

Brazil

Brazil holds the distinction of being the second country to issue stamps for nationwide use after Great Britain. Although the 1842 City Despatch Post stamps issued in New York City and the 1843 Zurich Cantonal stamps preceded Brazil's 1843 Bull's Eye issue, those stamps were never distributed through national post offices for general use. Therefore, Brazil holds a valid claim of being the first country in the Americas and the second country in the world to issue stamps for use by all of its citizens.

From the philatelist's perspective, Brazil offers a relatively large quantity of material, including single stamps, multiples and covers. In this respect, Brazil differs from its neighboring countries. There are today two major collections of Bull's Eye issues competing in international exhibitions, a circumstance which would be quite impossible in many other areas of South American philately.

The highlight of the Islander collection is, of course, the famous "Pack Strip," which is described in detail in this sale catalogue (pages 13-19). This remarkable item is ranked among the Top Ten items in worldwide philately, and within Brazil it is number one among the three most important items. The three most valuable Aristocrats of Brazil are the Pack Strip, the Complete Bull's Eye Set Cover, and the complete sheet of sixty of the 60-reis Bull's Eye from the large plate.

In October 2007 the Geneva-based auction firm of David Feldman S.A. sold the Complete Set cover, the highlight of the Meyer collection, for the record price of €824,000 (US \$1,162,000). The 60-reis sheet is now a significant cornerstone of Luis Alemany's Grand Prix exhibit collection. And, of course, the Pack Strip will be offered on June 5 as the highlight of the Islander collection.

It is a peculiar circumstance that no collector at any time in history has owned more than one of these three top items of Brazil. However, the sale of the Complete Set cover and offering of the Pack Strip make that an achievable goal.



*The Complete Set cover, bearing all three values of the Bull's Eye issue, sold by David Feldman S.A. in October 2007 for €824,000 (US \$1,162,000)
Photo courtesy of David Feldman*