

A few rarities from members of the Club de Monte Carlo exhibited in New York

Some of the rarities that will be exhibited by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo are directly or indirectly linked to the traditional philately or postal history of the USA. The stamp shown is well known among collectors. It forms part of one of the world's first commemorative issues.

The Trans-Mississippi and International Exhibition was held in Omaha, Nebraska from 1 June until late October 1898. A series of 9 values was issued. The stamp with the highest face value of \$2 showed the Saint Louis Bridge (Eads Bridge) over the Mississippi River and can be seen here as a sheet of 25 copies. 160,000,000 2-cent stamps were printed, compared to only 25,000 copies of the \$2. This series has been met with great enthusiasm from visitors to the exhibition.

This sheet of 25 stamps represents a major rarity from the semi-modern period.



Donald Sundman Collection

This is the second commemorative issue to be released by the American post office after the Columbus issue appeared in 1893. The value of \$2 was not initially planned. When it was added, collectors protested against its high face value, in addition to the other values in the series. This value was printed in one day on 3 June 1898. The \$2.00 was printed on sheets that have narrower spacing between the horizontal rows than between the vertical columns. For this reason, it is extremely difficult to obtain stamps with top and bottom margins that equal the sides. The post offices returned their remaining stocks and, of course, this included the \$2.00. No records were kept at the time so that it is impossible to determine the actual number of copies sold. This sheet represents the largest known multiple of this value.