



# Grading Stamps

## Pt.2

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POWAY STAMP CLUB #488

# What we discussed last presentation

- ▶ What are the benefits of graded stamps
- ▶ What makes a certificate different than a graded certificate
- ▶ Some price point comparisons
- ▶ Example

# Resources

- ▶ The Philatelic Foundation Grading Guide

<https://www.philatelicfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PF-grading-booklet.pdf>



**The Philatelic Foundation**  
**Grading Policies and Procedures**

# Resources

- ▶ PSE stamp grading guide

<http://psestamp.com/intro.chtm>

## **A Guide to Grading and Expertizing United States Stamps**

*An Illustrated Guide and Discussion  
of PSE's Grading System and Various Issues  
Pertaining to Expertizing U.S. Stamps*



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# Resources

- ▶ PSAG Grading Guide

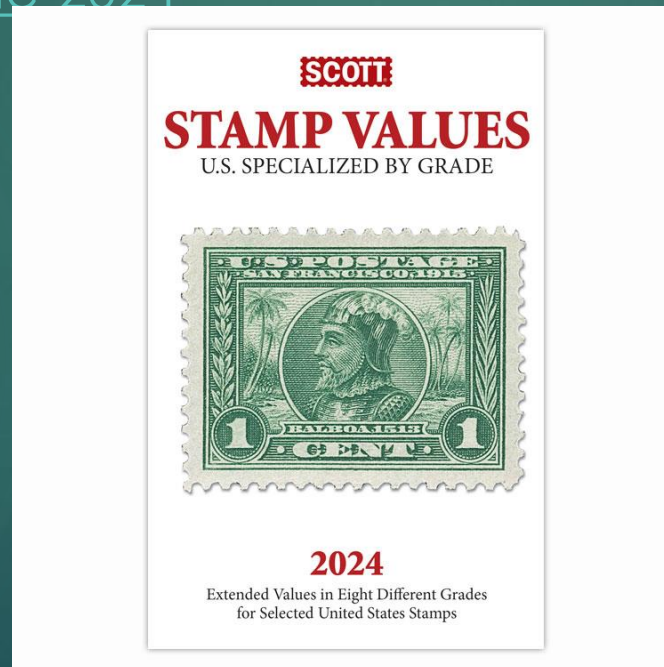
<https://www.stampauthentication.com/photo-grading-guide>



# Resources

- ▶ Scotts Specialized Catalog

<https://www.amosadvantage.com/product/Scott-Stamp-Values-US-Specialized-by-Grade-2024>





## 1847 Issue Grades



70



75



80



85



90



95



98

## 1851 Issue Grades



70



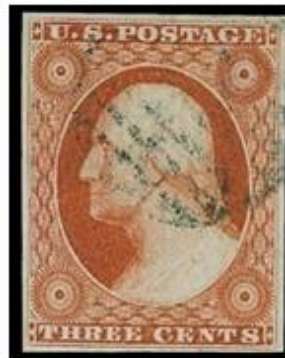
75



80



85



90



95



98



## 1857 Issue Grades



70



75



80



85



90



95



98

## 1861 Issue Grades



70



75



80



85



90



95



98



## 1869 Pictorial Issue Grades



75



80



85



90



95



98

## 1893 Columbian Issue Grades



70



75



80



85



90



95



98

# CENTERING

- ▶ Centering is by far the most important among all the factors determining the grade of a sound stamp. On perforated stamps, centering is determined by observing or measuring the distance from the edge of the design to the nearest perforation hole on all four sides.
- ▶ On imperforate stamps, centering is determined by observing or measuring the distance from the edge of the design to the nearest edge of the stamp on all four sides.





# COLOR

- ▶ The mixing of pigments to produce a particular color has never been an exact science. This was especially true in the classic stamp era. A review of the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers for this period shows a variety of shades listed for many Scott numbers.





Both of these stamps are designated as Vermilion in the Scott Catalogue, yet their colors are remarkably different.

# PERFORATIONS

- ▶ Due to the delicate, fibrous nature of paper, when perforated stamps are separated, the perforations on any stamp may not all have the same height. When one or more perforations are significantly shorter than the others (a “nibbed” perforation), the grade of the stamp will be reduced. A stamp with a short perforation severe enough WILL cause a diminishment in grade.



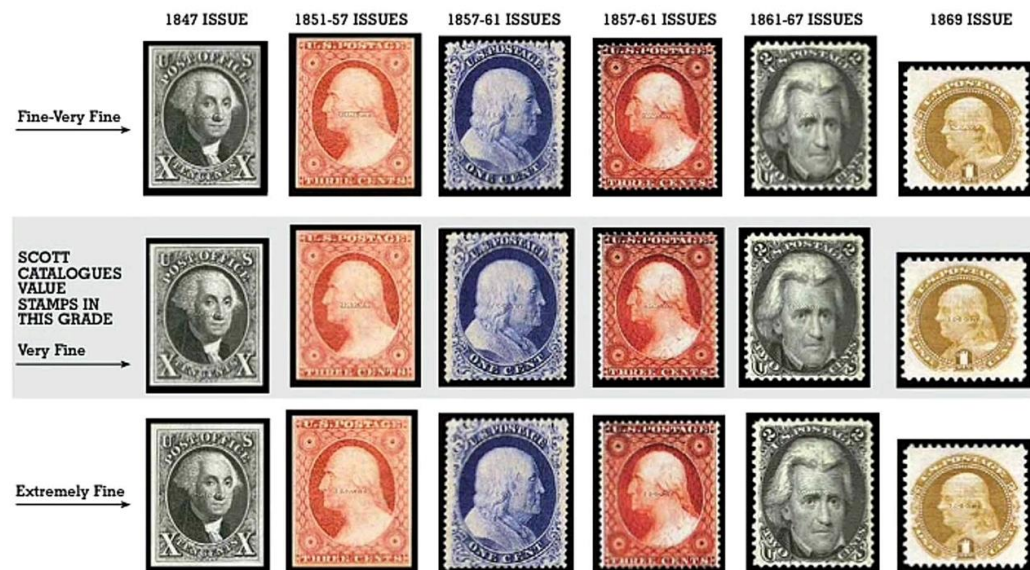




## **Listing of Final Grades, Traditional & Numerical Designations**

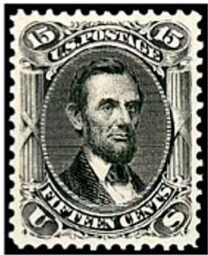
<i>Traditional Description</i>	<i>Point score</i>
Superb Gem .....	100
Superb .....	98
XF-Superb .....	95
Extremely Fine (XF) .....	90
VF-XF .....	85
Very Fine (VF) .....	80
F-VF .....	75
Fine (F).....	70
VG-Fine .....	60
Very Good (VG).....	50
Good-Very good.....	40
Good.....	30
Fair .....	20
Poor .....	10

# INTRODUCTION





## Illustrated Grading Chart



Superb-98

Extremely Fine-  
Superb-95

Extremely Fine-90

Very Fine-  
Extremely Fine-85

Very Fine-80



Fine-Very Fine-75



Fine-70



Very Good-50



Superb-98

Extremely Fine-  
Superb-95

Extremely Fine-90

Very Fine-  
Extremely Fine-85

Very Fine-80



Fine-Very Fine-75



Fine-70



Very Good-50

SC#	DESCR	COLOR	CONDITION	US	F	F-PT	VF	VF-PT	XF	XF-PT	SUP
93	2c	black	Used	18	25	27.50	45	115	275	2,500	6,250
			Unused NG	42.50	75	120	175	240	325	700	1,250
			Unused OG	100	200	340	450	750	1,250	3,000	7,500
94	3c	red	Used	2.10	3.50	5.50	10	35	75	300	800
			Unused NG	37.50	65	95	140	180	245	475	800
			Unused OG	45	130	240	350	575	950	2,500	4,500
94a	3c	rose	Used	2.10	3.50	5.50	10	35	75	300	800
			Unused NG	37.50	65	95	140	180	245	475	800
			Unused OG	45	130	240	350	575	950	2,500	4,500
95	5c	brown	Used	475	475	450	800	1,300	2,200	10,000	—
			Unused NG	525	525	525	1,300	1,625	2,100	3,000	—
			Unused OG	800	1,400	2,250	3,500	5,250	8,000	17,500	—
95a	5c	black	Used	575	825	1,400	2,250	3,250	6,000	15,000	—
			Unused NG	450	800	1,225	1,800	2,100	2,750	4,000	—
			Unused OG	1,000	1,800	2,800	4,250	6,500	10,000	19,000	—
96	10c	yellow green	Used	25	120	170	260	400	750	2,250	6,500
			Unused NG	230	400	575	900	1,150	1,550	2,500	3,750
			Unused OG	600	1,000	1,700	2,750	3,900	6,250	12,500	—
97	12c	black	Used	775	125	180	275	425	750	2,250	7,500
			Unused NG	725	525	725	1,100	1,375	1,800	3,000	4,250
			Unused OG	650	1,100	1,850	3,000	4,500	7,000	13,000	23,000
98	15c	black	Used	485	150	220	300	440	775	2,750	8,250
			Unused NG	375	675	1,000	1,400	1,800	2,400	4,250	6,750
			Unused OG	900	1,700	2,600	4,250	6,250	10,000	21,500	42,500
99	24c	gray blue	Used	475	625	1,000	1,600	2,150	3,250	9,000	—
			Unused NG	800	1,450	2,100	3,250	3,750	4,750	7,500	—
			Unused OG	3,000	5,750	8,500	12,500	16,500	22,500	37,500	—
100	30c	orange	Used	275	450	675	950	1,250	1,850	9,250	—
			Unused NG	625	1,300	2,000	3,250	4,000	5,000	6,750	—
			Unused OG	1,800	3,250	5,500	8,500	12,500	18,000	—	—
101	90c	blue	Used	3,750	900	1,500	2,250	3,300	4,750	14,000	24,000
			Unused NG	1,400	2,400	3,500	5,000	6,500	8,000	12,000	—
			Unused OG	3,000	5,500	8,750	14,500	22,500	37,500	60,000	—



## 1875 RE-ISSUES OF THE 1861-66 ISSUE

SC#	DESCR	COLOR	CONDITION	US	F	F-PT	VF	VF-PT	XF	XF-PT	SUP
102	1c	blue	Used	475	800	1,075	1,500	1,800	2,650	4,750	10,000
			Unused NG	85	150	250	375	420	550	775	1,150
			Unused OG	200	425	625	825	1,075	1,550	2,400	5,500
103	2c	black	Used	6,000	8,250	11,250	15,000	26,500	35,000	50,000	—
			Unused NG	375	700	1,100	1,750	2,200	2,750	4,000	6,000
			Unused OG	975	1,750	2,750	3,750	5,000	7,250	13,000	—
104	3c	brown red	Used	7,250	12,000	18,000	27,000	34,000	44,000	—	—
			Unused NG	600	900	1,350	2,000	2,450	3,000	5,750	—
			Unused OG	1,100	2,150	3,000	4,250	5,750	8,250	15,000	—
105	5c	brown	Used	2,000	3,400	5,000	8,000	9,500	12,500	17,500	45,000
			Unused NG	350	575	875	1,350	1,750	2,250	3,250	—
			Unused OG	725	1,350	1,800	2,750	4,250	6,000	12,500	—
106	10c	green	Used	45,000	67,500	92,500	125,000	135,000	150,000	—	—
			Unused NG	375	700	1,050	1,650	2,000	2,750	4,250	—
			Unused OG	800	1,400	2,250	3,500	4,500	6,500	10,000	21,000
107	12c	black	Used	4,750	8,500	12,000	15,000	20,000	28,000	37,500	—
			Unused NG	525	850	1,350	2,100	2,500	3,500	6,000	—
			Unused OG	1,175	1,900	3,000	4,250	5,500	8,000	12,000	17,500
108	15c	black	Used	11,000	17,500	25,000	35,000	—	—	—	—
			Unused NG	550	1,000	1,450	2,250	2,650	3,500	5,000	—
			Unused OG	1,500	2,500	3,500	4,750	6,500	9,250	16,000	—
109	24c	deep violet	Used	6,500	10,000	13,500	20,000	30,000	45,000	—	—
			Unused NG	675	1,150	1,800	2,750	3,500	4,500	6,500	10,000
			Unused OG	1,450	2,750	4,250	6,000	8,250	12,000	21,000	—
110	30c	brownish orange	Used	8,500	12,750	19,000	25,000	—	—	—	—
			Unused NG	750	1,125	1,800	3,000	3,750	4,750	6,250	10,000
			Unused OG	1,500	3,000	4,000	6,250	8,500	12,000	21,000	—
111	90c	blue	Used	160,000	180,000	225,000	—	—	—	—	—
			Unused NG	800	1,300	1,850	3,250	4,000	5,250	7,500	—
			Unused OG	1,850	3,100	4,500	6,750	9,500	17,000	—	—



## 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE

SC#	DESCR	COLOR	CONDITION	US	F	F-PT	VF	VF-PT	XF	XF-PT	SUP
112	1c	buff	Used	45	72.50	110	150	210	300	1,150	3,000
			Unused NG	55	100	140	225	270	340	490	725
			Unused OG	160	300	475	650	925	1,500	3,000	5,000
113	2c	brown	Used	20	37.50	60	90	140	225	700	1,900
			Unused NG	50	90	140	200	240	310	450	700
			Unused OG	110	200	320	550	775	1,250	2,500	4,500
114	3c	ultramarine	Used	3.80	7.75	12	17.50	35	80	325	800
			Unused NG	15	35	50	80	100	130	200	300
			Unused OG	45	90	155	250	350	575	1,100	2,000
115	6c	ultramarine	Used	55	90	135	225	325	600	1,750	4,500
			Unused NG	230	390	600	950	1,150	1,425	2,150	3,000
			Unused OG	550	1,000	1,800	2,750	4,000	6,500	13,500	22,500
116	10c	yellow	Used	27.50	45	67.50	90	125	225	400	750
			Unused NG	185	310	475	750	875	1,125	1,700	2,250
			Unused OG	425	750	1,250	2,000	3,000	4,750	11,000	19,000

SC#	DESCR	COLOR	CONDITION	US	F	F-PT	VF	VF-PT	XF	XF-PT	SUP
117	12c	green	Used	30	52.50	87.50	140	240	375	1,075	2,100
			Unused NG	175	290	410	700	825	1,025	1,575	2,100
			Unused OG	600	1,100	1,400	2,100	3,450	5,250	11,000	18,750
118	15c	brown	Used	210	330	550	850	950	1,400	3,500	11,500
			Unused NG	275	1,450	2,250	3,700	4,400	6,250	—	—
			Unused OG	2,000	3,800	5,950	9,500	13,000	19,000	35,000	—
119	15c	brown	Used	62.50	95	150	250	350	600	2,000	4,750
			Unused NG	275	440	750	1,150	1,350	1,650	2,650	3,500
			Unused OG	675	1,250	2,000	3,250	4,500	7,250	14,500	24,000
119b	15c	invert	Used	12,000	22,500	35,000	—	—	—	—	—
			Unused NG	—	750,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Unused OG	1,250,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
120	24c	green	Used	150	275	455	750	925	1,350	3,750	12,500
			Unused NG	650	1,150	1,850	2,800	3,250	4,000	6,500	—
			Unused OG	1,700	2,750	500	8,000	12,000	18,500	35,000	—
120b	24c	invert	Used	20,000	37,500	55,000	100,000	—	—	—	—
			Unused NG	250,000	750,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Unused OG	100	150	295	450	675	1,100	3,000	8,250
121	30c	ultramarine & carmine	Used	500	800	1,200	2,000	2,400	2,850	4,300	5,250
			Unused NG	1,250	2,000	3,750	5,750	8,500	14,000	27,500	—
121b	30c	invert	Used	50,000	75,000	105,000	150,000	180,000	240,000	—	—
			Unused NG	90,000	150,000	200,000	260,000	—	—	—	—
			Unused OG	—	1,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
122	90c	carmine & black	Used	550	750	1,325	2,100	2,750	3,750	8,250	20,000
			Unused NG	3,100	4,500	6,500	9,500	12,500	18,500	27,500	—
			Unused OG	2,100	3,500	7,500	12,000	18,500	27,500	77,500	—



## 1875-31 RE-ISSUES OF THE 1869 ISSUE

123	1c	buff	Used	100	150	250	400	650	1,020	2,250	5,000
			Unused NG <td>60</td> <td>105</td> <td>165</td> <td>230</td> <td>310</td> <td>450</td> <td>700</td> <td>—</td>	60	105	165	230	310	450	700	—
			Unused OG <td>110</td> <td>210</td> <td>310</td> <td>550</td> <td>775</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>2,500</td> <td>—</td>	110	210	310	550	775	1,100	2,500	—
124	2c	brown	Used <td>200</td> <td>400</td> <td>575</td> <td>850</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>3,750</td> <td>8,000</td>	200	400	575	850	1,100	1,650	3,750	8,000
			Unused NG <td>60</td> <td>110</td> <td>160</td> <td>260</td> <td>375</td> <td>550</td> <td>950</td> <td>—</td>	60	110	160	260	375	550	950	—
			Unused OG <td>110</td> <td>200</td> <td>310</td> <td>550</td> <td>775</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>2,500</td> <td>—</td>	110	200	310	550	775	1,100	2,500	—
125	3c	blue	Used <td>16,000</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>27,500</td> <td>40,000</td> <td>55,000</td> <td>80,000</td> <td>—</td> <td>—</td>	16,000	20,000	27,500	40,000	55,000	80,000	—	—
			Unused NG <td>650</td> <td>1,150</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>2,500</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>4,000</td> <td>6,500</td> <td>—</td>	650	1,150	1,650	2,500	3,000	4,000	6,500	—
			Unused OG <td>1,125</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>3,500</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>7,750</td> <td>11,500</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>—</td>	1,125	2,000	3,500	5,000	7,750	11,500	15,000	—
126	6c	blue	Used <td>1,000</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>2,320</td> <td>3,250</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>6,250</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>—</td>	1,000	1,650	2,320	3,250	4,500	6,250	15,000	—
			Unused NG <td>180</td> <td>345</td> <td>500</td> <td>725</td> <td>925</td> <td>1,200</td> <td>1,825</td> <td>—</td>	180	345	500	725	925	1,200	1,825	—
			Unused OG <td>310</td> <td>575</td> <td>850</td> <td>1,250</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>3,425</td> <td>—</td>	310	575	850	1,250	1,650	2,250	3,425	—
127	10c	yellow	Used <td>200</td> <td>1,150</td> <td>1,500</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>—</td>	200	1,150	1,500	2,000	3,000	4,500	10,000	—
			Unused NG <td>160</td> <td>310</td> <td>475</td> <td>725</td> <td>915</td> <td>1,300</td> <td>2,000</td> <td>—</td>	160	310	475	725	915	1,300	2,000	—
			Unused OG <td>225</td> <td>400</td> <td>550</td> <td>800</td> <td>1,050</td> <td>1,600</td> <td>2,500</td> <td>11,000</td>	225	400	550	800	1,050	1,600	2,500	11,000
128	12c	green	Used <td>1,150</td> <td>1,800</td> <td>2,420</td> <td>3,250</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>6,250</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>—</td>	1,150	1,800	2,420	3,250	4,500	6,250	16,000	—
			Unused NG <td>250</td> <td>475</td> <td>675</td> <td>1,025</td> <td>1,350</td> <td>1,750</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>—</td>	250	475	675	1,025	1,350	1,750	3,000	—
			Unused OG <td>475</td> <td>1,000</td> <td>1,400</td> <td>2,100</td> <td>2,750</td> <td>4,750</td> <td>9,000</td> <td>18,500</td>	475	1,000	1,400	2,100	2,750	4,750	9,000	18,500
129	15c	blue & blue type II	Used <td>415</td> <td>710</td> <td>915</td> <td>1,250</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>5,500</td> <td>—</td>	415	710	915	1,250	1,650	2,250	5,500	—
			Unused NG <td>150</td> <td>275</td> <td>425</td> <td>600</td> <td>800</td> <td>1,010</td> <td>1,750</td> <td>—</td>	150	275	425	600	800	1,010	1,750	—
			Unused OG <td>300</td> <td>575</td> <td>900</td> <td>1,350</td> <td>1,900</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>—</td>	300	575	900	1,350	1,900	3,000	5,000	—
130	24c	green w/ink	Used <td>510</td> <td>875</td> <td>1,250</td> <td>1,750</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>7,000</td> <td>14,500</td>	510	875	1,250	1,750	2,250	3,000	7,000	14,500
			Unused NG <td>415</td> <td>710</td> <td>915</td> <td>1,250</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>5,500</td> <td>—</td>	415	710	915	1,250	1,650	2,250	5,500	—
			Unused OG <td>425</td> <td>710</td> <td>1,250</td> <td>2,100</td> <td>2,750</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>7,750</td> <td>15,500</td>	425	710	1,250	2,100	2,750	4,500	7,750	15,500
131	35c ultramarine & carmine		Used <td>900</td> <td>1,420</td> <td>2,150</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>3,750</td> <td>5,500</td> <td>10,500</td> <td>19,000</td>	900	1,420	2,150	3,000	3,750	5,500	10,500	19,000
			Unused NG <td>260</td> <td>475</td> <td>725</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>1,350</td> <td>1,750</td> <td>2,800</td> <td>—</td>	260	475	725	1,100	1,350	1,750	2,800	—
			Unused OG <td>250</td> <td>475</td> <td>1,420</td> <td>2,150</td> <td>2,750</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>7,750</td> <td>15,500</td>	250	475	1,420	2,150	2,750	4,500	7,750	15,500
132	90c carmine & black		Used <td>2,150</td> <td>3,500</td> <td>4,750</td> <td>6,500</td> <td>7,750</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>22,500</td> <td>—</td>	2,150	3,500	4,750	6,500	7,750	10,000	22,500	—
			Unused NG <td>375</td> <td>720</td> <td>975</td> <td>1,500</td> <td>2,150</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>4,500</td> <td>—</td>	375	720	975	1,500	2,150	3,000	4,500	—
			Unused OG <td>1,500</td> <td>2,625</td> <td>3,750</td> <td>5,000</td> <td>6,250</td> <td>8,000</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>25,000</td>	1,500	2,625	3,750	5,000	6,250	8,000	10,000	25,000
133	1c	buff	Used <td>110</td> <td>225</td> <td>340</td> <td>450</td> <td>675</td> <td>1,150</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>—</td>	110	225	340	450	675	1,150	2,250	—
			Unused NG <td>35</td> <td>65</td> <td>95</td> <td>140</td> <td>180</td> <td>260</td> <td>420</td> <td>600</td>	35	65	95	140	180	260	420	600
			Unused OG	67.50	130	205	325	475	725	1,200	2,250
133a	1c	brown	Used <td>200</td> <td>400</td> <td>575</td> <td>850</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>3,750</td> <td>8,000</td>	200	400	575	850	1,100	1,650	3,750	8,000
		GREEN	Unused NG <td>115</td> <td>120</td> <td>170</td> <td>275</td> <td>400</td> <td>550</td> <td>900</td> <td>—</td>	115	120	170	275	400	550	900	—
			Unused OG <td>185</td> <td>280</td> <td>405</td> <td>575</td> <td>800</td> <td>1,100</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>—</td>	185	280	405	575	800	1,100	2,250	—



# What if you want to use PSE SMQ?

► <https://gradingmatters.com/smq-and-pop.htm>



The image shows a mobile application interface for 'Professional Stamp Experts'. At the top, there is a header with a logo featuring a stylized American flag and the text 'Professional Stamp Experts'. Below the header is a sponsored advertisement for 'Gary Posner, Inc.', which includes two small portraits of men and the text 'Building Collections by Building Relationships' and 'Click for our Best & Latest'. Below the ad, the main content area has the title 'SMQ and Pop Report Online' in large, bold, black font. Underneath the title, it says 'Please Choose Between United States and Canada'. At the bottom of the content area is a large, waving American flag. The very bottom of the screen shows a dark navigation bar with three icons: a hamburger menu, a square, and a back arrow.

Professional Stamp Experts

*Gary Posner, Inc.*  
Building Collections by  
Building Relationships  
Click for our Best & Latest  
Sponsored Ads



**SMQ and Pop  
Report Online**

**Please Choose  
Between United States  
and Canada**







Professional Stamp Experts

prefix CSA or HI followed by a space and then enter the Scott number.

Examples: Hawaii 39 - HI 39, Confederate States 12 - CSA 12

Stamp Market Quarterly

Enter a Scott catalog number

Search

Scott	Denom	Color	Cond	50	70
122	90¢	carmine & black	Used	\$550	\$900
122	90¢	carmine & black	NG	\$850	\$1,500
122	90¢	carmine & black	OGph	\$3,500	\$5,000

70J	75	75J	80	80J
\$1,250	\$1,400	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$2,500
	\$2,500		\$3,750	\$4,250
	\$7,500		\$12,000	



80	80J	85	85J	90	90J	95	95J	98	98J	100	100J
\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,250	\$3,750	\$4,500	\$6,250	\$9,000	\$13,500	\$20,000	\$22,500		
\$3,750	\$4,250	\$4,500		\$5,500	\$7,000	\$9,000					
\$12,000		\$18,500		\$30,000		\$75,000					

# QUESTIONS?

