

*Preview of the International Rapp Auction, 21 to 25 November 2011*

## **COVETABLE VALUABLES – AS STRONG AS THE SWISS CURRENCY**

*Rapp Auctions of Wil (Switzerland) present a spectacular, strong-selling auction of stamps and coins including outstanding rarities and huge collections.*

**The international demand for rare philatelic and numismatic valuables is stronger than ever – as strong, in fact, as the Swiss currency. Therefore, several hundred stamp and coin enthusiasts, including analysts and financial and economic experts, currently are preparing to meet, from 21 to 25 November 2011, at the international Rapp Stamp Auction in Wil (SG), Switzerland. As on many previous occasions, the Rapp Auction is likely to turn into one of the season's most successful, varied and spectacular auction events. The fact that Rapp will be presenting by far the hugest and most valuable range of coins in the company's 40-year history will certainly contribute to a resounding success.**

Numerous collectors and communities of heirs, leading banks and trustees have entrusted Rapp with the sale of stamps and coins that are worth more than ten million Swiss Francs. This range includes many philatelic and numismatic gems in exceptional quality. Quite a few of these rarities have not been publicly available for many years, and they are expected to sell at exorbitant prices.

### **Valuable Collections**

Even several months before the event, there can be no doubt that the Rapp auction again will be offering an outstanding range of stamps and coins. In addition to carefully selected single items, the auction sale traditionally focuses on huge, original collections. For decades Rapp Auctions has been the worldwide specialist for enormously valuable collections, which are offered intact and untouched. This well-tried concept has convinced collectors and heirs from all over the world. This again has resulted in a range that is spectacular and absolutely unique on an international scale.

### **Various Highlights**

These are some outstanding examples from the very substantial range of valuable collections:

– **The Favorites Collection:** A very unusual object that contains magnificent collections and investment holdings, assembled over a period of some 70 years. The collections include valuable top items of almost all European countries, many of them in several copies. The holding's total catalogue value runs to more than 1.5 million Euros.

– **The Meerbusch Collection:** Collected by a Rhenish entrepreneur over a period of several decades, this collection that now is fed back to the market is a magnificent holding of sizeable and philatelically strong European collections – «Europe par excellence», as it were. It includes numerous rare issues, often in several or many copies. West-German top Posthorn items are presented in huge multiples, early Berlin issues in unusual numbers, «Ile de France» in exceptional quality. These are just a few of many outstanding items from a very substantial collection.

– **The Alster Collection:** This is a truly outstanding collection of the German Reich and related areas. In this fabulously huge collection, a magnificent specialized collection of the German Empire occupies center stage. The breast-shield issues, multi-colored frankings, varieties and other specialities are particularly impressive. This beautiful section contains a range of unique items, including several huge (and often the largest known) multiples, gorgeous covers, rare cancellations and much more. The Alster collection also includes numerous other German and non-German areas (e.g., Hanover, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Oldenburg, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Airmail) with valuable top items (some of them in multiples) and rare covers.

– **The Salzburgerland Collection:** A Count's collection from the Salzburg area has re-emerged after decades, at least in part. Rapp will be offering a first volume of the Europe collection. Many additional, enormously valuable volumes at this point still must be considered lost. They were enormous cultural assets that originally also included collections of North America, Africa, the West Indies, and other areas. Our research suggests that the collections were compiled from the late 19th century until about 1910 or 1920, but was diversified decades ago.

– **The Schwechat Collection:** Built up over three generations, with expert knowledge, exquisite taste and considerable capital expenditure, the Schwechat Collection proves to be a real bonanza, a fantastic stamp collection comprising virtually all European countries. Its focus areas are, among others, France and French Colonies, Great Britain and British Commonwealth, Austria's 1850 and 1867 stamp issues, Russia with numerous rarities, Greece, including a specialized collection of the "Big Hermes Head" issues. The same source also provides one of the most important and comprehensive specialized collections of fiscal stamps in no less than 30 albums. All separate sections of the Schwechat Collection will be offered absolutely intact and are abundant with spectacular rarities and wonderful covers.

– **The Zemstvo Collection:** This is one of the best existing collections of these rare Russian Local Post issues from the 1856 to 1917 period. This marvellous 12-volume collection contains more than 4,500 stamps, some 260 covers and about 50 items of postal stationery. A quite unique object.

– **European and Overseas Collections:** Magnificent and very sizeable European and All-World collections and accumulations are very popular at Rapp auctions. They include many valuable country and specialized collections of up to 150 albums each.

– **Switzerland Collections:** Traditionally, Rapp Auctions offer numerous Switzerland collections and accumulations in addition to very fine and rare Swiss single items from all time periods. Classic Switzerland presents numerous untouched collections with all high-value Cantonal stamps and covers, often in exceptional quality. Several very substantial collections with catalogue values of up to half a million Francs and beyond will be available.



**Caption:** 1st issue, one of the most beautiful Basle-Dove covers

## **«Golden Times» – New Emphasis on Coins**

For our 2011 auction we will be offering by far the largest, most substantial and valuable numismatic range in more than 40 years of our company's history. The contingent of gold coins (more than 1,400) is quite extraordinary. Overall, the coin offer no doubt will sell for more than a million Francs. Obviously, it has been a wise decision, more than five years ago, to strengthen and re-focus our activities on the coin market. Never before our in-house coin department had to cope with a remotely similar range. The coin range is so extensive and substantial that, for the first time in Rapp Auction history, we will be producing a separate coin catalogue. It will present many important rarities from antiquity, the Middle Ages and Modern Times. A numismatic auction highlight will be a so-called Hamburg «Portugalöser» gold coin of 10 Ducat, coined around 1578. German New Guinea's sought-after 10 and 20 Mark gold coins of 1895 are available in very fine quality. In addition to quite a few more fine and valuable single items, the range will focus on dozens of very substantial and valuable coin collections and accumulations. The range also includes gold and silver medals earned by a member of Hungary's legendary soccer team of the 1950s.

## **On PETER RAPP AG**

For more than 40 years, Peter Rapp AG of Wil (SG), Switzerland, has been one of the leading stamp and coin auction houses in the world. During those four decades, proprietor Peter Rapp has sold stamps for more than 450 million Swiss Francs. As an internationally leading stamp auction house, Rapp a few years ago has added a very efficient coin department and has become the Swiss coin-auction market leader. The forthcoming Rapp Auction is scheduled for 21 to 25 November 2011.

For additional information please contact

Peter Rapp AG, Toggenburgerstrasse 139, CH-9500 Wil  
Marianne Rapp Ohmann  
Phone +41 71 923 77 44, Fax +41 71 923 92 20  
info@rapp-auktionen.ch, www.rapp-auktionen.ch

or

Roman Salzmann, Communication Agent, Peter Rapp AG  
Kirchgasse 9, CH-9220 Bischofszell  
Phone +41 71 420 92 21, Fax +41 71 420 92 18  
roman.salzmann@salcom.biz