

Friday 17 June 2016, 9:00 h

# Bulgaria 1878 – 1893

## The Earl Galitz Large Gold Collection



## The Principality of Bulgaria



4001



4002

### Pre-Philately

- 4001** 1748: Entire letter from Sofia to Marseille written in French, without postal markings but with signs of vinegar splashing for disinfection inside, clearly dated internally November 9, 1748. A rare and extremely early entire.
- 4002** 1761: Entire letter from Philippopolis / Plovdiv to Rome, written in Italian, endorsed on reverse 'Profamata di Fuori', clearly written and dated 'Filippopoli 1761, 16 9bre.' on second sheet. A fine and rare early entire.

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

✉ **300** (€ 270)

✉ **300** (€ 270)

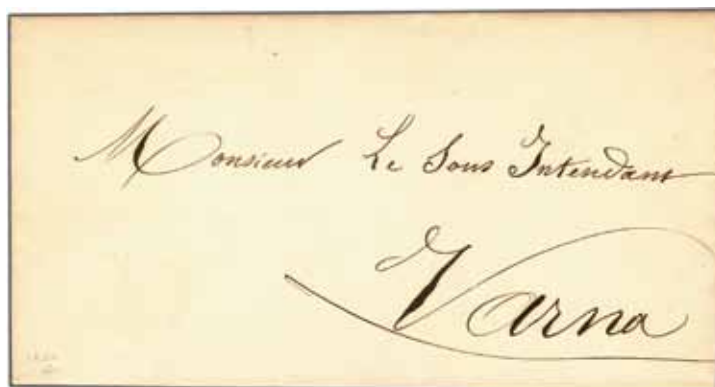
## Bulgaria and the Crimean War



4003



End of the Telegraph cable to Varna at the Monestary ruins of St. George



4004

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

- 4003** Crimean War 1854: Cover endorsed at lower left 'Camp Prevadi Aug 18th JRB', mailed to Ireland franked by Great Britain 1854 2 d. blue, wmk. Small Crown, perf. 16, three examples (Gi 20), all tied in London on arrival by numeral '30' obliterations. Reverse with POST-OFFICE / BRITISH-ARMY datestamp in black, London cds (Aug 31) and Loughbrickland arrival cds (Sept 1). Cover sensibly opened for Exhibit display but a scarce franking at Officer's rate.

*Provenance: Spink auction 1169 (Oct 14, 1997), lot 8.*

✉ **300** (€ 270)

- 4004** Crimean War 1856: Printed 'Dépêche Télégraphique' folded letter, bearing a message from the French Consul in Bucharest, received at Varna on April 21, addressed to the Military Intendant in Varna, struck on inside and on reverse with (translated) circular 'Director General of Posts & Telegraphs / Ministry of the Interior / Varna' struck in blue.

✉ **150** (€ 135)

## Foreign PO's in independent Bulgaria



View of Rustchuk



4005

- 4005** Russian Military Post 1878 (July 8): Cover from Rustchuk (the Russian Headquarters) to Sofia struck with superb Cyrillic FIELD POST OFFICE / 1 (Polevaya Pochtovaya Kontora) despatch datestamp in black (Tchilinghirian fig. 60). A fine strike of a rare marking.

✉ **500** (€ 450)



Russian troops defending the mosque in Svishtov

4006

Start Price    Start price  
in CHF        approx. €

**4006 Russian Civilian Post Office 1878 (March 18):** Cover from Svishtov to Tirnovo struck on reverse flap with superb circular datestamp of despatch (Russian at top, Bulgarian below) reading POST OFFICE OF SVISHTOV / 1 (Sistoivskaya P.K. 1 / Svishtovska Poschtsenska Kont. 1) superbly struck in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 62). Side flaps missing but with large part red wax seal on reverse. Rare and fine cover.

*Provenance: Collection Karajanov, Corinthila sale 133 (June 2002), lot 1087.*

*Corinthila sale 156 (Oct 16, 2008), lot 4935.*

✉ **750** (€ 675)



4007

**4007 Russian Civilian Post Office 1879:** Fragile Official cover from the Ministry of Finance in Sofia to Rustchuk, cancelled on reverse with SOFIA / SREDETZ datestamp in black (29/IX/79) alongside Free Postage indicated by label with circular Cyrillic STAMP OF THE EXECUTIVE / FOR LETTERS & PACKAGES in blue. Obverse bears further Sofia datestamp in black (dated a day prior) and two strikes of Russian PYCCE datestamp in blue of receipt (Oct 1). Despite poor condition, a rarity of Bulgarian classic philately, the cover first described by Glasewald in 1899.

✉ **1'000** (€ 900)





View of Tirmovo



4008

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

**4008 Russian Civilian Post Office 1879:** Bulgarian 'Pravda / Literary Intellectual' Newspaper, printed in Tirmovo and mailed to Sofia, franked at upper right with Russia 3 kop. black & green on horizontally laid paper, tied by bold strike of bilingual TIRNOVO datestamp in black (March 16) with, below, equally fine impression of SOFIA / SREDETZ datestamp of receipt (18/III/79) struck in blue. The newspaper with some edge wear but of great rarity - one of just three extant franked entires from the Russian Post Offices in Bulgaria, and as a 3 kopek single franking unique. An extraordinary Exhibition rarity of both Russian and Bulgarian classic philately. Signed A. Diena. Photocopy of RPS cert (2008).

19x



15'000 (€ 13'500)



View of Vrania



4009

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4009 Serbia / Russo-Turkish War** 1878 (March 5): Serbian folded Military formula letter-card printed on blue stock, used from Vrania (Serbian Vranje) to Nish, south Serbia and struck with MILITARY POST / SHUMADIJA CORPS datestamp (5/III) in black. Extremely scarce - no other mail from Bulgarian South-East Serbia has been recorded thus far.

*Note: Serbia entered the Russo-Turkish War in late 1877 and the Serbian Shumadija Corps occupied Vrania on January 31, 1878. The Treaty of San Stefano (Feb 19 julian / March 3, 1879 gregorian), consequently assigned a strip of south east Serbia, including the towns of Pirot and Vrania, to Bulgaria. The Serbs evacuated Vrania, but in March 1879 the Shumadija Corps re-occupied the area. The Bulgarians were to lose this territory under the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin in July, 1879.*

✉ **1'000** (€ 900)

- 4010 Austrian Post Offices** 1867/74: 10 s. blue, single examples used on covers (2), with one example on 1879 from Rustchuk to Vienna tied by RUSTCHOUK cds in black (1/10), the other cover used from South Bulgaria in 1880 similarly franked and tied by FILIPOPOLI cds (11/6) in brown mailed to Rustchuk via the Austrian Post Office in Constantinople (14/6). A fine pair.

(Photo = www)

4 ✉ **200** (€ 180)

- 4011 Austrian Post Offices** 1886/88: Small group of four cards with three cancelled by FILIPPOPEL datestamp in black: Levant 10 s. rose card used to Triest via Constantinople cancelled cds (Oct, 1886), 10 s. blue on grey letter-card used in Aug 1887 to Odense, Denmark, scarce 20 pa. on 5 kr. rose stationery card used in December 1888 to Stuttgart; together with in-coming 1886 card from Germany to Plovdiv, the addressee not found and returned via Constantinople. A scarce group.

(Photo = www)

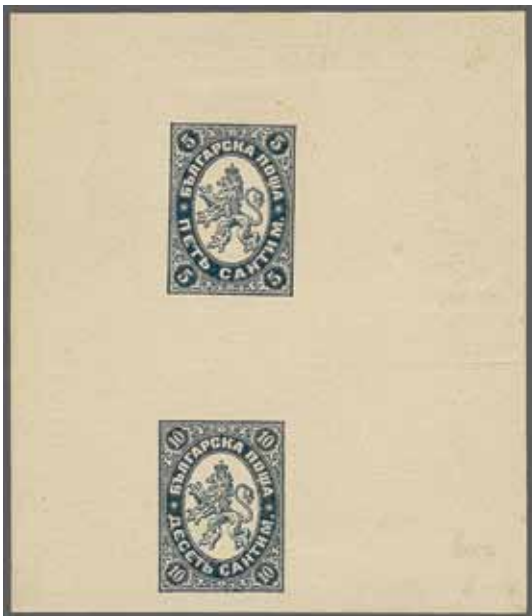
✉ **200** (€ 180)

- 4012 Danube Steam Navigation Company (DDSG)** 1878: 10 kr. green, perf. 9½, Die II with rounded 'f' in 'Dampfschiffahrt', four used examples on album page cancelled in blue at Lom-Palanka (signed Kelly), Silistria, Sistov and Widdin. The adhesives with small faults but the Die II stamps were only used in Bulgaria and only after Independence Mi = € 1'400.

(Photo = www)

3/II **200** (€ 180)

# 1879 (May 1) The First Definitive Issue



4013

Michel

Start Price in CHF      Start price approx. €

**4013** Composite Die Proof showing completed designs for 5 centimes and 10 centimes printed on card paper (68 x 79 mm.) in deep blue-black. At right of the printed designs are barely perceptible embossed colourless impressions of the background plate. Extremely rare and wonderful Proof from the original plate, possibly a letter-press pull from the original plate and of a 'posthumous' nature, apparently due to the splendid condition, however just two examples are recorded thus. Photocopy of RPS cert. (2008).

Proof 1+ 2      (\*)      **3'000** (€ 2'700)



4014



4015

**4014** Imperforate card paper Proofs for 25 centimes, 50 centimes and 1 franc values all in deep blue-black ink and thus similar to the previous lot, fresh and very fine. An exceptional and very rare trio.

Proofs 3+      4+ 5      (\*)      **1'500** (€ 1'350)

**4015** 5 centimes black & orange-yellow, first order, Type I, a fresh and fine mint block of four in a deep shade, superb og. A scarce multiple with no more than 20 blocks of this stamp recorded. Signed Karaivanoff Scott 1 = \$ 640+/Mi = € 800+.

1      田\*      **250** (€ 225)





4016



4018



4017



4019

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

**4016** 5 centimes black & orange-yellow, first order, complete pane of 25 stamps from upper right pane of the sheet of 100 subjects, position 5 showing Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', the pane with interpanneau margin at left and trimmed margin at top. Fresh and very fine, with rich colour and large part og, twenty-two stamps being unmounted og. The three panes of this stamp offered from the Galitz collection constitute the largest surviving multiples of the #1. An exceptional multiple for the classic specialist Scott 1 = \$ 4'000+/Mi = € 4'800+.

1 田\*/\*\* **2'500** (€ 2'250)

**4017** 5 centimes black & pale dull orange-yellow, second order, the mint block of nine (3 x 3), all stamps Type I, of exceptional centering and colour, superb og. with central stamps unmounted og. A scarce multiple - other than the panes of 25, a block of nine of which just two are recorded, remains the second largest multiple known Scott 1a = \$ 800+/Mi = € 1'350+.

1 田\*/\*\* **500** (€ 450)

**4018** 5 centimes black & pale dull orange-yellow, second order, the mint pane of 25, all stamps Type I, of exceptional centering and colour, superb og. with twenty three stamps unmounted og. Just the three panes offered here are recorded. Extremely rare and very fine multiple Scott 1a = \$ 2'250+/Mi = € 4'800+.

*Provenance: Collection Karajanov, Corinthila sale 133 (June 2002), lot 1152.*

1 田\*/\*\* **1'500** (€ 1'350)

**4019** 5 centimes black & pale dull orange-yellow, second order, the mint pane of 25, all stamps Type I, of exceptional centering and colour in a very pale yellow shade, superb og. with twenty two stamps unmounted og. Just the three panes offered here are recorded. An extremely rare and very fine multiple Scott 1a = \$ 2'250/Mi = € 4'800+.

1 田\*/\*\* **1'500** (€ 1'350)

**4020** 5 centimes black & orange-yellow, perf. 14½ x 15, printed on horizontally laid paper, mint examples (3) from first printing of December 3, 1878 with two examples of Type I and a scarce single from Type II with dot above the Lion's tongue (normally found in the top right stamp in the upper right pane of the sheet), together with mint examples (4) from the Second Order of July 13, 1879, all Type I and printed in a paler shade of orange-yellow, one or two with age spots but majority fresh and fine with large part og Scott 1 = \$ 840+/Mi = € 1'050+.

(Photo = www)

1 \* **250** (€ 225)



View of Tarnovo



4021

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF Start price  
approx. €

**4021** 5 centimes black and orange-yellow, a fine example used on 1880 Bulgarian 'Pravda' / Literary Intellectual' Newspaper, printed in Tarnovo and mailed to Sofia, tied by bilingual TIRNOVO datestamp in black (March 16) with two strikes of single ring SOFIA datestamp below (17/III) of receipt in blue. The Newspaper with some wear at edges as to be expected but a wonderful and extremely rare usage, believed unique. Signed A. Diena, Gebruder Senf, Leipzig.

1

**5'000** (€ 4'500)





A mosque in Sofia



4022

Michel  
Start Price in CHF    Start price approx. €

4022    5 centimes black and pale orange-yellow, second order, a fine example used on 1881 Bulgarian 'Independence' Newspaper mailed to Budapest poorly tied on despatch at Sofia in black, but with further bilingual SOFIA datestamp on top right of the front page (18/V) in black. Taxed on arrival in Budapest with Hungarian 1868 Newspaper 1 kr. blue imperforate in a horizontal pair tied in black. Extremely rare and an Exhibition show-piece of the issue. Signed Friedl, Holcombe. Photocopy of RPS cert. (1959).  
Note: Two examples of this usage are recorded, the other was ex the 'Cihangir' collection, Corinthila (October 2000), lot 4195  
Provenance: Collection R. M. Stephens.

1    5'000 (€ 4'500)



4023



4024

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

- 4023** 5 centimes black and pale orange-yellow, second order, in a bright shade, a mint block of six (3 x 2), showing stamp 3 and 6 Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', fresh colour and extremely fine, an important multiple demonstrating that the plates were altered as Type II usually occurs only in the top right stamp of the top right hand pane, the alteration in clichés possibly due to the later printing of the 50 c. which was eventually issued in July 1879. The sole recorded multiple showing this setting I-I-II / I-I-II, with two examples of Type II within a mixed cliché block, fresh and very fine, large part og. A rarity.

*Note: The proving multiple for the second printing order, the first order shows just the one stamp of Type II within the pane, the second appears to have mixed types as above and the third order (placed on May 21, 1880) only shows Type II stamps.*

1 田\* **2'500** (€ 2'250)

- 4024** 5 centimes black and dark orange, all stamps Type I, a mint block of four in an extraordinarily deep shade, most probably from the last printing of the second order, fresh and fine, large part og. Signed Karaivanoff Scott 1 = \$ 640+/Mi = € 800+.

1 田\* **500** (€ 450)



4025

- 4025** 5 c. black & deep orange, second order, Type I, used on reverse of 1880 cover from Rustchuk to Sofia in combination with two over-lapped 10 centimes black & green, tied by bilingual ROUSTCHOUK datestamp or 'Star in Circle' cancellation (26/IV) in blue. The cover trimmed, refolded and opened for Exhibit display, but an extremely scarce usage of the first issue during the first rate period.

*Note: The Internal letter rate from May 1, 1879 until April 23, 1881 was 25 centimes, whereupon it was reduced to 15 centimes / stotinki.*

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2055.*

1+2 田\* **1'500** (€ 1'350)

- 4026** 5 c. black & orange, a superb mint block of four from the third order, with all stamps Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', together with four further mint single examples from this last printing, one unused example showing the constant variety 'Broken 5' in lower right corner, another printed on much thinner paper, fresh and fine group with part or large part og. Scott 1 = \$ 1'280+/Mi = € 1'400+.

(Photo = www)

1 田\*(\*) **600** (€ 540)





View of Sofia



4027

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

**4027** 5 c. black & deep orange, third order, Type II, used with two 10 c. black & green on 1880 cover from Sofia to Plovdiv, Eastern Roumelia tied by bold strikes of SOFIA / SREDETZ datestamps (10/12) in black with information strike at right. Reverse with Russian Civilian Post Office POSTA / PLOVDIV datestamp (12/XII) struck in blue (Tchilinghirian unlisted) with what appears to be a large POSTA / PLOVDIV cds in small format alongside (Tchilinghirian fig. 77). Cover with slight repair at top left corner and file fold away from adhesives. An extraordinary and very rare cover for the specialist.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinphila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2082.*

*Collection R. M. Stephens*

1+2

**5'000** (€ 4'500)



4028



4029

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

**4028** 10 centimes black & green, a fine mint block of four of excellent colour and centering, with large part og. A fresh and very rare multiple, with just five blocks of four recorded. Scott 2 = \$ 3'600+/Mi = € 4'000+.

2 田\* **3'000** (€ 2'700)

**4029** 10 centimes black & green, a fine mint block of six (3 x 2) of excellent colour and centering, with large part og. A fresh and very rare multiple, with just two blocks of six recorded: these being the largest known multiples of this rare stamp. Scott 2 = \$ 5'400+/Mi = € 6'000+.

2 田\*/\*\* **5'000** (€ 4'500)



4030

**4030** 10 centimes black & green, a fine mint block of six (3 x 2) of excellent colour with vertical interpanneau margin between, slight perf. faults at left of second stamp where rejoined to the interpanneau margin, but with large part og. A fresh and very rare multiple, with just two blocks of six recorded: these being the largest known multiples of this rare stamp, this being the sole surviving 'cross-gutter' first issue 10 c. multiple known. An Exhibition item of the highest calibre. Scott 2 = \$ 5'400+/Mi = € 6'000+.

2 田\* **10'000** (€ 9'000)

**4031** 10 centimes black & green, the album page with mint examples (13), with Type I examples (12) including four on thin paper and a single example in an unusual 'lime' shade, together with a rare example of Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue'. Fresh colours and generally fine, with one unused example and most with large part og. Scott 2 = \$ 11'700/Mi = € 11'700.

*Note: There was only one order for the 10 centimes value, however the colour shades can vary considerably and are often attributed to different printings.*

(Photo = www)

2 \* **3'000** (€ 2'700)





4032

Michel

 Start Price    Start price  
 in CHF        approx. €

**4032** 10 c. black & green, two examples used with vertically bisected example on 1881 cover from Roustchouk to Vienna, all tied by bilingual ROUSTCHOUK datestamps (29/XI) in black. Reverse with Vienna arrival cds (Dec 13 gregorian) in black. A great rarity with just one other usage of this stamp bisected on cover recorded. Signed A. Maury, P. Mourgoulis (1964) Scott 2a = \$ 3'750/Mi = unpriced.

2

**10'000** (€ 9'000)



View of Gabrovo



4033

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4033** 10 c. black & green, a fine used example on underpaid 1883 cover from Gabrovo to Lovech, tied by bilingual GABROVO cds in black (July 19) with LOVTCHA datestamp (19/VII) of arrival struck at left. Underpaid 5 centimes / stotinki for internal rate but apparently accepted without further charges. A rare stamp on letter.

*Note: Another cover exists to this addressee in Lovech from Shumen, mailed in 1880 and bearing an identical franking. Two further first issue covers are recorded mailed to this addressee from Sofia, also sent in 1883.*

2



**1'500** (€ 1'350)



4034



4035



4036



4037

- 4034** 25 centimes black & purple, a superb mint block of four of outstanding freshness, centred to left with superb og. A rarity in a multiple. Signed Karaivanoff. Scott 3 = \$ 1'320+/Mi = € 3'000.

3



**2'000** (€ 1'800)

- 4035** 25 centimes black & purple, a fine mint block of four of good colour, centred to right with large part og. and hinges to support the perforations. A rarity in a multiple. Signed Zagorsky. Scott 3 = \$ 1'320+/Mi = € 3'000.

3



**1'200** (€ 1'080)

- 4036** 25 centimes black & purple, a fine mint example showing the major plate flaw second 'A' in Bulgaria damaged in top frame line with the left leg and cross bar obscured, the variety occurs just once on each sheet of 100 stamps. Scarce and fine, large part og. Signed Zagorsky.

3 var



**300** (€ 270)

- 4037** 25 centimes black & purple, a fine mint block of four, top right stamp showing the major plate flaw second 'A' in Bulgaria damaged in top frame line with the left leg and cross bar obscured, the variety occurs just once on each sheet of 100 stamps, perforations re-inforced but of good colour and large part og. The sole recorded multiple with this variety, unique. Signed Zagorsky. Photocopy of cert. RPS (2003).

3 var



**3'500** (€ 3'150)





4038

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

**4038** 25 centimes black & purple, the mint block of six, position 6 showing the damaged first 'A' in 'Bulgaria' at top left, due to the lack of multiples it is not known whether this flaw is constant. The block of good rich colour and large part og. but re-inforced with hinges. One of only two blocks this size recorded and believed to be the largest known gummed multiple of this stamp. Signed Zagorsky. Scott 3 = \$ 2'640/Mi = 4'500+.

3+ 3 var      田\*      **5'000** (€ 4'500)



View of Provadia



4039

**4039** 25 c. black & purple, used example on 1880 entire letter from Provadilia to Varna, tied by single circle Bulgarian only PROVADILIA datestamp (16/X) in blue (datestamp with added ornaments at base) with repeated strike above. Reverse with single circle Bulgarian only VARNA arrival datestamp of the same day in greenish blue ink. One toned perforation and file folds away from the adhesive but a rare entire, probably the only first issue cover extant from this town.

Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2065.

3      ✉      **1'000** (€ 900)



4041

4040

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF Start price  
approx. €

- 4040** 25 c. black & purple, used example on 1880 cover from Varna to Sofia tied by single circle Bulgarian only VIDIN datestamp (25/V) with repeated strike below. Reverse with single circle Bulgarian only SOFIA datestamp of receipt in blue (27/V). A fine and scarce cover. Signed H. Bloch.

*Provenance: Collection R. M. Stephens.*

3 ✉ 1'000 (€ 900)

- 4041** 25 c. black & purple, used example on 1880 cover from Sofia to Plovdiv, Eastern Roumelia tied by SOFIA / SREDETZ datestamp of the Russian Post Office in black (13/12). Provisional small double ring SOFIA datestamp at right (16/XII) in black. Reverse with POSTA / PLOVDIV datestamp struck twice (Tchilinghirian fig. 77) in blue (18/XII), one with date '8' in manuscript. File fold away from adhesive, a rare cover.

*Provenance: Collection 'Cihangir', Corinthila sale 123 (Oct 2000), lot 4191.*

3 ✉ 1'500 (€ 1'350)



4042



4043

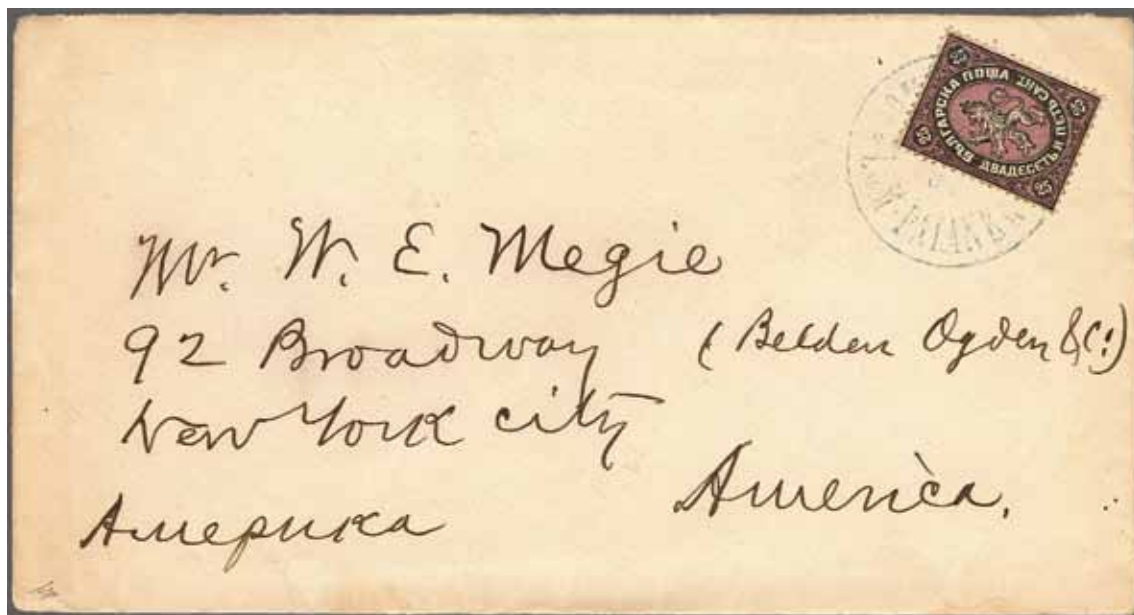
- 4042** 25 c. black & purple, used example on neat 1880 envelope from Rustchouk to Vienna tied by pre-Independence Russian P.O. Cyrillic only PYCCE datestamp (23/9) in blue, with repeated information strike alongside. Reverse with 'Neubau / Vienna' arrival cds (Oct 7, gregorian) in black. A fine and scarce cover.

3 ✉ 1'000 (€ 900)

- 4043** 25 c. black & purple used on 1880 cover from Tirnovo to Constantinople, tied by neat bilingual TIRNOVO pre-Independence datestamp of the Russian Post Office in blue (May 1). Repeated strike at lower right of envelope and reverse with a further strike dated the following day, single circle Bulgarian only VARNA transit cds (3/V) and Constantinople arrival cds (May 20, gregorian). Ironed file folds well away from adhesive, a rare and most unusual cover.

*Provenance: Collection R. M. Stephens.*

3 ✉ 1'500 (€ 1'350)



4044

Michel

Start Price in CHF Start price approx. €

- 4044** 25 c. black & purple, a fine used example tied to 1881 cover to New York, USA tied by bilingual LOM PALANKA datestamp in blue. Reverse with repeated strike of Lom Palanka datestamp (6/VIII) and 'New York / Paid All' duplex of receipt (Sept 7, gregorian). An extremely scarce cover with just one other Transatlantic usage of the first issue recorded.

3

**2'500** (€ 2'250)

4045

- 4045** 25 c. black & purple used in combination with July 1879 50 c. black & blue on 1881 double weight mourning cover sent registered to Piney, France tied by bilingual SOFIA datestamp in black (Feb 25). Bilingual framed RECOMMANDEE registered cachet at right in black with Avrincourt entry mark (March 20, gregorian) alongside. Reverse with repeated Sofia datestamp and Calafat transit cds (March 17) in blue. Double weight = 50 c. + Registration fee 25 c. An attractive and rare franking.

3+ 4

**3'500** (€ 3'150)





			Michel	Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4046	25 c. black & lilac used with 1881 5 st. black & yellow on registered 1886 internal cover, the former adhesive tied by 12 bar circular grid handstamp in green, the 5 st. cancelled by circular 'Posthorn' bilingual datestamp of NOVA-ZAGORA in green (20/II) with straight line handstamp RECOMMANDEE below. Reverse with bilingual 'Philippople' datestamp (21/II) in black. Scarce and correctly rated, but the cover has been cleaned and pressed. Signed Karaivanoff.				
		3+ 7	✉	400	(€ 360)
4047	25 c. black & purple used in combination with 1882 issue 25 st. blue & deep blue on trimmed envelope registered from Shumen to Winch Brothers in Colchester, UK tied by neat strike of bilingual CHUMLA datestamp (Feb 24) struck in blue. Colchester arrival cds (March 16, gregorian) alongside in black. Front shows further strike of Chumla cds and oval 'London / Registered' transit in red. Correctly rated at 50 centimes / stotinki, with 25 c./st. for postage + 25 c./st. for registration, however the 'old' centimes adhesive was probably used as a philatelic favour to the addressee. Nevertheless a scarce use with two stamps of the same value. Signed Holcombe.				
		3+ 18	✉	400	(€ 360)



4048



4049

4048	50 centimes black & blue, fine mint examples, Type I and Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', each on thin paper, large part og. Scarce Scott 4 = \$ 1'600+/Mi = € 1'600+.	4	*	400	(€ 360)
4049	50 centimes black & blue, fine mint example, Type I with dramatic flaw on Crown of Lion, with the upper left portion cut away leaving an uncoloured area where the background is blank, in a deep shade with horizontal crease, nibbed perfs. and part og. An unusual stamp	4 var	*	250	(€ 225)

Scott 4 var = \$ 800+/Mi = € 800+



4050



4051

Michel                      Start Price      Start price  
   in CHF                      approx. €

4050	50 centimes black & blue, fine mint block of four, Type I, in a deep rich shade, fresh and very fine, large part og. A great rarity with just three blocks of four of this stamp recorded. Signed Blaustein Scott 4 = \$ 3'200+/Mi = € 5'000+.	4	田*	5'000	(€ 4'500)
4051	50 centimes black & blue, fine mint vertical pair, both stamps Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue'. This multiple could not exist if the 50 c. was printed from the first order or second orders of the 5 centime plate, the 'dot' being larger and more pronounced and closer to the third order for the 5 c. plate. Unfortunately multiples of this stamp are so rare that detailed analysis is almost impossible. A fine and very scarce multiple of good colour colour and superb large part og. Signed Zagorsky.	4	*	1'000	(€ 900)



A water carrier in Rustchuk



4052

4052	50 c. black & blue, a fine example in a rich shade, used on 1882 registered cover to Odessa tied by neat 'Star in Circle' obliterator with bilingual ROUSTCHOUK datestamp alongside (12/VI) and registration cachet above, all struck in black. Transit datestamp of 'Tarutino' (Bessarabia) at right and Odessa arrival datestamp on reverse (June 16). A fine and most attractive cover. Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2074.	4	✉	2'000	(€ 1'800)
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4053



4054

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF Start price  
approx. €

- 4053** 50 c. black & blue, a fine example used on 1883 registered cover to Jaroslav, Galicia tied by bilingual SILISTRIE datestamp (14/V) struck in bright blue with repeated strike and registration cachet alongside. Reverse with Vienna transit cds and Jaroslav arrival datestamps (31/5, gregorian) in black.

*Note: Late usages of the first issue were caused by stocks held in Eastern Roumelia being used up and distributed.*

4 **1'500** (€ 1'350)

- 4054** 50 c. black & blue, a fine example used on 1886 registered cover to Moscow tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator with bilingual KARLOVO despatch cds at left (12/XII) and registration cachet struck in blue. Reverse with two line dated arrival in black. File fold away from adhesive and slight flap tear mentioned for accuracy, a scarce cover.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2075.*

4 **1'250** (€ 1'125)

4056



4055

- 4055** 50 c. black & blue, a fine example used on reverse of 1883 cover sent registered from Plevna via Rustchouk to Vienna, tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator and by part 'Neubau / Wien' arrival in black, with bilingual ROUSTCHOUK cds alongside (8/X) in blue. Front with framed all Bulgarian 'Registered' cachet in blue and fine bilingual PLEVNA datestamp (6/X) cds of despatch in blue. A fresh and fine cover.

4 **1'000** (€ 900)

- 4056** 50 c. black & blue, a fine example used on reverse of 1884 cover sent registered from Plevna via Rustchouk to Vienna, tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator with bilingual ROUSTCHOUK cds alongside (22/VII) in blue and 'Neubau / Wien' cds of receipt (4/8, gregorian) in black. Front with framed all Bulgarian 'Registered' cachet in blue and fine bilingual PLEVNA datestamp (21/VII) cds of despatch in blue. A fresh and fine cover.

4 **1'250** (€ 1'125)





A street view in Sofia



4057

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

**4057** 50 c. black & blue in a vertical pair, 25 c. black & purple and 10 c. black & green in a vertical pair, all used on registered 1883 cover to Lovech, annotated in manuscript as containing two certified Turkish documents, tied by bilingual SOPHIA datestamps (8/II) in black. Framed Bulgarian 'Registered' cachet and further framed CHARGE bilingual registered cachet at left in black, bilingual LOVCHA cds of arrival (12/II) in black at left and repeated strike on reverse. Small closed tears to envelope but an extraordinary franking - the sole recorded three colour combination of the centimes first issue and the highest franking without the usage of the 1 franc adhesive. An important exhibition item.

*Note:* Internal rate of 8 x 15 centimes + 25 c. registration.

*Provenance:* Corinthila sale 72 (Sept 1985), lot 4305

*Collection R. M. Stephens.*

4+ 3+ 2



**5'000** (€ 4'500)



4058

Michel

Start Price    Start price  
in CHF       approx. €

- 4058** 1 franc black & red, a fine used example tied to registered 1886 cover to Vienna tied by Eastern Roumelian POST YAMBOLI bilingual datestamp struck in blue (6/III) with RECOMMANDEE at lower left. Reverse with bilingual SOPHIA cds in black (8/III) and bilingual WIDDIN cds of transit in green (9/III) alongside Vienna arrival cds in black. A charming cover.

5



**1'500** (€ 1'350)



4059

4059

- 4059** 1 franc black & red, two examples used on 1886 registered cover from Plovdiv to Prague, used in combination with 1882 25 st. blue & deep blue and 50 st. blue & pink, all adhesives tied by bilingual PHILIPPOLE datestamps (10/VIII) struck in blue. Registration cachet on front in blue and 'Prag' arrival cds (25/8, gregorian) on reverse in black. Minor imperfections and sender's name erased but an exceedingly scarce franking.

*Note: Postage 25 c./st. x 10 + registration fee of 25 c./st. The cover is thought to have contained a metal printing block. Plovdiv, the former capital of Eastern Roumelia, had been re-incorporated into Bulgaria in 1886.*

5+ 18+ 20



**2'000** (€ 1'800)



4060

Michel

Start Price    Start price  
in CHF        approx. €

- 4060** 1 franc black & red, two single examples used with 1882 25 st. blue & deep blue (3) franked on reverse of 1887 Seefeldner cover to Salzburg, Austria all tied by bilingual ROUSTCHOUK datestamps in blue (12/IV), with, alongside 'Pycce / Russe' cds with date in gregorian (24/4) to correspond with UPU regulations. Front of cover with further strike of Roustchouk datestamp and framed Registration cachet in blue. The letter carried at postage 25 c./st. x 10 + registration fee of 25 c./st. Minor stain where seals have been removed but a rare and fine mixed high rate franking. Signed Zagorsky.

5+ 18

**1'500** (€ 1'350)

### 1879 Large Lion - First Issue, the study collection on leaves

- 4061** 1879: Large Lion - First Issue, the study collection on leaves with the rare 25 c. black & lilac unused (8) showing the three pronounced shades of this stamp with one on very thin paper, two used examples showing 'damaged final 'A' in Bulgaria' variety clearly (only occurs on one stamp per sheet of 100 stamps), 50 c. black & blue unused examples from Type 1 (6, two are on thin paper) and Type II example with dot above Lion's tongue, 1 franc black & red with fine OBRASETZ (Specimen) example, an unused single and two unused blocks of four; together with an extremely rare, if battered cover franked by three 5 c. black & yellow and a single 10 c. black & green used to Italy. Condition on the adhesives generally fine to very fine, an exceptional lot Scott 1/5 = \$ 10'000+++/Mi = € 11'300++.

(Photo = www)

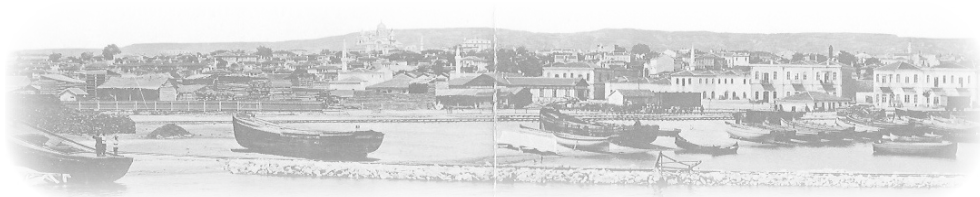
1/5

**3'000** (€ 2'700)

*Images of most of our collections you will find on our webpage: [www.corinphila.ch](http://www.corinphila.ch)*



## Early locally produced killer cancellations



Harbour view of Varna



4062

Michel

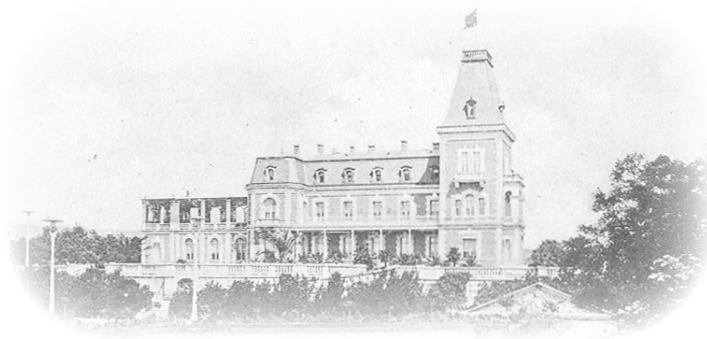
Start Price in CHF Start price approx. €

- 4062** 1879: 25 c. black & purple, a fine example used on 1880 entire letter from Varna to Rustchuk, tied by oval dotted RUSSIAN STEAMSHIP cancellation in blue with fine single ring Bulgarian only VARNA datestamp alongside (13/III) also in blue. Repeated strike of the Varna datestamp on reverse (14/III) and Cyrillic PYCCE datestamp of the Russian Post Office of arrival struck in blue. Trivial imperfections of no significance, a remarkable entire which opens well for display. Unique.

3



**7'500** (€ 6'750)



*Chateau Euxinograd in Varna*



ex 4063

Michel

Start Price    Start price  
in CHF        approx. €

- 4063** 25 c. black & purple, a fine example used on 1880 envelope from Varna to Paris, slight opening tear at top and opened for display, cancelled by barred obliterator of Varna in blue, and also just tied by 'Avricourt' French entry marking in red (March 16, gregorian). Reverse with single ring Bulgarian SOFIA datestamp in blue (26/II) and transit of Russian PYCCE datestamp of Rustchuk. Despite the fault an extremely rare cover with just one other such recorded - sold with a 25 c. on piece with a perfect strike of this provisional canceller and a 50 c. with the Tirmovo interim provisional cancellation, a circle with thin barred lines. Rare.

3+ 4

✉△

**2'000** (€ 1'800)



# 1881 (April 10) The Second Definitive Issue



4064

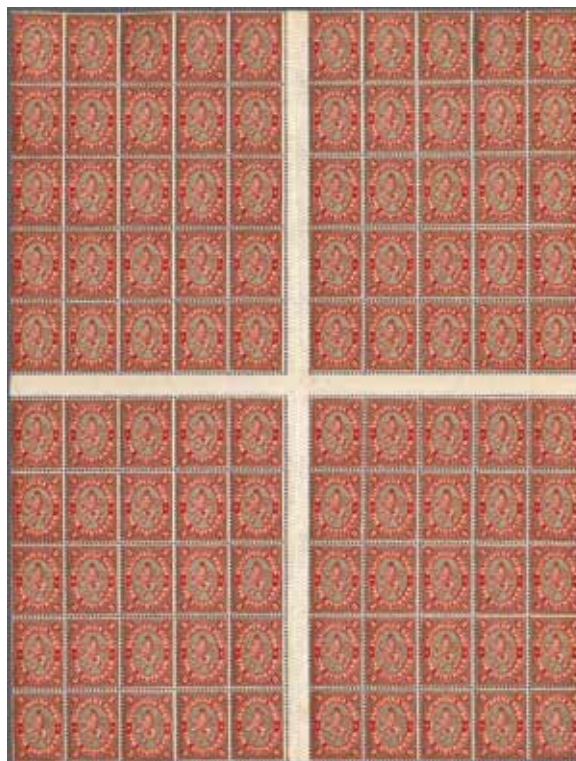
Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

- 4064** 3 stotinki carmine & grey, a fresh mint block of twelve with two blocks of six either side of vertical interpanneau margin, positions 2, 9 and 11 on the block being Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', fresh and fine multiple with large part or unmounted og. Scott 6 = \$ 390+/Mi = € 480+. *Provenance: Corinthila sale 72 (Sept 1985) lot 4323.*

6 田\*/\*\*

**300** (€ 270)

4065

- 4065** 3 stotinki carmine & grey, the complete mint sheet of four panes of 25 subjects with full interpanneau margins between, of excellent rich colour. Some minor tone spots and sensibly re-enforced with some hinging otherwise immaculate and rare - the sole recorded sheet of either of the first two issues of Bulgarian philately. Unique. Scott 6 = \$ 3'250/Mi = € 4'000+.
- 4066** 3 stotinki carmine & grey, two mint blocks of four, each in the dark carmine shade of the first order (all stamps Type I), single mint example Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', all superb og., and a scarce usage on underpaid 5 st. grey-green stationery card to Vienna tied by ROUSTCHOUK bilingual datestamp (July 12, 1881). A fine page. (Photo = [www.roustchouk.com](http://www.roustchouk.com))

6 田\*/\*\*

**7'500** (€ 6'750)

6 田\*/\*\*

**350** (€ 315)





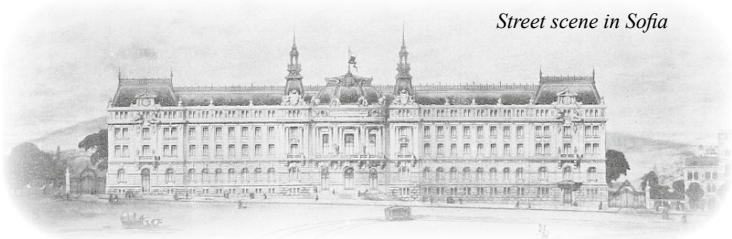
4067

Michel

Start Price in CHF      Start price approx. €

4067      5 stotinki dull yellow & black, first order, Type I, a superb mint block of four in this delicate shade, unmounted og.

7      田\*\*      150      (€ 135)



Street scene in Sofia



4068

4068      5 stotinki black and pale orange-yellow, second order, a fine example used on 1881 Bulgarian 'Independence' Newspaper mailed to Budapest tied on despatch by bilingual SOFIA datestamp in black (10/VI). Taxed on arrival in Budapest with Hungarian 1868 Newspaper 1 kr. blue imperforate in a horizontal pair tied in black. Extremely rare and an Exhibition show-piece of the issue. Signed Friedl, Holcombe.

7      ✉      5'000      (€ 4'500)



4069



4070

- 4069** 5 st. black & orange-yellow, single example used on small visiting card envelope from Sofia to Paris, neatly tied by 'Star in Circle' handstamp in black with bilingual SOFIA datestamp alongside (7/II). Part 'Avricourt' entry marking in black at top. Extremely rare example of the 5 stotinki International Printed Matter rate.
- 4070** 5 st. black & orange-yellow, a single and vertical pair, used on 1883 cover from Rustchuk to Tirmovo, the adhesives all tied by two strikes of the 'Star in Circle' handstamp with bilingual ROUSTCHOUK datestamp at right (8/I), reverse with single ring Bulgarian TIRNOVO datestamp (9/I) struck in blue. Slight refold at right to better display but a fine and scarce example of the internal rate.
- Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2091.*

Michel		Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
7	✉	750	(€ 675)
7	✉	750	(€ 675)



Sugar refinery in Gorna Oriakhovitsa



4071

- 4071** 3 st. pale black & pale yellow (unusual shade) used on reverse of opened for display 1883 cover from Gorna Oriakhovitsa to Tirmovo, tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator with bilingual GORNA ORIAKHOVITSA datestamp on front (14/III) in blue and bilingual TIRNOVO arrival cds (same day) in blue on reverse. The cover trimmed, with some staining and tear but a very scarce cancellation and usage.

7+ 8	✉	350	(€ 315)
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4072

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4072** 3 st. black & orange-yellow, variety: 'Background Inverted' fine used examples (2), Type I example from Setting A with the inverted yellow background placed higher, leaving a white area between the bottom black frame and the first inner frame; fine used with 'Star in Circle' obliteration in black; Type II example with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue' from Setting B showing the inverted yellow background placed / displaced much lower, similarly cancelled leaving the variety clear (signed Karaivanoff, Kosack, cert. A. Diena, 1961). It is possible from the evidence seen here that there were two sheets of this error. A fine and rare duo in excellent quality Scott 7a = \$ 4'800/Mi = € 6'000.

7K

**3'000** (€ 2'700)

4073

- 4073** 3 stotinki black & orange-yellow, second order, a mint block of six (3 x 2), showing mixed types, positions 1 and 4 being Type I, positions 2, 3, 4 and 5 Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', fresh bright colour and large part og. A scarce multiple.

7 田\*/\*\*

**300** (€ 270)

4074



4075

- 4074** 5 st. black & dull yellow, first order, used to up-rate 5 st. grey-green postal stationery card to Budapest, tied by 'Star in Circle' with bilingual TIRNOVO despatch cds above (26/XII/82) in blue. Bilingual 'Roustchouk' datestamp of transit in black at left (28/XII). A fine and attractive usage for the 10 stotinki International postcard rate. Signed Jakubek, Karaivanoff.
- 4075** 5 st. black & deep orange-yellow, second order, used to up-rate 5 st. grey-green postal stationery card (scarce example with no full stop after the instruction line at base) to Philadelphia, USA tied by bilingual SAMOKOV despatch cds above (26/VII/81) in blue with repeated strike at right. Bilingual 'Sofia' datestamp of transit in black also on front (27/VII). One weak corner to card but a fine and attractive usage for the 10 stotinki International postcard rate.

7 ☒

**150** (€ 135)

7 ☒

**250** (€ 225)





4076



4078



4077

		Michel		Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
<b>4076</b>	10 stotinki black & green, first order in a matt, pale shade, a fresh mint block of four, all stamps Type I, superb colour and large part og. A rare and fine multiple. Signed Karaivanoff Scott 8 = \$ 700+/Mi = € 1'000+.	8	田*	<b>400</b>	(€ 360)
<b>4077</b>	10 stotinki black & deep green, second order in a bright shade, a fresh mint block of four, all stamps Type I, superb colour and large part og. Scarce multiple Scott 8a = \$ 340+/Mi = € 1'000+.	8	田*	<b>300</b>	(€ 270)
<b>4078</b>	10 st. black & green, horizontal pair used to over-pay an internal 1888 cover with original contents from Sevlievo to Sofia tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator in blue. Reverse with bilingual SEVLIEVO despatch cds in blue and weak SOFIA arrival cds (5/II) in black. The cover has come apart at the edges due to the enclosure but intact. A rare usage, the rate was 15 stotinki, however there was no actual single rate utilising the 10 stotinki on its own and thus covers are rare. <i>Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2093.</i>	8	☒	<b>400</b>	(€ 360)



4079



4081



4080

<b>4079</b>	15 stotinki carmine & green, a fresh mint block of four, all stamps Type I, superb colour and large part og. Signed Karaivanoff Scott 9 = \$ 700/Mi = € 1'000.	9	田*	<b>300</b>	(€ 270)
<b>4080</b>	15 stotinki deep bright carmine & green, a fresh mint block of four, position 1, 2 and 3 are Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue' and the fourth stamp Type I, superb colour and large part og. A scarce multiple Scott 9 = \$ 700/Mi = € 1'000. <i>Note: Whilst there was just one order for this stamp, the colour shades are evidence of at least two printings.</i>	9	田*	<b>400</b>	(€ 360)
<b>4081</b>	15 stotinki carmine & green, Type III, variety 'Two Dots over Lion's Tongue', fresh and fine, large part og.	9 var	*	<b>150</b>	(€ 135)

*Bid on-line live as if you were attending the sale in the auction room: [www.corinphila.ch](http://www.corinphila.ch)*



4082



4083

			Michel	Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4082	15 st. carmine & green, Type II, a fine used example on 1881 cover from Sistov to Rustchuk, neatly tied by bilingual SISTOV datestamp in blue (5/IX), with repeated strike on reverse and bilingual ROUSTCHOUK arrival cds in black. A fresh and fine cover.	9	✉	250	(€ 225)
4083	15 st. carmine & green, Type I, a fine used example on 1882 entire letter from Tirnovo to Varna, neatly tied by bilingual 'Star in Circle' obliterator and by bilingual TIRNOVO datestamp in blue (17/IX), with superb bilingual VARNA arrival cds in black (18/IX) on reverse in black. File fold well away from the adhesive, a fresh and fine entire.	9	✉	250	(€ 225)



4084



4085

4084	25 stotinki black & purple, fresh mint example Type I, and fresh mint example Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', each fresh and fine, large part og. Extremely scarce stamps in mint condition Scott 10 = \$ 1'800/Mi = € 1'800.	10	*	750	(€ 675)
4085	25 stotinki black & purple, fresh mint block of four, position 1 is Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', the rest Type I, fresh and very fine of exquisite delicate colour, with large part og. An extremely rare multiple, just four blocks of four of this stamp are recorded with no larger multiple extant Scott 10 = \$ 3'600/Mi = € 4'500.	10	田*	2'500	(€ 2'250)

The fastest way to transmit your postal bids is by fax: +41-(0)44-389 91 95 or by e-mail: [info@corinphila.ch](mailto:info@corinphila.ch).



4086

Michel

Start Price    Start price  
in CHF        approx. €

- 4086** 25 st. black & purple, Type I, a fine used example on 1881 cover from Varna to Trieste, tied by 'Star in Circle' in black with bilingual VARNA datestamp alongside (29/XII) in black. Reverse with Vienna transit cds and Triest arrival (14/1/82, gregorian). A few very minor imperfections to letter-sheet but an attractive usage.

Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2101.

10



**500** (€ 450)



4088

4087

- 4087** 25 st. black & purple, Type I, a fine used example on 1882 cover from Shumen bilingually addressed to Constantinople, tied by 'Star in Circle' with bilingual CHUMLA datestamp at left in black (28/III). The cover slightly trimmed on opening but with fine Austrian Post Office 'Constantinopel' cds (10/4, gregorian) on reverse in black.

10



**350** (€ 315)

- 4088** 25 st. black & purple, a fine used example on 1882 cover from Widdin to Semil, Bohemia tied by both 'Star in Circle' obliterator and by WIDDIN bilingual datestamp in blue (6/X). Reverse with Vienna transit cds (20/10, gregorian) and Semil arrival cds of the following day.

10



**400** (€ 360)





4089



4090

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4089** 25 st. black & purple, two examples used on registered 1882 cover from Sofia to Vienna, tied by 'Star in Circle' in black with bilingual SOFIA datestamp at right (18/II) in black and framed bilingual RECOMMANDEE registration handstamp at right. Reverse with Vienna arrival cds (7/3, gregorian) in black. 25 st. international postage + 25 st. registration fee. A scarce cover.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2104.*

10

**600**

(€ 540)

- 4090** 25 st. black & purple, a horizontal pair used on registered 1882 cover from Lom Palanka to Vienna, tied by 'Star in Circle' in blue with bilingual LOM-PALANKA datestamp of despatch below (14/XII) and framed registration cachet at left. Reverse with Vienna arrival cds (30/12, gregorian). File fold and tiny acid ink scratch on front but a scarce and most attractive usage. Signed H. Bloch.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2103.*

10

**400**

(€ 360)



4091



4092

- 4091** 30 stotinki deep blue & deep brown, first order of 1881, a fine mint single example and a block of four, all Type I which predominates in the first order, fresh and fine, large part og., matched with second order (1882) 30 st. bright blue & paler brown, mint block of four with all stamps Type II showing 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', superb og., and a vertical pair from this order showing mixed Type I-II. A fine group.

11

**300**

(€ 270)

- 4092** 30 stotinki bright blue & paler brown, second order of 1882, mint block of four with all stamps Type II showing 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', with part interpanneau margin at left, fresh and fine, superb og.

11

**150**

(€ 135)



4093

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

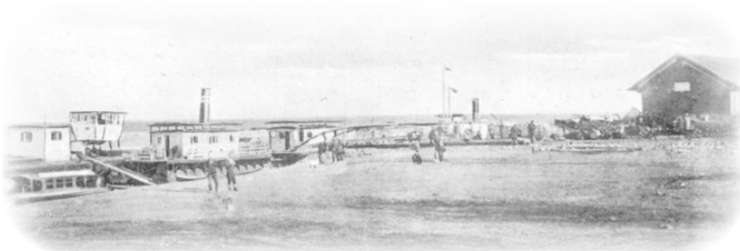
- 4093** 30 st. bright blue & paler brown, Type II, used example on 1884 registered cover from Shumen to Sofia tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterator with CHUMLA datestamp of despatch (22/1) alongside in black and framed RECOMMANDÉE handstamp at upper right. Reverse with bilingual SOPHIA datestamp (27/1) of arrival in black. Internal postage 15 st. + registration fee of 15 st. A fine and scarce cover.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2107.*

11



**500** (€ 450)



*View of Silistra*



4094

- 4094** 30 stotinki bright blue & pale brown, second order of 1882, Type II, a fine used example on 1885 registered cover from Silistria to Sofia tied by bilingual SILISTRIE datestamp (2/III) with framed RECOMMANDÉE bilingual handstamp alongside also struck, unusually, in blue ink. Reverse with bilingual SOPHIA arrival cds (6/III) in blue. A fine and scarce cover.

*Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2106.*



*Collection R. M. Stephens.*

11



**500** (€ 450)

# 1882 (Dec 4) The Third Definitive Issue

		Michel	Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4095	3 stotinki deep orange & pale yellow, first order, Type I, a complete pane of 25 from lower right pane on the sheet of 100, stamps 6 and 11 showing 'Gash in Left Margin' variety, stamp position 25 showing Lion's damaged right foot flaw, fresh and fine, superb og. (Photo =  www)	14	田*/**	150 (€ 135)
4096	3 stotinki orange & pale yellow, a complete sheet of 100 stamps, separated into two blocks of 50, probably from the first order as, in positions 6 and 11 of the lower left pane the outer vertical frame line flaws are absent. Position 6 in the upper left pane with Plate Flaw: 'Inner Oval Frameline Broken', a fresh and fine pair of multiples with large part or unmounted og., of great scarcity. (Photo =  www)	14	田*/**	250 (€ 225)



4097



4099



4098

4097	3 st. deep orange & pale yellow, first order, fine example used on 1883 complete 'Slav' Newspaper cancelled by neat bilinguall ROUSTCHOUK datestamp (8/XII) in black. Bilinguall SEVLIEVO arrival cds (11/XII) in blue. A fine example of the Printed Matter rate.	14	☒	150 (€ 135)
4098	3 st. deep orange & yellow, second order, fine example used on 1884 wrapper from Rustchuk to Lovech tied by neat bilinguall ROUSTCHOUK datestamp (24/XI) struck in blue.	14	☒	150 (€ 135)
4099	3 st. deep orange & yellow, pale shade on thin paper, used on 1884 'National Assembly' Newspaper from Tirnovo to Gorna Oriakhovitsa cancelled by 'Star in Circle' obliterator in dull blue with bilinguall TIRNOVO datestamp at right (15/VII).	14	☒	150 (€ 135)





4100

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4100** 3 st. deep orange & yellow, used example with variety: 'Background Inverted', neatly cancelled by 'Star in Circle' cancellation in black. A fine example of an extremely rare stamp. Signed A. Diena, P. Karaivanoff. Cert. A. Diena (1962) Scott 12a = \$ 4'000/Mi = € 3'500.

14K

**1'500** (€ 1'350)

- 4101** 5 stotinki green & pale green, the mint selection on album page with first order in deep green including a block of four (all Type I), second order in a more greyish green shade with mint examples (7) incl. a bluish green example, together with the third order printing incl. two blocks of four (all Type I), and fourth order with two blocks of four (one all Type II, the other with mixed Types), together with a fine single usage on a cover from Philippople. A superb selection.

(Photo = www)

15

**500** (€ 450)

4102



4103



4104

- 4102** 5 stotinki green & pale green, a superb mint pane of 25 from the sheet of 100 subjects, mixed Types with positions 2, 5, 6, 13, 18 and 21 being Type I and the balance Type II with 'Dot over Lion's Tongue', fresh and fine with full sheet and interpanneau margins, large part or unmounted og.

15

**250** (€ 225)

- 4103** 5 st. green & pale green (2 examples, one is Type II), used with second order 10 st. rose & pale rose (4 examples on thin paper), all used on reverse of 1884 registered cover to Colchester tied by bilingual VARNA datestamps (11/XII) in black. Colchester arrival cds alongside (Dec 27, gregorian) in black. A few opening tears at top but an attractive cover at single International registered rate.

15+ 16

**150** (€ 135)

- 4104** 5 st. deep green & green, Type II used with 10 st. deep rose and rose on reverse of 1885 cover from Berkovitsa to Sofia, tied by 'Star in Circle' obliterations with bilingual BERKOVIZA datestamp (21/I) in blue alongside. Front of cover bears SOFIA arrival cds (22/I) in black.

15+ 16

**150** (€ 135)



4105

Michel

<b>Start Price</b>	<b>Start price</b>
<b>in CHF</b>	<b>approx. €</b>

- 4105** 5 stotinki deep rose & rose, Error of Colour, a fresh mint example of excellent colour with large part og. An exceptional example of this great rarity in superb quality. Signed E. Diena  
 Scott 13a = \$ 3'000/Mi = € 3'600.

*Note: The error was discovered as early as October 1886, the first dated example however being November 13, 1886, with examples known used from both Sofia and Varna. As examples considered genuine are not from the same plate position these stamps are not likely to be from clichés misplaced in the sheets of 5 stotinki stamps, so it is eminently possible that the Sofia and Varna finds may represent two different error sheets.*

15F \* **1'500** (€ 1'350)

Beach scene by Varna



4106

- 4106** 5 st. deep rose & rose, Error of Colour, a fine example used in combination with the 10 st. rose & pale rose, tied to 1888 Zamikian cover sent registered to Cologne by VARNA datestamp (7/III) in black. Reverse with further 5 st. green & pale green and 30 st. violet & green making up the 50 st. registered rate. Slight rubbing to envelope and file fold away from the adhesives, reverse with Cöln arrival cds (10/4, gregorian). A most attractive usage of this rare error on letter. Cert. Mikulski (1990) Scott = \$ 4'000/€ 3'600+.

15F+ 14+  
16+ 17**2'000** (€ 1'800)





4107

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4107** 5 st. deep rose & rose, Error of Colour, a fine example with a Plate Flaw in the upper margin (above letter 'C') and on the 'E' of Bulgarian 'Five' in inner frame, used in combination with 10 st. deep rose & pale rose pair and single 25 st. deep blue & blue all tied by SOPHIA datestamps (12/IV) in black to registered cover to Senf in Leipzig. Registration cachet at right and reverse with 'Tsaribrod' transit cds (12/IV), Pirot (Serbia) cds of same day and Belgrade Railway Station cds alongside Leipzig arrival cds (25/4, gregorian). Ridiculous blue crayon arrow points to error with file folds away from the error, however, a very rare cover. Signed Holcombe.

*Note: A proving cover that the 5 stotinki Error of Colour was not a cliché error.*

*Provenance: Corinthila sale 72 (Sept 1985), lot 4341.*

15F+ 16+ 18



**2'000** (€ 1'800)

- 4108** 10 st. rose & pale rose (shades), album pages with the original printing in very deep bright shades unused (8) all Type I, second printing selection of June 1884 in pale rose shades (13, including a block of ten marginal from lower left pane), third order of printing of May 25, 1885 with stamps in a more 'orangey' shade unused (4) and 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) overprinted example, fourth order of August 26, 1886 with two blocks of four each showing mixed Types I and II, and an 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) overprinted example, together with two single franking usages. Generally fine, an attractive lot (23 items). (Photo = www)

16



**300** (€ 270)

- 4109** 15 stotinki reddish violet & pale lilac, album pages with the original printing in a very deep shade with pale background, single and block of four with mixed Type I and Type II, second order of June 26, 1884 in paler shades unused (4, incl. a Type II on thin paper), third order of May 25, 1885 in the more usually encountered shade of reddish violet in a complete pane of 25 from upper right of sheet unused (all stamps are Type I), and a complete pane in the same shade with mixed Types I and II from lower left of sheet and thus from a new plate - together with a single example with 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) overprint in blue; fourth order of Aug 26, 1886 in a dull shade with unused (6) incl. a block of four with mixed Types; also three covers to Austria, Turkey and USA. (Photo = www)

17



**400** (€ 360)





4110



4115



4113

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4110** 5 st. green on greenish postal stationery card sent registered to Sofia with 1901 2 st. and 3 st. and 1903 10 on 15 st., all tied on despatch by bilingual KNEZHA datestamps (24/II) with registration cachet above. On arrival the card was directed to the 'Postal Bureau in Sofia' either to insure delivery or because the address was insufficient. The Bureau applied a Large Lion 15 st. deep lilac-purple & violet rose which was tied by rare oval BUREAU DE POSTE bilingual cachet in violet. The card was delivered safely as it bears a '16' route marking on front. A rare posthumous usage of the Large Lion issue, demonetised to the public in 1901. 17+ 51+ 52+ 65a **400** (€ 360)
- 4111** 25 stotinki deep blue & blue, album pages with first order mint pane of 25 (all stamps Type I) from lower left of sheet and a fine cover to Trieste, second order of June 26, 1884 in slightly paler shades including 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) example, third order of May 25, 1885 printed in light blue with a block of four showing mixed Types, and fourth order with background plate in a yellowish hue with a block of four showing all stamps Type II; together with an 1889 'Récepissé A Renvoyer' (AR) form used from Shumen franked by 25 st. tied by bilingual CHUMLA cds used to London. (Photo = www) 18 **400** (€ 360)
- 4112** 30 stotinki violet & pale green, album page with first order mint (3), third order of May 25, 1885 with block of four with mixed Types I and II, (the 30 st. value was not included in the second order of 1884), fourth order of August 26, 1886 with light blue-green background with block of four (all Type I) and an 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) overprint example. (Photo = www) 19 **150** (€ 135)
- 4113** 30 st. violet & pale bluish green, fourth order, used on registered cover from Sofia to New York, in combination with block of four 5 st. deep green & pale green (fourth order) tied by bilingual SOPHIA No. 1 datestamps in blue (Jan 2), with two strikes of framed RECOMMANDEE registration cachet on front. Avricourt French entry mark in black (April 18, gregorian) and reverse with New York arrival (April 27) in violet. Sensibly opened for display, some aging but a scarce usage. 19+ 15 **250** (€ 225)
- 4114** 50 stotinki blue & pink (shades), album pages with first order in exceptionally deep blue shade with mixed Types in mint block of four, third order of May 25, 1885 in blue and bright rose with mint examples including a block of four (all Type I) and a fine registered usage to France, (the 50 st. value was not included in the second order of 1884), fourth order of August 26, 1886 in blue & rose with 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) overprinted example, mixed Types block of four used on piece and a bisected usage on cover from Philippople to Constantinople. A fine and scarce group (17 items). (Photo = www) 20 **500** (€ 450)
- 4115** 50 st. blue & pink used on double weight registered 1889 cover to Argentina in combination with 25 st. deep blue & blue, tied to reverse by single ring SOPHIA cds in black (I/XII). Obverse with further strike of despatch cds and registration cachet, reverse with Buenos Aires arrival cds (Jan 16, gregorian). Minor stain from intact red wax seal but an attractive cover to a most unusual destination. 20+ 18 **250** (€ 225)

# 1884 (May 1) - 1885 (April 5) The Provisional Overprints



4116



4117



4118



4119



4120

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

**4116** **1884 (May 1):** Typographed '3' in black on 10 st. rose & pale rose, a good unused example of this scarce stamp, couple of nibbed perfs. at left, otherwise fresh and fine, hinged with large part og. Signed Hitzler (2015) Scott 19 = \$ 240/Mi. = € 300.

21/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)

**4117** Typographed '5' in black on 30 st. blue & brown, a fresh unused example of excellent centering and colour, large part og. A very rare stamp. Signed Herbert Bloch, Karaivanoff. Scott 20A = \$ 2'800/Mi = € 3'500.

22/IF

\*

**1'000**

(€ 900)

**4118** Typographed '5' in red on 30 st. blue & brown, a fresh unused example of excellent centering and colour, large part og. A rare and much under-catalogued stamp. Signed Brun. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 20 = \$ 160/Mi. = € 200.

22/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)

**4119** Typographed '5' in red on 30 st. blue & brown, a fresh unused example centred to left, of rich colour, large part og. A rare and much under-catalogued stamp. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 20 = \$ 160/Mi. = € 200.

22/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)

**4120** Typographed '5' in red on 30 st. blue & brown, a fresh unused example of excellent centering and colour, part og. A rare and much under-catalogued stamp. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 20 = \$ 160/Mi. = € 200.

22/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)



4121

**4121** Typographed '5' in red on 30 st. blue & brown, single example used on 1885 cover with contents from Sofia to Svishtov, in combination with 1882 10 st. deep rose & rose tied by SOPHIA cds in black (27/IX). Reverse with flap damage but with bilingual Svishtov arrival cds in blue (2/X). Minor stain on front of envelope but a very rare usage of the provisional on a commercial internal cover Scott 20.

22/I+ 16

**1'000**

(€ 900)



4122



4123

- 4122** Typographed '15' in carmine on 25 st. blue & pale blue, a fine unused example of good colour, centred to base, large part og. A rare stamp, much under-catalogued. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 21 = \$ 175/Mi. = € 300.

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

23/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)

- 4123** Typographed '15' in carmine on 25 st. blue & pale blue, a fine unused example of good colour, centred to base, large part og. A rare stamp, much under-catalogued. Signed Köhler. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 21 = \$ 175/Mi. = € 300.

23/I

\*

**120**

(€ 110)



4125



4124



4126

- 4124** **1885 (April 5):** Lithographed '3' in black on 10 st. rose & pale rose, an unused block of four with some separation of perfs., blunted perf. in top right corner but of excellent colour and large part og. A very rare stamp in a multiple. Signed Zagorsky. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 21B = \$ 320+/Mi. = € 400+.

21/II

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**200**

(€ 180)

- 4125** Lithographed '3' in black on 10 st. rose & pale rose, a fresh unused example showing variety 'Overprint Double', a less clear partial example showing clearly at right and lower right, of excellent centering and colour, fresh and very fine, large part og. An outstanding example of a very rare stamp, discovered by Earl Galitz. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 21B var = unpriced/Mi. = unpriced.

21/II var

**750**

(€ 675)

- 4126** Lithographed '3' in black on 10 st. rose & pale rose, a fresh unused example variety 'Overprint Double', of excellent centering and colour, fresh and very fine, large part og. An outstanding example of a very rare stamp. Signed A. Diena. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 21B var = unpriced/Mi. = unpriced.


21/II var

\*

**1'500**

(€ 1'350)

- 4127** Lithographed '15' in red on 25 st. blue & pale blue, used examples (5), all genuine, all showing the backgrounds partially misplaced, each cancelled by 'Star in Circle' in black. A fine and scarce assembly Scott 21D = \$ 400/Mi. = € 520.

(Photo =  www)

23/II

**180**

(€ 160)

*The starting prices in our catalogues are in Swiss Francs (CHF); 1 CHF = approx. 0.90 EUR resp. 1 EUR = approx. 1.10 CHF - 100 CHF = approx. 90 EUR / 1'000 CHF = approx. 900 EUR (corresponding to the average exchange rate as per end of April 2016). Invoices will be issued in CHF only.*

***Start prices in Euro (EUR) indicated in the catalogues are only for information.  
For your written bids kindly use ALWAYS Swiss Francs (CHF)!***





View of Vratza



4128

Michel

Start Price in CHF    Start price approx. €

- 4128** Lithographed overprint '15' in red on 1882 25 st. deep blue & blue, a fine example used on 1886 cover from Vratsa to Sofia tied by bilingual VRATZA datestamp (19/V) in black. Reverse with single ring bilingual SOPHIA cds of receipt (21/V) in black. An extraordinary cover, purportedly written in the hand of Princess Riaka, heroine of the April 1876 uprising against Ottoman rule in Panagyurishte. Excessively rare commercial usage of this issue because replacement stamps (the third order) of the 15 stotinki value had already been received in May 1885.

23/II



**2'500** (€ 2'250)



4130




4129



4131

		Michel		Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4129	Lithographed '50' on 1879 1 fr. black & carmine, a superb used block of four lightly cancelled at 'Svishtov', hinges to protect the multiple, fresh and very fine. An extremely scarce stamp in a multiple (just 5'000 issued), more especially so in used condition. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 22 = \$ 1'500/Mi. = € 3'000+.				
4130	Lithographed overprints, the set of four values, (the '15' on 25 st. is re-gummed), otherwise all fresh and fine with large part og. Scarce set. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott = \$ 850+/Mi = € 1'080.	24/II	田	750	(€ 675)
4131	Lithographed '3' in black on 10 st. rose & pale, '5' in red on 30 st. blue & brown and '15' in red on 25 st. blue & pale blue with rounded corner at lower left, the set of three values fine unused, all overprinted "Obr." (Obrasetz = Specimen) in black ink. Fresh and very fine, a scarce set and very useful reference. Opinion Hitzler (2015).	21/II-24/II 23/II Spec	* *	220 300	(€ 200) (€ 270)

1881 - 1886 Large Lion - the Balance of the Collection on exhibit leaves

4132	1881/86: Large Lion, the balance of the collection on Exhibit leaves, with 1881 3st. and 5 st. overprinted OBRASETZ (Specimen), 5 st. black & yellow unused (16) including a strip of five, 10 st. black & green unused (7) and three examples used on a cover front, rare 25 st. black & reddish lilac unused (7), 1882 masculine 1 st. and 2 st. in unused blocks of four and 2 st. on cover, 3 st. orange & yellow overprinted OBRASETZ and in unused multiples of four (3), nine, interpanneau block of 20 and a pane of 25; 5 st. green & grey-green overprinted OBRASETZ and used examples on cards, 25 st. blue & deep blue on covers (2), 30 st. overprinted OBRASETZ and 1886 feminine 1 st. and 2 st. in unused multiples etc. Viewing recommended (items 44 + 12 covers/cards) Scott 6-26 = \$ 7'000+/Mi = € 8'500+. (Photo =  www)	6-26		1'500	(€ 1'350)
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Eastern Rumelia



4133



View of Burgas

4133	1880: Stampless registered cover from Burgas to Plovdiv (Philippople), sent registered with Russian POSHTA / BURGAS datestamp struck in green (6/V) over struck by straight line FRANCO with small case RECOMMANDEE registration handstamp alongside. Reverse with fine Russian POSHTA / PLOVDIV cds of receipt in green with red wax seal intact alongside. Rare.			1'500	(€ 1'350)
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4134



4135

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4134** 1881: Large piece with 'R.O.' overprint on Turkey 1876 2 pi. black & yellow-brown in a vertical pair, used in combination with 1880 20 pa. black on rose paper, perf. 13½, two examples, all tied by Russian POSHTA / PLOVDIV datestamps in blue. Rare. Signed A. Diena.

3+ 8A

△

**150**

(€ 135)

- 4135** 1881: 10 pa. black & green, perf. 13½, a fine used example paying the internal rate on 1883 formula card from Aitos to Plovdiv tied by circular twelve bar grid obliterator with bilingual AITOS datestamp (28/VIII) in blue. Philippople arrival cds (30/VIII) in greenish blue ink at right.

7A

✉

**150**

(€ 135)



4136

- 4136** 1881: 20 pa. black on rose, perf. 13½, single example used on 1881 entire letter from Stara Zagora to Plovdiv, neatly tied by Russian POSHTA / STARA ZAGARA datestamp (28/II) in blue (year slug is erroneous with '80' for '81'), with repeated strike above. Reverse with Russian POSHTA / PLOVDIV arrival cds in blue. A fine and very rare entire. Provenance: Collection Franz See, Corinthila sale 62 (May 1979), lot 2206.

8A

✉

**750**

(€ 675)



4137



4138

- 4137** 1884: 5 pa. violet, perf. 11½, single example used on local (probably contained a Christmas card) cover within Plovdiv tied by triangular City Post handstamp in blue with 'Philippople' datestamp (2/XII) in blue below. Fresh and fine, a scarce usage.

11B

✉

**200**

(€ 180)

- 4138** 1884: 10 pa. green & yellow green, perf. 11½, two examples used on 1885 formula card to pay the foreign card rate, addressed from Yambol to Arthur Maury in Paris each tied by circular twelve bar grid obliterator with bilingual POSTE YAMBOL datestamp (20/II) datestamp in blue below. Reverse with Constantinople transit cds and Paris arrival cds in black. Interesting list to the famous philatelic dealer on reverse stating that the writer has Guadalajara Provisionals for sale or exchange. A scarce and attractive usage.

12B

✉

**200**

(€ 180)



# Independent South Bulgaria 1885 (Sept 8) Unframed Lion Overprints



4139



4142

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4139** Lion overprints in blue 5 pa. lilac, perf. 11½ (Type II), 5 pa. black & olive, perf. 13½ (Type I) and 10 pa. green & yellow green, perf. 11½ (Type I), used on 1885 formula reply card from Plovdiv addressed to J. B. Moens in Brussels, tied by 'Philippople' datestamps in black (9/IX). Sofia transit cds on reverse in black and front with Brussels arrival cds (Oct 18, gregorian) together with Postman's route number marking. A splendid and rare early usage in the fourth week of issue.

13/IAa+ 14/  
IIBba+ 16/  
IBa



**500** (€ 450)

- 4140** Lion overprint in blue on 5 pa. lilac on pale lilac, perf. 11½, Type I, a fine mint block of 15 (5 x 3) with large part og., very scarce mint block of four with overprint inverted with large part og. (signed Bloch), and a single usage on formula card used locally in Plovdiv, tied by circular twelve barred obliterator with PHILIPPOPLE datestamp (25/IX/85) in blue below (signed Friedl). A fine and scarce group Scott 27a.

(Photo = www)

14/IBa



**300** (€ 270)



ex 4141

- 4141** Lion overprint in blue on 5 pa. lilac on pale lilac, perf. 11½, Type II, a fine mint block of six of good colour and large part og. (signed Deilakis) single example overprinted 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) in red (signed Thier) and a single usage on formula card used locally in Plovdiv, tied by PHILIPPOPLE datestamp (2-/IX/85) in blue (signed Friedl). A fine and scarce group Scott 27.

14/IIAa



**300** (€ 270)

- 4142** Lion overprint in blue on 5 pa. lilac, perf. 11½, Type I (two examples, one with perfs. at top trimmed), 10 pa. green & yellow green, perf. 11½, overprinted in black Type I, 20 pa. rose & pale rose, perf. 11½, overprinted in black Type II and 1 pi. black & pale blue, perf. 13½, overprinted in blue, Type I all used on reverse of 1885 cover to Sofia; tied by circular twelve bar grid in blue with bilingual PHILIPPOPLE datestamp alongside (18/IX) and Sophia arrival cds alongside (20/IX) in black. Edge wear to envelope but a remarkable and colourful franking.

14/IBa+ 16/  
IIBb+ 17/  
IIBa



**400** (€ 360)



4143



4145

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4143** Distressed reply half of formula card franked by extremely rare 20 pa. black & red, perf. 13½, overprinted Lion in blue, Type 1, tied by 'Sophia' cds in black, addressed back to Plovdiv. Despite the condition a card of great scarcity and probably unique Scott 22 = unpriced/  
Mi = unpriced.

17/1Aa

**200**

(€ 180)



4144



4146

- 4144** Lion overprint in black on 20 pa. rose on dull rose, perf. 11½, Type I, a fine mint block of 25, fresh and fine with hinges to prevent the typical separation common with the issue, large part og. Signed H. Bloch Scott 32a = \$ 1'375/Mi = € 1'250.
- 4145** Lion overprints in black and in blue on 20 pa. rose on dull rose, perf. 11½, two examples, left hand stamp optd. in black (Type I), right hand in blue (Type II), used on 1885 cover from Plovdiv to Hadji Elles (Purvomai) tied by 'Philippople' datestamp (12/IX) in blue, reverse with 'Hadji Elles' arrival cds in blue. Slight corner fault to envelope at lower left, carried at the correct internal rate of 1 piastre, a scarce and most unusual cover.
- 4146** Lion overprints in blue on 20 pa. rose on dull rose, perf. 11½, Type II, a fresh and fine mint block of four, of good colour and large part og. Scarce. Signed Mikulski Scott 29 = \$ 1'100/Mi = € 1'000.
- 4147** Lion overprint in black on 20 pa. rose on dull rose, perf. 11½, Type II, a single mint example overprinted 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) and an irregular mint block of 74, the first stamp showing variety 'Double Overprint'. Fresh and fine and a rare large multiple, large part og Scott 32 = \$ 4'070/Mi = € 3'700.

18/1Bb 田\*/\*\*

**300**

(€ 270)

18/1Ba+ 18/  
11Ba**400**

(€ 360)

18/11Ba

**300**

(€ 270)

18/11Bb

**650**

(€ 585)

(Photo = www)





4148



Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

- 4148** Lion overprint in blue on 20 pa. rose on dull rose, perf. 11½, Type II, used on formula card from Plovdiv to London paying the international card rate, tied by bold strike of bilingual PHILIPPOLE datestamp (13/IX) in blue, the card also handstamped by the 'Lion' Type II in blue at top, reverse with bilingual SOPHIA transit cds in black and interesting message: *'Mon Cher Ami, J'ai l'honneur vous faire savoir, que d'apres une revoulution en province & Philippople, le 6/18 Septembre est proclamé l'Union de la Roumelie avec la Bulgarie. Les timbres-poste, comme vous pouvez voir, sont surchargés avec Lion de Bulgarie. Votre tout dévoué, S. Georgieff, Philippople 10/22 Septembre '85.'* Fascinating card, the adhesive used on the fifth day of issue.

18/IIBa



**400** (€ 360)



4149

- 4149** Lion overprint in blue on 1 pi. black on pale blue, perf. 13½, Type I, a horizontal pair used on reverse of 1885 registered cover from Sliven to Prague, tied by circular twelve bar grid obliterator in blue. Front with bilingual POSTE SLIVNO datestamp (20/IX, with day date slug inverted) and straight line RECOMMANDEE, reverse with superb bilingual OSMAN-BAZAR (now Omurtag) datestamp in blue (23/IX) of transit. Some staining from removal of red wax seals and hinge remnants on front, but a remarkable and rare cover, correctly rated for international postage of 1 piastre + 1 pi. registration. Signed Thier Scott 23.

19/IAa



**500** (€ 450)





4150



Michel

Start Price  
in CHF Start price  
approx. €

- 4150** Lion overprint in black on 1 pi. black on pale blue, perf. 13½, Type II, single example used on 1885 cover from Pechtera to Plovdiv tied by PECHTERA datestamp (21/IX) in blue (Pechtera never used the circular twelve bar grid cancellation), with arrival on reverse of 'Philippople' datestamp struck in black. File fold well away from the adhesive, a scarce cover. Signed Thier Scott 25a.

19/IIAb

**250** (€ 225)

4151



4152

- 4151** Lion overprint in black on 5 pi. red & pale blue, perf. 13½, a fine unused horizontal example overprinted Lion Type I in blue in a clear impression, fresh colour, one or two slight tone spots on gum and minor hinge thin but with large part og. An extremely scarce stamp. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 24a = \$ 725/Mi = € 500.

20/IIAa

**200** (€ 180)

- 4152** Lion overprint in black on 5 pi. red & pale blue, perf. 13½, a fine unused horizontal pair, overprinted Lion Type II in black in a clear impression, fresh colour, one or two slight tone spots on gum but with large part og. Extremely scarce, especially so in a multiple: Earl Galitz was of the opinion that the 5 piastre values were probably of Proof status. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 26 = \$ 1'350+/Mi = € 1'200+.

20/IIAb

**500** (€ 450)

- 4153** The balance of the Exhibit collection on leaves with unframed Lion overprints on 5 pa. lilac with unused example and an unused example on formula card; 10 pa. green optd. Type 1 in black in a block of 25 unused; 10 pa. green in a block of 100 stamps (a few with defects), all overprinted in blue with stamp 70 showing double overprint, a further block of 15 and a single overprinted 'Obr.' (Obrasetz = Specimen) in red ink; two postal stationery formula cards franked by 10 pa. green from Pechtera and Philippople; 1 pi. with Type 1 opt. in black in blocks of 10 and 15 unused and a single optd. 'Obr.' in red ink etc.

(Photo = www)

13-19 \*

**500** (€ 450)

# Independent South Bulgaria 1885 (Sept 11) Framed Lion Overprints



4154



4155



4157

Michel

Start Price  
in CHFStart price  
approx. €

- 4154** Framed Lion overprint in black on 5 pa. black on olive, perf. 11½, Type I, a used example cancelled by part circular twelve bard grid obliterator in blue. This stamp was not regularly issued but was removed from pre-stamped formula cards. Rare. Signed H. Bloch, Thier Scott 33a = \$ 250/Mi = unpriced.

21/IB

\*

**150**

(€ 135)

- 4155** Framed Lion overprint in black on 5 pa. black on olive, perf. 11½, Type I overprint inverted, a used example cancelled by part circular 'Sliven' datestamp in blue. This stamp was not regularly issued but was removed from pre-stamped formula cards. Rare. Signed H. Bloch, Thier Scott 33a var = unpriced/Mi = unpriced.

21/IB var

**200**

(€ 180)



ex 4156



4159



ex 4160

- 4156** Framed Lion overprint in black on 5 pa. lilac on pale lilac, perf. 11½, Type I, a mint block of four, hinged to avoid separation, with large part og. (signed Calves, Bloch), together with two examples overprinted 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) in red manuscript, one horizontal (signed Thier), one vertical. Scarce and very fine group Scott 38b = \$ 900+/Mi = € 800+.  
*Note: All examples of the Specimen overprint on the 5 para were provided on stamps of this perforation.*

22/IB

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**200**

(€ 180)

- 4157** Framed Lion overprint in black on 5 pa. black on olive, perf. 13½, Type II, a fine unused example of good colour and part og. A rare stamp - most were applied direct to formula cards. Signed Bloch, Kosack Scott 33 = \$ 300/Mi = unpriced.

21/IIA

\*

**200**

(€ 180)

- 4158** Framed Lion overprint in black on 10 pa. green & yellow green, perf. 11½, Type I, a complete sheet of 100 stamps, in an early state of the overprint with shading present in the Lion's claws, fresh and very fine multiple, usual splitting but with large part og. Possibly the sole sheet now in existence Scott 39 = \$ 2'900/Mi = € 2'500. (Photo = www)

24/IB

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**600**

(€ 540)

- 4159** Framed Lion overprint in black on 20 pa. black & rose-red, perf. 11½, Type I, a fine mint block of four of excellent colour and freshness, large part og. Despite catalogue prices, a much scarcer stamp unused than used as many were applied to formula cards Scott 35a = \$ 540/Mi = € 480.

25/IA

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**150**

(€ 135)

- 4160** Framed Lion overprint 20 pa. black & deep rose, perf. 13½, Type II, a fresh mint block of four with large part og. but some toned perfs. on reverse, also two usages on formula cards: one from Turnovo Seimen addressed to the dealer Karapirov and tied by superb bilingual T. SEYMEN datestamp in blue (18/IX/85), the other sent registered from Sliven to Plovdiv tied by bold strike of POSTE SLIVNO datestamp (27/IX/85) in blue with Eastern Roumelian RECOMMANDEE at left. A scarce group Scott 35.

25/IIA

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**350**

(€ 315)



4163



4161



4164

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF

Start price  
approx. €

- 4161** Framed Lion overprint in black on 1 pi. black on pale blue, perf. 11½, Type I, a fresh mint block of four with large part og., together with an example with variety: 'Inverted Overprint', further overprinted 'Obrasetz' (Specimen) in red manuscript (signed Thier). Scarce Scott 36 = \$ 350+/Mi = € 300+.

27/IA

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**150** (€ 135)

4162

- 4162** Framed Lion overprint in black on 1 pi. black & pale blue, perf. 13½, Type I, a fine vertical pair used on reverse of 1885 cover from Plovdiv to Senf in Leipzig tied by bilingual PHILIPPOLE datestamp (30/IX) in black, with Sophia transit cds alongside (I/X) in black and Leipzig arrival (18/10, gregorian). Obverse with straight line RECOMMANDEE and further strike of the Philippole datestamp. Correct rate of 1 pi. postage + 1 pi. registration, an attractive and very rare cover. Scott 36.

27/IA

✉

**750** (€ 675)

- 4163** Framed Lion overprint in black on 5 pi. red on blue, perf. 11½, Type I, a mint example, corner bend, with large part, somewhat aged og. This stamp was not regularly issued and appears to have a doubled overprint. Rare. Signed Friedl, Saatchi, Thier. Cert. RPS (1955) Scott 37 = \$ 2'500/Mi = € 1'500.

28/IA

\*

**400** (€ 360)

- 4164** Lion overprint in black on 5 pi. red & pale blue, perf. 13½, a fine unused horizontal pair, overprinted Type II in black in a clear impression, fresh colour, one or two slight tone spots on gum but with large part og. Extremely scarce, especially so in a multiple: Earl Galitz was of the opinion that the 5 piastre values were probably of Proof status. Opinion Hitzler (2015) Scott 37a = unpriced/Mi = € 4'000.

28/IIA

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**500** (€ 450)

- 4165** 1885 (Sept 11): Small collection on Exhibit leaves with framed Lion overprint on 5 pa. lilac, perf. 13½ in an unused block of 12 and a single example with black overprint inverted; Type II overprint on 5 pa. in an unused block of 25; 10 pa. green with 'Obr.' (Obrasetz = Specimen) in violet manuscript, 10 pa. green in unused blocks of four and six with singles with opt. Inverted variety (one signed Thier), inverted overprint example used on formula card from Tartar Pazardzhik to Philippople; 20 pa. red with an unused block of 15 and singles with upright and inverted overprints with 'Obr.' in manuscript etc.

(Photo = www)

22+ 23+ 26

✉田

**250** (€ 225)



# Postal History and Stamp usages of the Unification



4166

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4166** **South Bulgaria** 1884: Eastern Roumelia 10 pa. black & green, perf. 13½, a fine used example used in South Bulgaria and tied to 1885 formula card from Pechtera to Sofia by PECHTERA datestamp in green (14/IX). A scarce if philatelic usage - many of these cards were ruined by budding forgers inserting Lion overprints. Scarce and most attractive usage.

7A      250      (€ 225)



4167



Alexander I of Bulgaria

- 4167** **South Bulgaria** 1885: Stampless Military concession cover from Plovdiv to Turnovo Seimen struck at right with two circular Military cachets, one of the Plovdiv Military Command and the other of the Military Command Supply Office, struck with PHILIPPOPLE datestamp (II/XI) in black. Some graffiti at lower left and creased in centre but of great scarcity. South Bulgarian Troops were awaiting an attack from Ottoman Turks which, in the event, never materialised. A very rare cover.

*Note: In September 1885 Nationalists mounted a coup in Eastern Roumelia and united their country with Bulgaria. Milan Obrenoviv IV of Serbia declared War on Bulgaria three days after this cover was mailed. The Serbs were defeated by Alexander I at the Battle of Slivnitsa three days later, on November 17-19, 1885.*

1'000      (€ 900)



*Bulgarian troops storming the city of Pirot in 1885*



4168

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF      Start price  
approx. €

- 4168** **Serbo-Bulgarian War 1885:** Stampless Military concession cover from Plovdiv to Pirot, Serbia struck with large blue circular cachet of the 'Chief of Staff of the Eastern Corps', with superb PHILIPPOPLE despatch cds in black (19/XII) and reverse with superb strikes of '1st. Mobile Military Postal Station' and two strikes of biligual PIROT undated arrival, both in blue. A remarkable cover from the successful War against the Serbian Army, mailed to Bulgarian occupied Serbia.

*Note: The Treaty of Bucharest (March 3, 1886), formally concluded the War and the boundaries between the two countries reverted to those of pre-War lines, however Bulgaria remained the stronger after the re-unification with Eastern Roumelia.*



**2'500** (€ 2'250)



4169



Imperial Ottoman Post Office in Constantinople

Michel

Start Price  
in CHF Start price  
approx. €

- 4169 Retaliatory Postage Due 1882:** 25 st. deep blue & blue, single example used on 1887 cover from Kazanlik to Constantinople tied POSTE KAZANLUK Eastern Rumelian datestamp in blue (27/IV). Ottoman 'T' marking on front and taxed on arrival in Constantinople with Turkey 1884 1 pi. blue (Mi. 84) tied by blue 'Constantinople / Arrivee' datestamp (May 12, gregorian). A fresh and fine cover.

*Note: Turkish-Bulgarian War. Differences regarding the Topkhane Convention of April 5, 1886 led to Ottoman Turkey refusing to accept mail from the the former South Bulgaria as valid, and for several years such mail was taxed on arrival.*

18 300 (€ 270)



4170



4171

- 4170 South Bulgaria 1886:** Eastern Rumelia formula card used from Tatar Pazardzhik to Sofia with perforated Official postal seal of the former South Bulgarian Government in black on white wove paper, tied by T. PAZARDJIK datestamp (13/XI/86) in black. The seal was actually used as a 'Postal Fraud' and apparently accepted (as no tax was raised), however the card's message is private, dealing with the despatch of 200 grams of fish roe for a requested price of 'eight grush (Ottoman piastres) in our money', presumably indicating that the sender did not wish for payment in the recently re-introduced Bulgarian currency. The card with a vertical repaired crease but very rare. Signed Holcombe.

350 (€ 315)

- 4171 A souvenir of the Unification 1892 (Nov 29):** Autographed note written in Bulgarian 'On the 5th Anniversary of Freedom as necessary for the well-being of the People' to commemorate the unification of Bulgaria and the establishment of the reign of Prince Ferdinand I, written and signed by Stefan Stambolov, who as Chairman of the Parliament of the Principality engineered the unification. He was assassinated in 1895 in Sofia, possibly under orders from Prince Ferdinand.


*Note: Earl Galitz used this piece at the base of the first page of his Exhibit.*

150 (€ 135)



# The Unified State

Michel      **Start Price**      *Start price*  
in CHF      approx. €

- 4172**      1887 (Jan 1): 1 leva black & red, album page with mint pairs showing Types I and II set-tenant (2), mint example with Plate Flaw 'Damaged' 'B' in 'Bulgaria' and an 1887 cover carried at triple rate registered to Nikolsburg, Austria tied by bilingual SOPHIA datestamps (7/II) in blue with Nikolsburg arrival cds below. Slight repair at top but a scarce early usage of this adhesive in the second month of issue.      (Photo =  www)

27

**500**      (€ 450)



4173

- 4173**      1886/87: Imperforate Proof pair on soft thin white wove paper, without value tablets, printed in the colour of the first issue 10 centimes / stotinki black & shades of green, showing the '\*' in corners as used for the design of the 1879 1 franc and 1886 1 leva value, a fresh and fine pair.


*Note: This and the following two lots were probably printed in Vienna and ordered by the government of Stefan Stambolov after the contract for the Russian printed stamps was terminated. The colours are those of the first two issues. The unification of North and South of Bulgaria generated much political intrigue leading to the forced abdication of Prince Alexander; a split between Bulgaria and Russia and the eventual choice of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha as Prince of Bulgaria on August 2, 1887. There is some conjecture as to the date of these Proofs, whether they be for 1879 or as late as 1886, however we offer them where they were placed in Earl Galitz's Exhibit.*

Proof      (\*)      **2'000**      (€ 1'800)



4174

- 4174**      1886/87: Imperforate Proof block of four, corner marginal, on soft thin greyish blued wove paper, without value tablets, printed in the colour of the first issue 25 centimes / stotinki black & shades of purple, showing the '\*' in corners as used for the design of the 1879 1 franc and 1886 1 leva value. An exceptionally rare multiple in immaculate condition.

Proof       (\*)      **4'000**      (€ 3'600)



4175

		Michel		Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4175	1886/87: Imperforate Proof block of four, on soft thin greyish blued wove paper, without value tablets, printed in the colour of the first issue 1 franc black & shades of red, showing the '*' in corners as utilised for the design of the 1879 1 franc and 1886 1 leva value. An exceptionally rare multiple in immaculate condition. Cert. RPS (2003). <i>Note: The certificate states the Proof to be from 1879.</i>				
		Proof	田(*)	<b>4'000</b>	(€ 3'600)
4176	1888: 'Vienna Imperforate Essays' for the Small Lion issue, the collection on leaves showing Ferdinand I within the border of the Large Lion issues, with scarce single examples on gummed yellowish paper in brown, orange, rose and carmine; unused examples on the same paper in pairs in pale blue, red and a single in orange; in sheetlets of eight in pale blue, carmine, brown, orange, green and violet. A delightful and scarce group. (Photo =  www)	Essays	田*/(*)	<b>600</b>	(€ 540)
4177	1889: Colour Trials for proposed Small Lion issue imperforate, the superb collection on Exhibit leaves with bicoloured examples of the 1 st. (6) including a pair all with issued colour (mauve) background; 2 st. (7) incl. a pair all with issued colour (grey) background, further 2 st. Colour Trials (32) with a variety of coloured backgrounds incl. four blocks of four; 3 st. (6) incl. a pair all with issued colour (brown) background; 5 st. (11) incl. a pair and a block of four all with issued colour (green) background, further 5 st. Colour Trials (19) with various coloured backgrounds; 10 st. (6) incl. a pair all with issued colour (red) background; 15 st. (6) incl. a pair all with issued colour (orange) background; 25 st. (6) incl. a pair all with issued colour (blue) background; 50 st. (8) all with background in grey; together with single-colour Trials for 2 st. (3), 5 st. (12) and a single 50 st.; 1 st. perf. 13 Proof block of four printed in black etc. A beautiful and scarce group (102 items). (Photo =  www)	28/37 Colour Trials	田*	<b>750</b>	(€ 675)
4178	1898/1901: Small Lions collection on leaves with Paris printing 1889 set of ten values overprinted SPECIMEN in black for the UPU, 1892/93 5 st. green imperforate unused, and rare perf. 10½ unused (Mi 31B), two examples of scarce 15 st. orange perf. 11 unused (Mi 33C), 5 st. yellow green unused perf. 11½ and pairs showing imperforate between vertically and horizontally unused (Mi 31Db and 31Db var), 10 st. rose perf. 11½ x imperforate from left of sheet, Sofia printing imperforate pairs in issued colours from 1 st. to 25 st. (7) unused, together with seven pages from the Bustamente collection including issued multiples. A fascinating lot. (Photo =  www)	28-34	田*	<b>750</b>	(€ 675)

To have a better chance of being successful as a postal bidder we recommend setting a limit for the total amount of your purchases (excl. 20% buyers premium): for example, bidding on a range of lots with a total amount of CHF 10'000 and setting a limit of CHF 7'500 for your purchases means that the total for lots knocked down to you will not exceed the limit you have set. We know from experience that postal bidders are rarely successful on all lots. On the other hand, you might have been interested in other lots as well, but not knowing which lots would be knocked down to you and being worried to spend more than a certain amount, you did not bid on them. Giving a total purchase limit (see also the Bid Form in this catalogue) enables you to have a better chance of being a more successful postal bidder!

# The first three Postage Due issues



4179



4180

Michel		Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
P1A	田*	1'000	(€ 900)
P2A	田*	400	(€ 360)

- 4179** Postage Due 1884 (July 1): 5 st. orange, lozenge perf.  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ , an unused block of four in a deep shade, fresh and fine, with large part og. A very rare stamp in a multiple. Signed Zagorsky Scott J1 = \$ 3'500+/Mi = € 4'400+.
- 4180** Postage Due 1884 (July 1): 25 st. lake-red, lozenge perf.  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ , an unused block of four in a deep shade, fresh and fine, with large part og. A rare multiple. Signed Zagorsky Scott J2 = \$ 1'300+/Mi = € 1'600+.



4181

- 4181** Postage Due 1886: Stampless cover mailed from Vidin to Sofia with obverse showing bilingual WIDDIN cds in blue (24/XII) and circular 'T' marking in black, reverse with internal rate collected (double the deficiency) by 1884 25 st. lake-red lozenge perf.  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$  and 1886 5 st. orange imperf. tied by two strikes of Sofia cds in black (25/XII). Some minor edge wear but a scarce cover.

P2A+ P4	✉	300	(€ 270)
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		Michel	Start Price in CHF	Start price approx. €
4182	1884 (July 1): Postage Due, the collection on Exhibit leaves with 5 st. orange unused (2) and 5 st. yellow unused (7) including a pair and a rare block of four, 1885 underpaid cover from Rustchouk to Lovech with a 5 st. yellow pair, 25 st. lake-red unused (9) including a block of four and an 1884 stampless cover from Tartar Pajardjik to Varna with 5 st. and 25 st. cancelled at Varna, 50 st. blue with unused shades (24) including four blocks of four unused. A superb lot Scott J1/J3 = \$ 12'000+/Mi = € 15'000+.			
	(Photo =  www)	P1/P3	✉️*	3'500 (€ 3'150)
4183	1885/86: Imperforate Postage Due issue, the outstanding collection on Exhibit leaves with 5 st. orange with five single examples and a rare block of four unused, 25 st. lake-red singles from Plate 1 unused (3) together with a single example used on underpaid 1890 cover; 25 st. lake-red single and rare block of four unused from Plate 2 and 50 st. blue (shades) with single examples (5) from Plate 1 unused and two blocks of four unused together with a taxed cover (O'Connor correspondence) with a single example on short paid cover from London from Plate 2. A magnificent collection Scott J4/J6 = \$ 9'000+/Mi = € 10'000+.			
	(Photo =  www)	P4/P6	✉️*	2'000 (€ 1'800)
4184	Postage Due 1887 (Oct 10): 5 st. orange, 25 st. lake and 50 st. deep blue, perf. 11½, the set of three values each overprinted SPECIMEN in black upon receipt from the UPU, issued set perf. 11½ in unused blocks of four (the 5 st. is corner marginal), 25 st. lake perf. 11½ x lozenge perf. used and 50 st. mis-perforated and used on piece at Varna. A fine and interesting page Scott J7/J9 = \$ 400+/Mi = € 500+.			
	(Photo =  www)	P7/P9	△️*	200 (€ 180)

## Revenues

4185	<b>Revenues</b> 1879/83: Exhibit album pages with 1879 10 c. black & green postage (Mi 2) used with 'Varna Regional Administration' cachet in black (apparently unique), 1879 20 c. ultramarine unused and a used example cancelled at Rustchuk, 25 c. brown used for DDSG parcels unused (2) with differing compound perforations and a used example cancelled at the Rustchuk DDSG Office in blue; together with 1883 10 st. grey-green unused and used (4) cancelled at Akhielo, Lom Palanka, Silistria and Vidin; 15 st. black unused and a used example cancelled at Shumen (Sumnu), 20 st. ultramarine in a horizontal pair unused and used examples (2) cancelled at Rustchuk and at Sofia. A rare selection, the unused examples being of great rarity and all ex Baron Ferrari de la Renotière.			
	(Photo =  www)		750	(€ 675)



4186

4186	<b>Postal Money Order</b> 1886: Postal Note with Large Lion 5 st. printed in black at top left (payment for the form) for 1892 money transfer of 1 leva from Sofia (in manuscript at top right) cancelled on despatch with SOPHIA datestamp (11/VI) in black. Apparently the amount was left unclaimed as not cancelled in the framed acceptance box at left. An unusual form.			
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✉️ 200 (€ 180)