

## A few gems from the Club de Monte Carlo at the New York exhibition

Every two years, members of the Club de Monte Carlo meet on the Rock of Monaco, so that each of them can show off a single rarity from their collection. We would like to show you some of these striking pieces, which are examples of the philately of the Americas. Without a shadow of doubt, the letter reproduced here meets all the necessary rarity criteria in order to be exhibited.

In 1845, the postal rate was reduced to 5 cents and 10 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  once for letters sent up to and over 300 miles, respectively, from their point of departure. Several postmasters created their own postage stamps, such as New York postmaster Robert H. Morris and others.

The stamp shows George Washington and was printed on a plate of 40. The first date encountered for this issue is 15 July 1847. It was the first stamp to be issued by a postmaster at the same time as the provisional stamps issued for the town of Baltimore. In order to authenticate the stamps sold, practically all the copies bear the initials of the postmaster himself or those of an employee who was working for him. In this case, the initials (ACM) are those of Alonzo C. Monson.



Mark Schwartz Collection

This (superbly restored) block of six stamps shows the positions 1, 6-8 and 11-12 of the plate and represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest known multiple of this provisional New York issue. The handwritten inscription "30" (cents) is for the triple postage of 10 cents, which was charged for distances of over 300 miles. The letter bears the "New-York" 3 April (1846) circular date stamp, the arched "PAID" stamp and was posted to Buffalo N.Y.