

Inverted Jenny stamp panes

by John Walter

At the stamp show in July the Nevada Stamp Study Society had 50 panes of the Inverted Jenny stamp for sale. Last year the USPS did not bring any of the panes to sell and many attendees asked for them. So the stamp club made sure they were available this year. The NSSS ordered the panes from the USPS online, so they were sent from the Stamp Fulfillment Center. The order was placed in June.



Upright Jenny pane sold at auction in 2014 for \$51,750.

Then in July, *Linn's Stamp News* had an article from the inspector general of the USPS sharply criticizing the agency's creation of the 100 panes of upright Jenny Invert stamps that were supposed to be randomly distributed along with the 2.2 million normal \$2 Jenny Invert panes in 2013.

The report, issued July 15, said the creation of the 100 rarities violated a postal ban on the intentional creation of stamp rarities.

The Postal Service "strongly and inappropriately influenced the secondary [stamp] market by creating the rarity," the report said.

The report said that 1.2 million normal panes and

70 upright panes were given to postal retail units for sale "in the top 50 markets based on total stamp sales." The report did not specifically name the top 50 markets.

The agency's Stamp Fulfillment Services office in Kansas City, Mo., was given 700,000 normal panes and 30 upright panes, it said.

A total of 300,000 normal panes were placed in inventory for resupplying retail outlets, the report said. At Kansas City, the 30 upright panes were "kept separately in a secure location with the stamp custodian." Of the 80 upright panes not registered with the USPS, 57 were sent to retail locations and 23 remain at Stamp Fulfillment Services.

But in Kansas City, officials "forgot" about their distribution plan for the rare upright panes, shipping only one pane between March 2014 and December 2014, the report said.

The plan apparently was to ship one of the rare panes a week, but in January 2015 that plan was suspended "due to legal constraints associated with distributing stamps free of charge."

As a result, 23 upright panes remain in Kansas City where management has not decided what to do with the stamps, the report said.

To date, 23 upright panes have been found, according to *Linn's*. One intact pane was sold at auction in June 2014 for \$51,750 (with added buyers premium). Another pane was sold in August 2014 for \$55,000 in a private sale.

So at this point in time, the chances are pretty slim of getting one of the Upright Jenny panes from the Stamp Fulfillment Center. But there are about 50 panes, supposedly, at the retail end (post offices). By the way, the USPS did bring some of the Inverted Jenny panes to the show and so the Vassar PO should have the leftovers.

Good luck on the hunt for an Upright Jenny pane!