

THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB



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THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB
WWW.STAMPS.ORG/ASHEVILLE-STAMP-CLUB

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Auctioneers: Ed de Bary & Jay Rogers

Membership: Larry Oliver

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WHO TO CALL

If you cannot make a meeting, club event, presentation, or have a question or a suggestion, please contact:

Robert Taylor, 828-447-4699
Email: robertt16@bellsouth.net

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Asheville Stamp Club meets at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, 1617 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC in the Blue Ridge Room of the Community Center at 1:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month. Bring stamps and covers to sell, trade, or show. There are Nickel Boxes and Envelopes of stamps with new material being added all of the time. The club's 2015 Scott catalogs will be at the meeting; World Classics, World, and US Specialized. As always, there will be the 50-50 Drawing and Door Prizes.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we enter the spring and summer months after a fairly mild winter, it's exciting to see the flurry of activity within our club. It is gratifying to see new members and guests at each Sunday meeting. Our member presented programs are extremely informative and educational. Our auctions are fun filled and very spirited. We are blessed to have participation from all members because that is what gives a stamp club resilience.

I am personally proud of all of you for your ideas, recommendations and just pure participation in our club activities. Our membership remains solid. Our education levels are definitely very enhanced. I look forward to working with all of you as the rest of this year unfolds.

See you soon, Robert

PROGRAMS

May is auction month once again, so bring the rest of those stamps and cover duplicates that have been collecting dust all winter. Randall Chet will also take questions and discuss the new website.

Our June meeting will feature Larry Oliver giving a presentation on "Surcharges: the pleasures and the pains". The intent is to demonstrate the causes and types of surcharges we see on worldwide stamps.

Our August meeting will include a challenge to all members: We have exhibit frames now, and it is time to get the members thinking about creating exhibits! The August program will include space for presentation of one page (NOT one frame, which is 16 pages) exhibits. **The theme is What is your favorite stamp design, OR your WORST stamp design!** Make up one page with the stamp and why you think it is the best or the worst and present it to the club. Cover use, anecdotal information, **ANYTHING** is of value! **JUST DO IT!** It does not matter if it is computer generated, typewritten, or handwritten, the content is the important part. Robert Taylor and Larry Oliver will be the judges, and there will be prizes! Which you will appreciate, definitely.

Programs for August and October are open and I am looking for volunteers to fill them!

CLUB NEWS

We're building a website! The URL (www.ashevillstampclub.com) has been purchased. We'll have a development site at www.ashevillstampclub.com/new shortly.

Member Bob Bouvier is forming an archive of Asheville Stamp Club publications that will be sent to the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, PA to augment their current holdings. He is particularly interested in newsletters and other material from before 2012 (i.e., from our founding through December 2011). He will accept loans of hard copies that he will scan and return if the owners wish to retain them; the scans will go to Bellefonte and will also be archived and available on our own new website. Owners willing to donate hard copy publications can give them to Bob who will scan them for our use and retention, and forward the hard copies to Bellefonte. Please contact Bob first to see if he needs what you are willing to contribute to this worthy project, especially anything dating from 2012 through to the present. Bob can be reached at bouv1946@gmail.com or 828-713-0270.

SMOKE SIGNALS

It's very gratifying to hear all the compliments I've received in response to the last issue of the SMP. Thank you very much! But realize I'm only one part of our team. Your contributions of articles and columns are what makes each issue such a joy to put together.

In my last letter I gave you a glimpse of how I personally got started collecting stamps. I would love each and every one of you to share your story of how you became stamp collectors. It is very important to remind our other members of what you collect and why. So, we're going to start a regular column titled **Featured Collector, How I got Started.**

To make this easy, I'm going to suggest a number of questions to answer. You won't be limited to these; and you certainly won't be required to answer each of these. If you feel like sharing, please copy & paste these questions with your answers (and any other comments) into an email addressed to randallchet@gmail.com. New members get priority! We'll feature one member each issue.

If you have any questions, comments, stories, articles, pictures (anything but a political rant), feel free to email them to randallchet@gmail.com. I'll do my best to include them in a future issue of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist.

What's your name and what do you do when you are NOT collecting stamps?

How and when did you get started collecting stamps?

*Are you a specialist or a generalist and why?
How has your stamp collecting evolved?*

What countries or areas do you collect?

What is your favorite stamp?

Do you collect anything else?

*Would you like to trade with other members of the club?
If so, what do you need and what do you have to offer?*

What area of collecting would you like to tackle next?

What is your favorite part of our club meetings and how can we make club meetings even better?

SHOWS & EVENTS

May 6th & 7th Charlotte, NC
Charlotte Stamp Show
St. Sarkis Armenian Church
7000 Park Road
(Hwy 77, exit Tyvola Road, go east 2.5 miles,
turn right on Park Rd, 1 mile on right)
Charlotte, North Carolina
Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4
Contact: Cary Cochran, 800-560-5310

May 12th & 13th Johnson City, TN
HOLPEX 2017
Holston Stamp Club and Bill Vance
Best Western Hotel & Conference Center
2406 N. Roan Street
Johnson City, TN, 37601
Fri: 10 - 5, Sat: 10 - 5

May 20th & 21st Marietta, GA
Stamp Dealers Association of GA Bourse
Mansour Center
995 Roswell Street
Marietta, GA, 30060
Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 3
Contact: Len Curtis, 404-593-6838
collectemall@bellsouth.net

June 2-4 Raleigh, NC
Coin, Paper Money & Stamp Show
The Exposition Center
NC State Fairgrounds
(1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC)
Fri & Sat: 10 - 6, Sun: 10 - 3
For more information, visit
www.RaleighCoinClub.org

June 10-11 Huntsville, AL
HUNTSPEX 2017
Conference Training Center
University of Alabama in Huntsville
1410 Ben Graves Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35899
Huntsville Philatelic Club
Michael O'Reilly, mcoreilly@att.net
Phone: 256-527-4601

July 8-9 Asheville NC
Stamp & Postcard Show
Comfort Suites Outlet Mall
890 Brevard Road
(next to Asheville Outlets)
(I-26, exit 33 & NC Hwy exit 191)
Asheville, North Carolina.

Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4
Contact: Cary Cochran, 800-560-5310

July 29-30 Charlotte, NC
CHARPEX 2017
Worrell Bldg
Central Piedmont Community College
1228 Elizabeth Avenue
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
Sat: 10 - 6, Sun: 10 - 4
Gene Zhiss, signup@charpex.info
Phone: 704-553-8110
www.charpex.info

Email your articles, letters, classified ads, auction items, and comments for the Smoky Mountain Philatelist to
Randall Chet:
randallchet@gmail.com
Deadline for the July-August issue:
June 25th

CANADIAN PRECANCELS

Bob Bouvier

I frequently see Canadian precancels in mixtures brought to our club meetings but how much do you know about them? I didn't pay much attention to them years ago and, like other collectors, considered them less desirable than stamps with normal postmarks. I became more interested in them when I got married in 1987, acquired a family and a new house. My new responsibilities forced me to end my normal collecting routine and I turned to precancels – they were inexpensive! I bought a catalogue and pre-printed album pages, products then marketed by Gilbert W. Noble and H. G. Walburn, two big names in the field at the time.



Early bar cancels,
Figures 1 & 2



Later bar cancel,
Figure 3



Canadian precancels come in two types: Bar precancels and Town and City precancels. Bar precancels were the first to be produced and exist in 22 different patterns. They range from the crude (Fig. 1) to the well-formed (Fig. 2). There are ten recognized varieties of the earlier bar precancels and many variants such as vertical, horizontal, doubled, etc. Clearly, production quality counted for little.* The later bar types were produced with more care and were issued up through the 1970s (Figs. 3 and 4).

Town and City types were first produced in 1903 and continued on into the 1950s. They differed from the bar style mainly in including the name of the town and province in which they were issued in the precancel. There are three basic styles – those that show town and province names, Third Class precancel, and those that bear money order office numbers (Figures 5, 6 and 7).



Three basic styles: town and province name; third class precancel; money order office numbers (Figures 5, 6 and 7).

A few, like Amherst and Sydney, Nova Scotia are very rare but most are not. Common varieties include inverted and doubled overprints. It is common to find poorly centered and slightly diagonal overprints. Other constant varieties are known and are listed in the catalogue. One "town", really a business, had their own precancels – Brown's Nurseries, now Welland, Ontario; they are quite scarce.

There are precancels with added perforated initials for the company that used them. I don't collect them but their catalogue values indicate they are uncommon.

A comprehensive catalogue for Canadian Precancels is published by Unitrade Press. I am not aware of a society for just Canadian precancels but Precancel Stamp Society and The British North American Philatelic Society includes Canadian precancels in their scope. Preprinted album pages reflecting the Unitrade catalogue are available but just be aware that unlisted varieties exist.

*Editor's note: All Canadian precancels may not have been made at the Post Office Department in Ottawa. A note in the 1959 edition of the Official Catalog of Canada Precancels states that it is believed that many of the early bar types were prepared and used locally. This would account for their crude nature.

NOT ALL “FINDS” HAVE STAMPS

Larry Oliver

The cover shown below was mailed from Dominica in the windward group of islands in the British Caribbean, on 12 September 1858. The colony has been part of the Commonwealth since 1763, when they took it over from the French, who claimed it from the 1690's. There is a carryover from the French in that the name is pronounced with the emphasis on the third syllable as in the French pronunciation, rather than on the second, as in the English pronunciation.

When postage stamps were invented, all the British colonies immediately wanted their own stamps — not surprisingly. But the British postal service resisted, and instead, gave the colonies a crowned circle handstamp that was to serve as a “pacifier” for those colonies. They were intended to be used when applied in red ink as a marker of prepayment of postage back to England. If the postage was not prepaid, the handstamp was to be applied in blue, in concert with the evolving international regulations. Covers with the crowned circle in blue are exceedingly rare, as none of the colonies dared to send a letter to the parent country with the recipient expected to pay the postage!

The crowned circle hand stamp was also used for local and for inter-island mail, with the same connotations: red = prepaid, blue = recipient pays (postage due). But these covers are very rare indeed!

The “1” with what resembles a “V” next to it in red in the figure is the postal marking for the rate of 1 shilling and, in accordance to regulations, is in red showing that it has been paid by the sender.

There is a receiver hand stamp for London, dated 12 October, on the front, so it took one month to get from Dominica to England.

This cover also illustrates a cardinal rule of cover analysis: *Don't ignore the sender/recipient history!* The recipient on this cover, **Neilson Brothers**, was a major trade merchant for the British Caribbean in this period, but they relied on the slave trade for their profits, using slaves for labor and trading in them for their profits. When Abraham Lincoln abolished the slave trade to America, the market throughout the Caribbean and Africa dried up, and the Neilson Brothers Company disappeared quickly.



This cover was found in a dealer's box of "unstamped covers".

WHY SO MANY WASHINGTON-FRANKLINS?

Larry Oliver

At an Asheville Stamp Club meeting in 2016, Scott Martz gave an excellent presentation on the identification of the various Washington-Franklins of 1908-21. So now that we are all knowledgeable on characterizing them, I felt it would be appropriate to explain how we came to have so many of them!

Blame the British.

The story began in 1904 when Congress, with nothing else to do, since the Spanish-American War was over, started applying their infinite wisdom to the design of stamps.

The British had very distinctive designs to their stamps, with the image of King Edward VII on all the stamps and no mention of the country name at all. So why can't the US be at least as noteworthy as our rejected parent? We have no king but we do

have George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, as close to kingship as we had at the time. So Congress decided to make a series of definitive stamps honoring those two. I must add that decision was over the objections of then President Theodore Roosevelt, who favored Abraham Lincoln for the honor.

But like most Congressional decisions, it got screwed up.

When the Congressionally-mandated "artistic" design was approved in 1908, almost immediately the "one" cent and "two" cent designs were printed and distributed – see Figure 1. And just as quickly, it was pointed out that they were in direct violation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations, since the denomination of a stamp must be in numerals, not spelled out because a non-native language speaker can't read the spelled-out denomination.

So the designs changed to the numeral form with Scott #333 issued in 1908 - Figure 2. At the same time, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) was also being pressured for cost control, and the wasted paper from the printing of stamps was a problem. The paper shrank during printing, and there was a relatively large number of off-center perforations which had to be destroyed. So they tried using 35% rag paper to reduce the shrinkage. It didn't work, but these stamps are listed as the bluish paper issue. (See note 1 about the so-called China Clay paper.) Complaints began coming in from postal clerks that the paper was too brittle, resulting in premature perforation separation. The reasoned response was that the double line watermark in use then was the problem, so they switched to a single line watermark in 1910, starting with #374. Figure 3. It didn't work, but it created a whole new set of varieties. Another complaint received about the same time was that the color of the 3c Washington was very similar to the 50c Washington, so that the stamps were often mistaken on high-postal rate covers. Figure 4. The profit margin being a great concern (not news), there was a design change, so that the 3-7c denominations were now of George Washington while the 8-\$1 stamps were Benjamin Franklin.

Okay, we've mentioned that the change from double line watermark to single watermark didn't work to reduce the premature perf separations. Complaints kept coming, so the BEP decided to change the perforations from the then standard of perf 12 to perf 10 beginning in 1914. During the transition, the BEP perforated a small number of sheets 12 one way and 10 the other - thereby creating the absurdly expensive series \$423A-E. These five stamps each catalog at a minimum of \$25,000. Yeah, a bad move. And the perf 10 stamps were now too difficult to separate! More on the perfs to come...

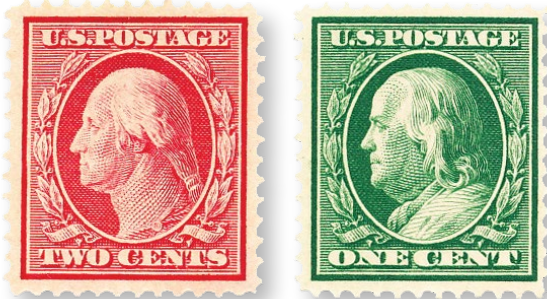


Figure 1

The stamps that violated the UPU regulations by spelling out the denominations.



Figure 2

The numeral varieties

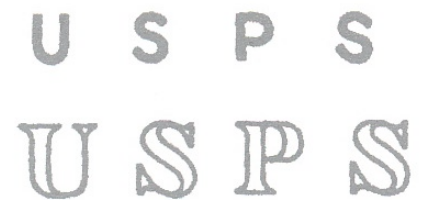


Figure 3

Single line and double line USPS watermarks. There were 81 single line letters per sheet of 100 stamps, and 77 per sheet of the double line, so often a stamp has only a portion of a letter visible.

In the meantime...coil stamps of many denominations came in multiple perfs as well, and were becoming more popular and in demand, but the production method by flat plate was expensive! So the BEP turned to the new technology of rotary press, in which plates were formed around a cylinder and then printed onto the paper which was fed flat into the press.

This saved the BEP mucho bucks, and led to another variety, the rotary press image, which was either wider or longer than the flat plate image. Another variety, another set of Scott numbers, starting with #448 (1915). Back to the watermarks: Not only did the watermark change not affect the perf separation issue, the paper manufacturers were now getting very vocal and upset about having to imprint watermarks at all. The BEP, being responsive to the public demands (and the money) eliminated the watermark altogether. Yes, another variety was born. This one stuck, however, and the standard became to use unwatermarked paper. Unwatermarked stamps were introduced in 1916-7, as perf 10 flat plate stamps, starting with #462.

But we are not done with the perfs!

The perf 10 stamps were too difficult to separate by the underpaid postal clerks, and many stamps were being torn. Response: a compromise, let's go to perf 11 (finally...a bit of experimentation would have solved the problem, no?). This became the perf standard, as did the lack of watermarks.

The problems are reasonably resolved at this point, and the future of BEP stamp production is pretty well defined. Perf 11 is accepted, rotary press as the method of production is widely accepted, and stamps are not the subject of discussion on the floors of the Senate. However... new stamp varieties continued in the 1920's, as the BEP continued the switch over to the new standards.

In 1917, the New York Post Office had an excess of the imperforate sheets of the 2c Washington (Scott #344) so they returned them to the BEP for credit. Not willing to "waste" this printing, the BEP decided to take this 1908



Figure 4
The 3c Washington compared to the 50c Washington of the 1908-1909 perf 12 double line watermark series.

printing and perforate it at perf 11, creating the scarce #519. Remember that the country was now in the midst of the "Great War", WWI, and paper was to be conserved.

The ending of WWI saw a considerable increase in the usage of 1c & 2c stamps, once again putting cost pressure on the BEP. The solution? Switch to the new technology of offset printing, thus creating yet another variety of Washington-Franklins.

One last example: the production of coils in perf 10 vertical was over, done. Stamps were returned to the BEP and, in the interest of saving or reusing paper, they were converted to all-sides perforated stamps using the then current perf 11 equipment...thus creating a unique, and rare, perf 10x11 variety.

Notice that this entire article does not even mention the production of imperforated varieties (with spelled out denominations and in numerals, in all printing modes, and all watermark types) nor the tinkering that engravers did to the plates, creating all the types of the 2c and 3c issues that Scott described, with the variations in the toga button, the ribbons and the nose shading. I refer you to the Scott catalog for details on characterizing those types.

The early years of the BEP were thusly a conglomeration of printing technology, design changes, practicality, and response to political pressures, all occurring nearly simultaneously, with the concomitant mixing of types. Management of the changes was haphazard and uncoordinated and happened while the one set of designs, the Washington-Franklins, was the only definitive series being printed. And we as collectors are left with the approximately 200 major varieties of this one series.

Note 1
For many years "China Clay" paper, was listed in Scott as a distinct form of the bluish paper type. It has now been shown that the China Clay paper was actually a defective batch of regular bluish, rag paper. They are still interesting and costly varieties, but no longer Scott listed.)

References:

Washington-Franklins 1908-21, M. Armstrong, 1979
 The United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century, Volume 1, 1901-1922, BS King & MG Johl, Lindquist, 1932, pub.
 Stamp Perforation, R. Simpson & P. Sargent, Royal Philatelic Society London, 2006 [Although this book discusses only British stamps, the concepts and pitfalls are applicable to US stamps.]
 Plus numerous short articles and notes from publications such as Linn's, American Philatelist, Collectors Club Philatelist, and others.

SWITZERLAND 60A *Scott Martz*

Make sure you peel back those layers. Here is a nice Swiss stamp SC#60a. I found this several years ago in a ratty old album that I purchased at a country auction. Stamps were layered several deep in places. This one was sandwiched in the middle of a stack of 4 stamps, all hinged under one another. But much to my surprise while inspecting each stamp in the stack, I found this beauty. This is an example of a major double transfer, but what makes this so spectacular is that the first impression is inverted.

Scott#60 is a very common stamp as mint. It only carries a catalog value of 50 cents. But Scott #60a has a catalog value of \$350. It is very scarce, and certainly worth looking for. This would be a spectacular addition to a Switzerland collection or a variety collection. It should be noted that 5 stamps in this series have a double transfer, one inverted. All are very scarce to very rare. Look on the 2c, 5c, 10c, 25c, and 50c. The 50c variety is much bolder, you cannot miss it. All are listed in the Scott Classic Specialized, but not illustrated.

Happy Hunting, Scott

Note the oval of the shield



The 2 under the main 2 is clearly inverted. If you look closely you can see the inverted 2 in all 4 corners.

Here you can see the letters of Helvetia inverted in between the letters of Franco. The crossbar of the H inside the O, The upright of the I on the right side of the F and the Slant of the A on the left. The LV under the N is also clear. If you look closely at the stamp you can see many other design elements are transferred upside down as well.

D-LIMONENE: ORANGE CITRUS SOLVENT

DIRECTIONS FOR USE IN REMOVAL OF SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS *Ken Farnik*

First, determine that a stamp is a self-adhesive and not water activated (stamps with gum), because this solvent will not work on water activated stamps. Once that is confirmed, check that the stamp is indeed stuck down on paper and not plastic. A different procedure is required for stamps stuck down on plastic (or cardboard).

Use a Q tip to wet the paper (envelope) immediately behind the stamp. Wait approximately 30 seconds. Now, gently lift the stamp up with stamp tongs from one of its corners. It should come right off. It is not necessary to discard the paper or envelope on which the stamp was stuck to. Using the Q tip, apply a little more solvent now to the back of the stamp. You will see the adhesive backing starting to dissolve. Work the Q tip around in a circular motion on the stamp until all the adhesive is dissolved. It will look like a sticky film on the stamp. You can feel it with your finger. Now use a paper towel to gently rub the sticky film off the stamp. Use a sideways motion until all of the film is removed. This may take a few minutes. Check the front of the stamp for any of the sticky film which may have been transferred by use of the paper towel. Using a clean portion of the paper towel, now remove any traces of

sticky film from the front of the stamp. There may be a slightly sticky feel to the stamp, both front and back. Do not be concerned by this. Air dry the stamp for 3 days. You will notice an odor of oranges that will dissipate over time. The stamp needs to dry in the open for approximately one week.

Other information: This solvent does not weaken the paper fibers of the stamp as soaking in water will do. Hence, you will find that peeling and cleaning of the stamp is much easier than if the stamp were wet with water. If the stamp is on a plastic envelope (or cardboard), obviously the solvent will not readily soak through from the back, so the Q tip soaked in solvent must be applied from the front. More time must be allowed for this- several minutes. Be patient. Once the stamp is off the plastic, chances are that the adhesive is already dissolved, so just use a paper towel to remove as previously described.

Other stamp uses: Old fashioned "scotch" tape and magic mending tape will also come off. Actual soaking of the stamp might be required. If the tape has already stained the stamp, solvent will not help to remove the stain. In that case, you are on your own.

*I've purchased a supply of D-Limonene which I will sell at cost in any quantity. I have been selling in it small glass jars of 4 ounces each that are suitable to hold the liquid safely. Please see me at our meetings or contact me by email: kfarnik2@gmail.com
—Ken Farnik*

D-Limonene

Food Grade, High Purity,
Orange Citrus Solvent
100 % Organic, 100% non toxic
4 oz. (118 ml.)

Limonene is a phytochemical which falls in the class of monoterpenes and cyclo terpene. The name Limonene is derived from the citrus fruit i.e., lemon and it is abundantly found in other plant sources like cherries, spearmint, dill, garlic, celery, maize, rosemary, ginger, basil, etc. This phytochemical generally occurs in two optically active forms, l-limonene and d-limonene. The d-limonene is the compound which is responsible for strong smell of oranges.



WHAT ARE REVENUES AND WHY SHOULD I COLLECT THEM?

A PRIMER FOR COLLECTING UNITED STATES REVENUES - PART 1

Randall Chet, adapted from "What Comprises a Revenue Collection?" by George T. Turner

At times you'll hear the most basic of questions: "Those revenue stamps are very cool; what can you tell me about them and how can I get started collecting them?" Unlike postage stamps, which are used to pay for a specific service, revenue stamps serve as "receipts" for the payment of taxes, and comprise such an immense field, I recommend exploring the myriad of types of revenue stamps before beginning your revenue collection. All of the following are listed in the Scott Specialized Catalog of US Stamps & Covers.

While this column won't certainly be absolutely complete, it will give the collector an overview of the major types of US Revenues he may encounter. Note that these are all federal revenues; state revenues are another immense field I won't even begin to explore here.

1. Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper (Scott RM)

- a. **Colonial Issues:** Massachusetts in 1755, New York in 1757
- b. **British Revenues for use in America:** 1765-66
- c. **United States Issues:** First Federal 1798-1801; Second Federal 1801-1802; Third Federal 1814-1817; Various State Issues; Licenses for Liquor, Stills; and Custom House Seals.

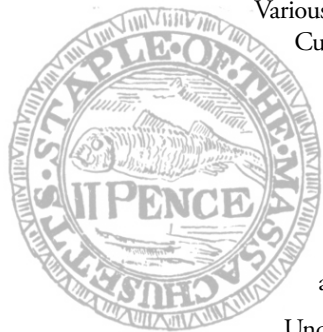


Figure 1
#RM2 embossed
revenue from Mass.
1755

Some of the American colonies of Great Britain used embossed stamps in raising revenue, as Britain had done from 1694. The British government also imposed stamp taxes on the colonies, and in the early 19th century the U.S. government and some of the states enacted similar taxes.

Under one statute or another, these stamps were required on such documents as promissory notes, bills of exchange, insurance policies, bills of lading, bonds, protests, powers of attorney, stock certificates, letters patent, writs, conveyances, leases, mortgages, charter parties, commissions and liquor licenses.¹ Figure 1

These early embossed revenues are a very specialized area, and due to their scarcity are highly valued.

2. Revenue Stamped Paper (Scott RN)

Revenue Stamped paper was authorized by an Act of Congress of July 1, 1862, effective October 1, 1862, and like US Documentary adhesives of the same year, was implemented to help pay for the Civil War. They were printed in various denominations and designs directly on a variety of financial documents, including checks, drafts, receipts, specie clerk statements, insurance policies, bonds and stock certificates. This is a fascinating area to collect as it appeals to the history buff, the revenue collector as well as anyone who appreciates the craftsmanship of fine engraving, Figure 2.



Figure 2: #RN-B17, Check from the Gould & Curry Silver Mining Co. of Nevada, bearing both a federal and a Nevada state revenue imprint.

3. Documentary & Proprietary Adhesives (Scott R, RB, RC, RD, RG)

- a. **Civil War Issues:** 1862-82, Figure 3
- b. **Spanish-American War Issues:** 1898-1902, Fig. 4
- c. **20th Century Issues:** 1914, 1917, 1940 Documentary issues; 1914, 1919 Proprietary issues; 1918 Future Delivery issues; 1918 Stock Transfer issues; 1934 Silver Tax issues. Figure 5

This is the most common area of revenue collecting due to the numbers of available stamps. At least a few can be found in most US collections. Our first documentary issues were designed and printed by the firm of Butler & Carpenter of Philadelphia, and are superior works of engraving art.

Figure 3: #R10c and R87c, two documentary first issues from 1862 & 1863



Figure 4: #R164 “battleship” documentary revenue from 1898

Figure 5: #RG125 Silver Tax stamp of 1944



Because Butler & Carpenter was rushed in the fall of 1862 to fill the orders for the new revenues and the fact that these were in use for almost a decade, the first issue is ripe for specialization; some of the specialties are:

- perforation varieties
- paper varieties
- color shades
- plate varieties
- multiples
- cancellations
- revenue used for postage
- postage used for revenue
- revenues on document



Figure 6: #R152b the “First Bureau Revenue”

About 1875, when the 2c Liberty head issue was current, some of the plates were engraved and printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. These might be termed “the First Bureau Revenues.” Figure 6. The Bureau continued to print revenues, both engraved and offset, until the final issue, R734, was no longer required after Dec. 31, 1967.

4. Match & Medicine (Private Die Proprietary Stamps, Scott RO, RP, RS, RT, RU) Figure 7

Between 1862 and 1883, when the revenue act was repealed, over 7.8 billion revenue stamps were printed (not counting checks and stamped paper). Over two thirds of these stamps were *privately* printed under the authority of the government. In an attempt to reduce the manufacturing costs of the stamps, and at the urging of the peddlers of patent medicines, the government allowed the manufacturers – at their own expense (usu-

ally between \$150 and \$250) – to have dies engraved and plates made for their own exclusive use. After having them made the manufacturer would turn the plates over to the government, and whenever more stamps were needed the government would print for the manufacturer with the privately made plates. They also got free advertising and the appearance of government approval of their claims.

With an average face value of about 1.25 cents, nearly \$65 million was raised.

“Match and Medicine” refers collectively to private stamps issued for the tax on:

- matches—183 different varieties
- medicines—350 different varieties
- perfumes—33 different varieties
- playing cards—16 different varieties
- canned fruit—one stamp

on up to 5 different types of paper.

Most were engraved to the high standards of postage stamps and bank notes.

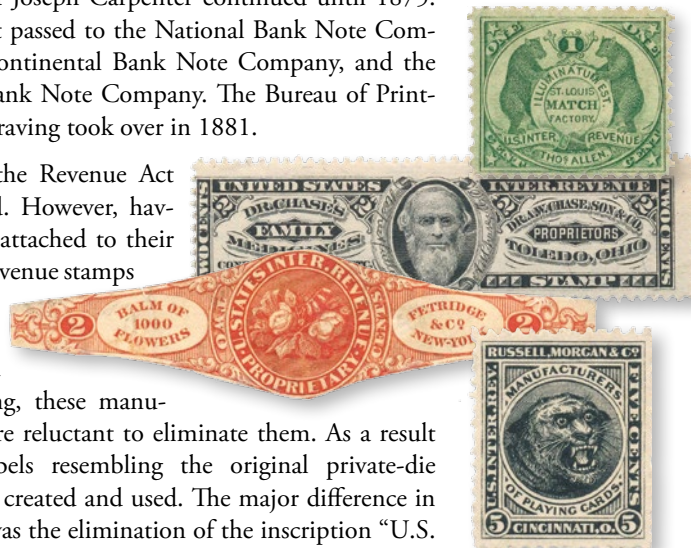
The private stamps were first engraved and printed by Butler & Carpenter in Philadelphia. John Butler died in 1868 and Joseph Carpenter continued until 1875. The contract passed to the National Bank Note Company, the Continental Bank Note Company, and the American Bank Note Company. The Bureau of Printing and Engraving took over in 1881.

In 1882 the Revenue Act was repealed. However, having become attached to their individual revenue stamps because they were an excellent form of advertising, these manufacturers were reluctant to eliminate them. As a result facsimile labels resembling the original private-die stamps were created and used. The major difference in most cases was the elimination of the inscription “U.S. Internal Revenue”.

Stay tuned for our next installment, when we cover our Wine stamps, Tax Paid, Hunting Permit stamps, and some other odd miscellaneous items.

Figure 7

Top to bottom: RO5a, Thomas Allen, St. Louis Match; RS54b, A.W. Chase, Toledo, OH; RT5a, Fetridge & Co., New York; RU16d, Russell, Morgan & Co., Cincinnati, OH



ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB MEETING

MINUTES MARCH 19, 2017 *Jim Haxby*

- President Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 2:02 P.M. The Treasurer, Stan Kumor, read the minutes of the Feb. 19th meeting and gave the Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$3714.74 + the CD.
- There were 4 door prizes and a 50-50 raffle.
- Marjorie Huffine, a visitor/new member was introduced.
- President Robert called our attention to member Scott Martz's integrity in pointing out a rare revenue stamp variety in a recent dealing with him. Scott received a well-deserved round of applause from the membership.
- Jack Wadham noted that Richard (of the now-closed Richard's Stamp Shop) has moved out of town and into a nursing home and that all the material at his house has now been sold.
- Vice President Larry Oliver mentioned that our club is now the 21st club member in the Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs. Larry also reviewed the various web sites on which our club is represented by web pages and called for a discussion on the matter.
- Randall Chet then outlined the limitations of web page representation vs. having our own web site. A lively discussion ensued. It was finally decided to refer the matter to a committee, which would come back to the membership with a specific proposal regarding the establishment of a club web site, tentatively called ashevillestampclub.com.
- The program consisted of a large and very active auction of members' material and more lots from the collection donated to the club. Also from the donated collection, U.S. MNH plate blocks were sold at 50% of face.
- The April meeting will be on the 4th Sunday, April 23rd, and the program will be "Flying Fool Philatelics" by Jim Haxby.

STAMPS – WANTED, FOR SALE OR TRADE

Wanted! WWII US patriotic covers - especially with cachets that are "politically incorrect", humorous, or feature women. Top prices paid - which ain't much, frankly! Larry Oliver stamper707@gmail.com

Wanted! US First Issue Revenues. Large accumulations as I am looking for shades, paper types and cancellations. randallchet@gmail.com

Wanted! Philatelic Literature related to US revenues, especially any back issues of the American Revenuer, and Weekly Philatelic Gossip 1936 - 1957. Also any general periodicals 1880 - 1950. randallchet@gmail.com

For Sale! USPS Commemorative Yearbooks. Mint. Few to no stamps. Years: 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007. \$5 each. randallchet@gmail.com

For Sale! 98 US FDCs in a VPD flip binder and slipcase. Most 1958-60, most unaddressed with cachet. \$25 randallchet@gmail.com

Trade! Hundreds of UN FDCs. Large 8.5 x 11 flag series block covers. Smaller covers. Does anybody collect these? randallchet@gmail.com

If you are a member of the ASC and have something of interest to list, feel free to email your classified ad to randallchet@gmail.com. As space allows, I'll do my best to include it in the next issues of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist.