. Items with a Scott Value over \$250.00 that you question
2. Any item with Scott value over \$500.00
3. Mint **NEVER HINGED** items over \$150.00
4. Scarce varieties and shades
5. Scarce cancels (Fancy cancels and Colored[ie--GREEN])
6. Generally checking the source of your stamps for accuracy of descriptions
7. Protecting your return privileges with auctions and dealers
8. Making your collection more attractive to buyers
9. The presence of certificates shows you've taken care in vetting purchases

What should I get GRADED?

1. High grade items that would grade at least **85** (*VF/XF*)
2. Valuable *fault-free* items purchased in **85** or better *WITHOUT a certificate*
3. To *establish a realistic price* for a given stamp.

What CAN be GRADED?

1. Single stamps
2. Pairs - Both imperforate, perforated and coil pairs
3. Blocks of 4
4. Plate Blocks
5. Pressure sensitive Duck Hunting Permit stamps
6. Perforated Souvenir Sheets (ie- US#630)

**A uniform, consistent, independent,
third-party grading scale enables effective
communication between philatelists.**



VF 80

XF 90

The introduction of expertizing and grading of stamps has built up confidence in our hobby and brought new collectors who were previously too afraid to get into philately.

Lot#1082 3c Deep Orange Brown, #10A Photo \$2,000

Savannah, GA cds, Pos. 61R1i, large to huge marginal copy showing design of other copies on three sides, rich color and sharp impression, **Grade 98J**, a superb gem, nothing rated higher, PSAG (2010) cert. Scott Stamp Valuing \$2,550+
.....Est. \$2,500/\$3,000

1. Taken the scariness out of collecting for people who would like to become serious collectors.
2. Puts buyers and sellers on a level playing field.
3. Gives an accurate assessment of the quality of a stamp making it easier to determine a fair price.
4. Enables comparisons and relative scarcity of condition to be assessed

A clear, logical, effective and widely accepted grading system is available now and has been implemented by dealers, collectors and auction companies.



70



75



80



85



90



95



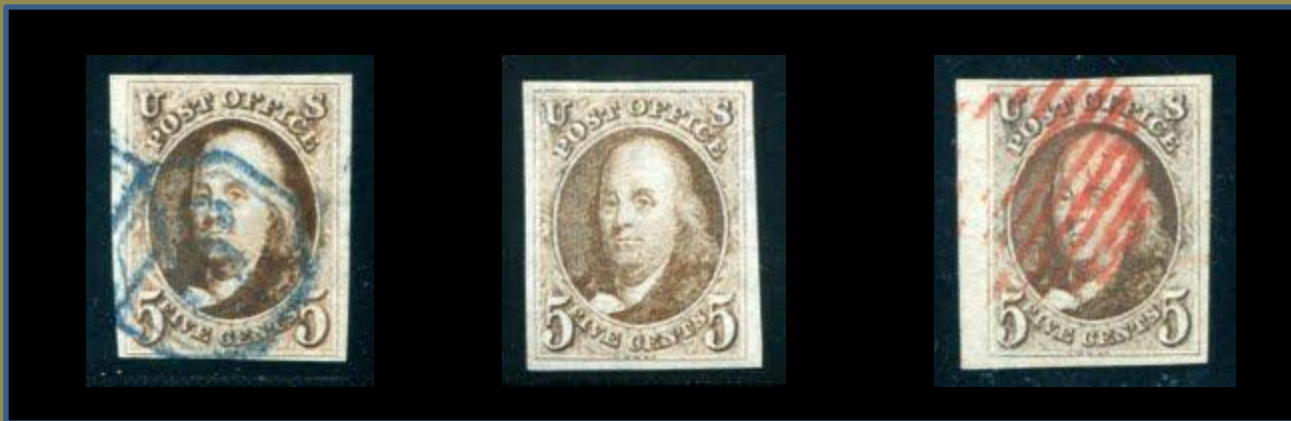
98

**A widely accepted and effective grading system
benefits BOTH Buyers and Sellers of stamps.**

- Stamps graded in accordance with a well-defined standard from an independent third-party will provide a welcome degree of consistency unseen historically in stamp collecting
- Huge differences in standards between various retail and auction sources will be greatly reduced
- Sight-unseen buyers will receive stamps much more uniform in quality for any particular grade.

HOW IS A STAMP GRADED?

- GRADING groups stamps of a given Scott Catalog number into discrete quality categories with a similar fair market value.
- The relationship between fair market value and a stamps grade is direct, the higher the grade, the higher the price.



70 FINE \$225

85 VF/XF \$600

95 XF/S \$1250

The GRADE of a stamp is the
combination of:

SOUNDNESS and CENTERING



EYE APPEAL



FINAL GRADE

SOUNDNESS

- Soundness is equated to the presence or absence of FAULTS
- Regardless of the centering component, if a stamp has even an extremely minor fault, the top grade possible is only 95 (Extremely fine - superb)
- FAULTS come in various degrees and combinations that range from an extremely minor fault (perf tip crease) all the way to SEVERE FAULTS (Missing parts of design or extensively repaired)

FAULTLESS

The stamp is Completely Sound and free of faults.

EXTREMELY MINOR FAULTS

(Xmf)

- ☐ Very minor natural gum bend
- ☐ tiny natural paper inclusion
- ☐ a couple tiny natural gum skips
- ☐ shorter perforation
- ☐ perforation tip crease

VERY MINOR FAULTS (vmf)

- ☐ Blind perforation
- ☐ Minor natural gum bend
- ☐ natural paper inclusion
- ☐ Significant natural gum skips
- ☐ perforation tip crease
- ☐ light toned spot

MINOR FAULTS (mf)

- ☐ Minor natural gum wrinkle
- ☐ Large natural paper inclusion
- ☐ natural gum skips
- ☐ Short perforation
- ☐ Corner perforation crease
- ☐ toning spot
- ☐ tiny thin (less than 1mm)
- ☐ slight color fading
- ☐ 2 or 3 very minor faults

FAULTS

- heavy natural gum wrinkle/crease
- light paper crease (larger than 5mm)
- small thin (1-3mm)
- tiny 1-2mm perforation or edge tear
- pulled perforation
- REPERFORATED on one side
- Pinhole
- Light staining
- 2-3 minor faults

MAJOR FAULTS (MajF)

- ☐ Large or heavy crease
- ☐ Large thin or more than two small creases
- ☐ Small tear (2-5mm) or two tiny tears up to 2mm
- ☐ REPERFORATED on two sides
- ☐ Significant stain (over 5mm)
- ☐ Small repair (added perf tips, etc.)
- ☐ Natural straightedge post - 1870
- ☐ several trimmed, clipped or short perfs
- ☐ 2-3 faults

SEVERE FAULTS (SevFault)

- ☐ **Sever or multiple creases**
- ☐ **large or multiple thins**
- ☐ **Large or multiple tears**
- ☐ **Significant repair (parts added or drawn in)**
- ☐ **Hole**
- ☐ **REPERFORATED on three or more sides**
- ☐ **2 or more major faults**

CENTERING COMPONENT OF GRADING

- The centering of a stamp equates to how well balanced the margins are all around the stamp. The most accurate way of analyzing this is to take 2 measurements of the size of the margins in each of the four corners of the stamp.
- These measurements are then fed into a computer program where the relative balance and proportionality of the margins is analyzed. The quotient derived also compensates for the average relative size of the margins for that specific catalog number. A final CENTERING grade is thus determined.

The CENTERING GRADE possibilities are as follows:

100	GEM
98	SUPERB
95	Extremely Fine- Superb
90	Extremely Fine
85	Very fine- Extremely Fine
80	Very Fine
75	Fine- Very Fine
70	Fine
60	Very Good- Fine
50	Very Good

GRADING GRID

Combining the Centering component with the Condition (faults if any) on the chart here gives you the final preliminary grade before Eye Appeal is factored in.

Centering

Soundness

	GEM	S	XF-S	XF	VF-XF	VF	F-VF	F	VG	G
Fautless	100	98	95	90	85	80	75	70	50	30
Xmf	95	95	90	85	80	75	70	60		
Vmf	90	90	85	85	80	75	70	60		
Mf	85	85	80	75	70	60	50			
Fault	75	75	70	60	50	50				
MajF	70	70	60	50						
SevFault	60	50								

PSAG Inc. Centering Guide Value

EYE APPEAL

Once we have arrived at the preliminary grade, the adjustment for eye appeal can be made.

- Eye appeal reflects the visual impact a stamp possesses compared to the average condition as seen in the market place.
- Fresh color, particularly sharp impressions or how nice the cancel is will affect the grade. The eye appeal can either raise, lower or have no affect on the final grade.
- If there is no effect, then the preliminary grade then becomes the FINAL GRADE.

FINAL GRADE

Once you have established the appropriate adjustment for eye appeal, you can now calculate the FINAL GRADE.

- SOUNDNESS/CENTERING = **PRELIMINARY GRADE**
- PRELIMINARY GRADE + or minus the EYE APPEAL = ***THE FINAL GRADE***

SAMPLE PSAG CERTIFICATES


Cert No. 0584100 1/6/2020

PSAG
PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING
www.psaginc.com

EXPERT COMMITTEE OPINION:
Grade: 85 used

Cat#	Issue	Denom.	Shade
RB10a	1873	\$5.00	Green/Black

"It is genuine used with manuscript cancel on Violet paper".



Shelly Hummer
Acting Committee Chairman


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Acting Committee Chairman

1/6/2020
Date

GUM CONDITION

Unused stamps will have an additional description of the gum. The gum condition is indicated after the numerical GRADE of a stamp:

<u>GUM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
• ogNH	Original Gum and Never Hinged
• ogPH	Original Gum and previously hinged
• ogH	Original Gum and Hinged (hinge remnant present)
• dog	Disturbed Original Gum
• pog	Part Original Gum
• NG	No Gum
• RG	REGUMMED
• NGAI	No Gum As Issued (refers to Special Printings, Re-Prints, etc.)
• J	JUMBO (refers to stamps that are more than 128% of average normal size.

JUMBO

- JUMBO stamps have much larger margins than normally found on the average stamp of issue.
- The "J" (JUMBO) designation is added to the numerical grade when the average size of the margins are at least 128% of the normal average size. Example = 90J
- Jumbo stamps are often valued at 1-2 times higher than a stamp of equal numerical grade.



JUMBO

VALUE OF A GRADED STAMP?

Once you have ascertained the final grade, you can then refer to the ***Scott Stamp Valuing Supplement*** in the "Scott US Specialized Catalog" for a close approximation of the 'retail' value of the stamp based on the grade given.



98 ogPH \$14,000