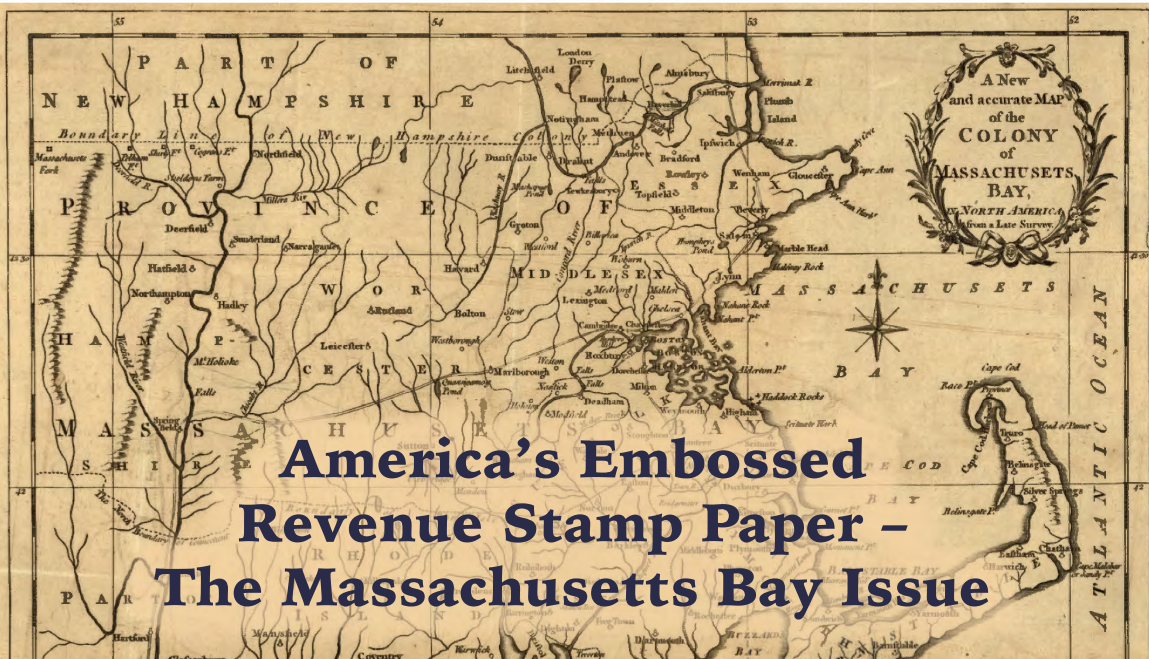




# The United States SPECIALIST

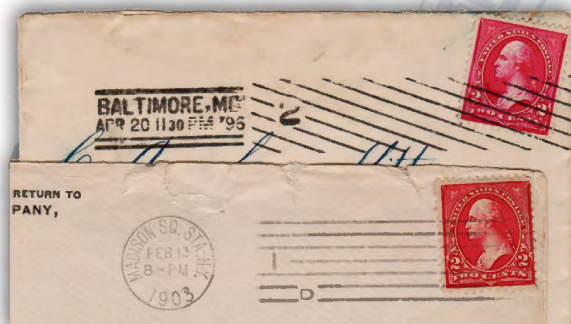
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# The United States SPECIALIST

*the journal of the United States Stamp Society*

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### Society News

## ***Paul M. Holland to Chair Farley Era Committee***

Please join me in welcoming Paul M. Holland, Ph.D., from Santa Barbara, California, as the new Chairman of the Farley Era Committee.

Paul is a retired scientist whose company, Thorleaf Research, Inc., developed miniaturized space flight instrumentation for NASA. He is a specialist collector of the Franklin D. Roosevelt era with a long-time interest in James A. Farley. He has written a number of articles for *The Specialist*, *The American Philatelist*, *Airpost Journal* and other philatelic publications. Paul has also presented talks on Franklin D. Roosevelt as a stamp collector at the 2019 APS Summer Seminar and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. He maintains a representative worldwide stamp collection from 1840-1945. He can be contacted at: [pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com](mailto:pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com).

## ***The United States Stamp Society at the 2023 Great American Stamp Show, August 10 – August 13***

by **Nicholas Lombard**

USSS #13650 | ✉ [8605@comcast.net](mailto:8605@comcast.net)

The Great American Stamp Show was held in Cleveland, Ohio, for four days in August. Although the city is sometimes referred to as “The Mistake by the Lake,” there was no mistake in holding the annual show at this venue. The attendance surpassed last year’s GASS by a large margin, and the dealers I spoke with were more than happy with their sales.

As in the past, the United States Stamp Society was present for the full four-day run of the event. Located along Society Row, our booth was a busy place with a steady stream of members and potential members stopping by to say hello or ask for information. As you can see from the list below, almost ninety members from across the country signed in during the show.

The opening day of the show featured the First Day Ceremony for the Life Magnified sheet of twenty different stamps, while the Thinking of You stamps had a First Day Ceremony the following day. Both events were very well attended.

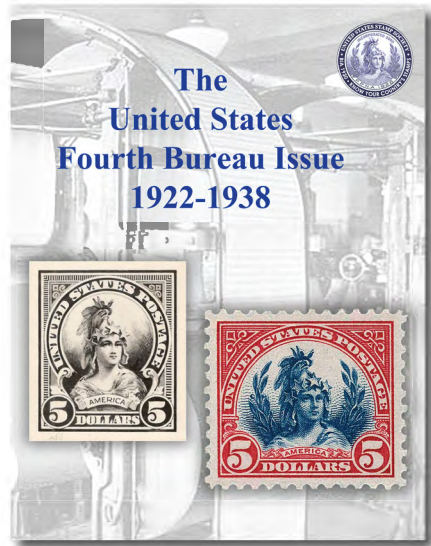
As you may know, GASS hosts both the annual Champion of Champions exhibit competition as well as an open competition. Society members were prominent in both groups. Cheryl Ganz, Charles O’Brien III, Nicholas Lombardi, Anthony Dewy, Mark Schwartz, Andrew Kelley, Jon Krupnick, Gregory Shoults, Daniel Ryterband, Matthew Kewriga, James Hering and Ross Towle were among the twenty-five candidates for the Champion of Champions Award. At the Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening, the 2023 Champion of Champions Award was presented to Nicholas Lombardi for his



exhibit, *The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue*. This is the first time a purely 20th Century exhibit has won the award in its fifty-five-year history. The Grand Award in the open competition was won by Nicholas Kirke for his exhibit, *The Evolution of Outbound Foreign Mail Cancelled in New York City 1845-1878*, which also won the United States Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Medal.

Also at the Celebration Banquet, the annual United States Stamp Society – Barbara R. Mueller Award for the best article appearing in *The American Philatelist* during 2022 was presented to Henry Scheuer for his two-part article “How the Earliest Collectors Sought Out First Days,” which had been published in the November and December 2022 issues. Henry was on hand to receive the award from USSS President Nicholas Lombardi.

A Philatelic Literature competition in which published books, articles, catalogs, columns, handbooks and journals are judged was also held at the show. The Grand Award and a Large Gold Medal were won by Jay B. Stotts for *The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922 – 1938*.



The late Anthony (Tony W) Wawrekiewicz received a Large Gold Medal and the APS Research Award for his handbook *The Uses of U.S. Postage Due Stamps and Their Substitutes, 1879 - 2023*.

As seen in the June *Specialist*, we have 54 members who qualified for the 15-, 25- or 50-year Membership Anniversary pins during 2023. Therefore, one of my main goals at the show was to get these pins to as many receiving members as possible. Fortunately, a number of these folks attended the show and stopped by our booth. Douglas Iams, Andrew Kupersmit and Robert Loeffler received their 25-year pins, while Anthony Dewey and Daniel Piazza were presented with their 15-year pins. If you are one of the folks who qualified for a pin this year and were unable to attend this show, your pin will be mailed to you before the end of the year.

Special thanks go out to Denise Stotts, K. David Steidley, Jerry Davis, Mike Lampson, Steve Unkrich, and Rod Juell for helping man the booth at different times.

Those members stopping by included:

Richard L. Beecher  
John Blankenship  
Steve Bricker  
Robert Bruhn  
Michael Burke  
Andy Busard  
Dennis Callison  
Alfred Carroccsa

Vince Centonze  
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### Letters to the Editor

#### Regarding "Explanation of the Anomalous Ink Composition of the 2¢ Non-Counterfeit Stamp on the Infamous March 8, 1895, Chicago Cover"

Harry Brittain's retraction of his previous conclusion published in the April *Specialist* regarding an allegedly "counterfeit" 2¢ First Bureau stamp on an 1895 cover is a welcome development. Having been misled by a single anomalous FTIR spectrum, unlike any of the many others he obtained with examples of the 2¢ First Bureau stamp, he now presents (August *Specialist*) an alternative explanation for the existence of the stamp. He states, "...the ink composition of the stamp on Chicago [sic] absolutely does not correspond to the ink composition used to print the stamps

within the Scott 250 or 265/266/267 sequences..."

That's correct — as far as it goes. However, he goes on to state, "The fact that the ink of the Chicago stamp does not contain any whitening agents suggests that it most likely was a BEP stamp that had been 'washed' to remove cancellation ink and subsequently used to cover the postage required to mail the cover in question." When he says, "...does not contain any whitening agents..." he really means that he did not detect any whitening agents by his FTIR technique. Certainly there must be whiteners in the ink to dilute the intense dark red color of the azo-dye used as the red pigment in the ink. See my article elsewhere in this issue on XRF analysis of 2¢ First Bureau inks for spectral demonstration of various whitening agents



used in these stamps that are not detected by FTIR.

The author then states that he "conducted high-magnification reflectance microscopy" and saw tiny black spots ("averaging 10-30 microns in diameter" — too small to see with human eyes) that he concludes are "...diagnostic black spots of residual cancellation ink..." Making such a definitive statement using the word "diagnostic" is simply wrong. In scientific parlance, "diagnostic" means "to the exclusion of all other possibilities" and effectively means that if you see tiny black dots, this is the only possible explanation. I contend that a more probable and easily checked explanation is that the black spots are just plain dirt. Remember Occam's Razor! I suggest that the "dirt" may have come along with the red pigments bought by the BEP to make the red ink. Brittain could easily have checked this possibility, since he owns many plate number strips of the 2¢ First Bureaus, but nothing was mentioned in his article about comparing photomicrographs with mint "control" samples in his collection. This is an obvious experiment to perform to begin to resolve this question.

It seems that the stamp on his Chicago cover is different from all the others he has analyzed, but jumping to the outlandish conclusions in his most recent article, after his erroneous conclusion in the original article, adds almost nothing to the discussion.

**Leonard Piskiewicz**

USSS #12127

Santa Clara, CA

**Author's Reply:** In his reply letter, the writer [Leonard Piskiewicz] makes two argumentative points. The first point is that there must be additional undetected whitening agents in the ink of the Chicago

stamp since the azo-dye used as the red pigment in the ink exhibits an intense dark red color. The second point is that the black stains that I detected in the stamp ink could be due to the presence of dirt in the original printing ink, and thus did not reflect the presence of residual cancellation ink that was not removed during the postulated washing process. These objections can be addressed by simply looking at the facts in the case, and by letting the detected ingredients (or lack thereof) in the stamp ink speak for themselves.

The statement made that I "did not detect any whitening agents" in the printing ink of the Chicago stamp in question is true, since I did not. That, of course, is precisely the reason that the stamp is so anomalous. Consider that in the paper I published in the previous issue of the Specialist (94(7), pp. 320-332), I used



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both Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction (XRD) to establish that the only whitening agents used in the Type- $\beta$  printing ink were chalk (calcium carbonate) and kaolin (white clay). In fact, the presence of these whitening agents in the stamp ink, coupled with their relative amounts, was used to define the Type- $\beta$  printing ink.

The inarguable fact of the matter is simply that no evidence could be detected for the presence of either chalk or kaolin in the ink of the Chicago stamp. Since the stamp had been positively identified by Philatelic Experts as a genuine BEP issue, the absence of these compounds required an explanation. After all, it must be something. Their absence in the ink of the Chicago stamp must have required a removal process, which I postulated to be associated with some sort of "washing"

process, intended to remove cancellation ink of a previously used stamp. The writer seems to have missed the fact that when the whitening agents were removed from the printing ink, much of the coloration pigment would also have been removed along with the whitening agents. Thus, the observed color of the Chicago stamp on its cover is due only the residual pigment that could not be removed owing to the fact that it had become chemically bonded to the paper.

The writer's other point concerns the tiny black spots that I concluded to be evidence of residual cancellation ink not removed during the washing process. He contended that these were more likely to be black spots of dirt that "may have come along with the red pigments bought by the BEP to make the red ink." He suggested that I check this possibility, and so I did. Using the same high magnification microscopy technology described in my paper, I carefully examined the printed surfaces of 26 plate-numbered strips of three (6 of Scott 250, 10 of Scott 265/266/267, and 10 of Scott 279B) that had been printed using ink Type- $\beta$ . In this comprehensive study, I did not detect any black spots of the kind I saw in the ink of the Chicago stamp. The simple fact is that they just weren't there.

I will close by quoting the writer, who stated "Remember Occam's Razor!" Yes, the simplest explanation is usually the correct one, and my assignment of the Chicago stamp as having been washed to remove cancellation ink is certainly the simplest one. It is also the one that is most consistent with the entire body of experimental data, and is therefore most likely to be the correct one.

**Harry G. Brittain, PhD, FAAPS, FRSC**  
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### Overrun Countries Series



Figure 1. Early Overrun Countries essays shown in *Boy's Life* magazine.<sup>2</sup>

## Early Essays for Overrun Countries Stamps

by **Paul M. Holland**

USSS #16849 | Santa Barbara, CA 93111

✉ [pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com](mailto:pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com)

It's interesting to note that in his original October 22, 1942 memo to Marvin McIntyre on issuing overrun countries stamps, FDR lists only eight overrun European countries in the order "Norway, Holland, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Luxembourg," omitting France, Albania, Denmark and Austria.<sup>1</sup> While searching for information on early essays for these stamps, I came across images of 3¢ overrun countries essays that were published in the "Stamps" column of the July 1943 issue of *Boy's Life* magazine.<sup>2</sup> These included two essays for Czechoslovakia and one each for Norway, Poland, France and Greece, as shown in Figure 1. While these feature flags as a design motif and occasionally exhibit a phoenix arising from flames, all are distinctively different than anything shown or mentioned in Max Johl's book.<sup>3</sup> The column goes on to state that "independent artists cooperating as a committee under the chairmanship

of Paul F. Berdanier, laid out numerous essays, or suggested designs at the suggestion of the Office of War Information, Deputy Third Assistant Postmaster General Roy M. North, and Alvin W. Hall, Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.”<sup>2</sup>

Turning to Scott Tiffney and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) for further information from the Forrest Ellis file, I was not disappointed. This allowed each of the artists of the essays in Figure 1 to be identified. The first essay in the top row for Poland is credited to Paul Berdanier, Paul Shively and Sam Marsh. That for Norway is by Warren Chappell, and the one for Czechoslovakia at the right is by Paul Berdanier and Kanelous. The essays in the second row are by Edward Wilson (France), Hugo Steiner-Prag (Czechoslovakia), and W. A. Diggins (Greece), respectively.

A further source of information is provided in Ken Lawrence’s 1998 article in the *American Philatelist*, where he cites a December 1942 meeting in New York of officials of the Office of War Information, Post Office Department, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with Berdanier’s volunteer Society of Illustrators to solicit designs. In response, twenty-three drawings were submitted, “none of which were adopted.”<sup>4</sup>

Of these, twenty-two Overrun Countries stamp essays by volunteer artists of the Society of Illustrators are available on photographic paper in the Forrest Ellis file of APRL’s collection. These include essays for Norway, Holland, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Those for Norway and Holland (the Netherlands) have already been shown in other articles in the *US Specialist*.<sup>5,6</sup> The remaining sixteen early essays by volunteer artists of the Society of Illustrators provide supplementary information for my previous Overrun Countries articles.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps the most intriguing of these is the one with the slogan “They shall rise again” by Gordon Aymar. Based on the different flags and emblems displayed, the essay for this stamp was apparently designed to represent nine different overrun countries in Europe, the eight listed in FDR’s original October 22, 1942 memo, plus France. This “one size fits all” essay is shown in Figure 2.



*Figure 2. Early essay by Gordon Aymar representing nine different Overrun Countries in Europe (Image courtesy APRL).*

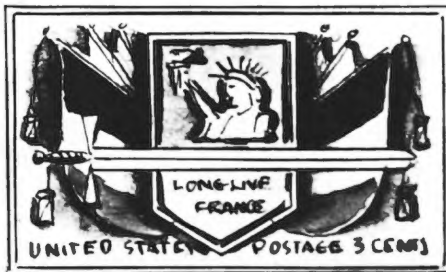


France represents an unusual case among the overrun countries since the United States had originally established full diplomatic relations with the Vichy French regime, hoping to use American influence to discourage the Vichy government from active military collaboration with Germany and avoid any actions that could adversely affect Allied efforts during World War II. This delicate balancing act might be upset by issuing a stamp honoring French resistance to Axis occupation. However, following the November 8, 1942, Allied invasion of North Africa, the remaining unoccupied region in France was swiftly conquered by the German Wehrmacht, making the risk of offending the Vichy government moot. Fortunately, French naval commanders managed by a combination of negotiation and deceit to delay the invaders long enough to scuttle the French fleet at Toulon, thereby preventing its capture by the Germans.

There are four early essays for France, and their styles vary significantly. The first by Edward Wilson is a classic design based on the Winged Victory of Samothrace, an iconic sculpture at the Louvre Museum in Paris. The second essay by Paul Manship employs a



Figure 3. Early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for France (Images courtesy APRL).



*bas relief* approach, showing a charging soldier with the slogan “For the rebirth of freedom.” The bottom two essays show a sword and crossed swords, respectively. The one on the left is by Crane. That on the right by Paul Shively and Alexander Kahn has the slogan “Like grasses spring from the tortured earth” surrounding a central medallion.

Three early essays for Czechoslovakia are shown in Figure 4. Note that the flag on the one at the left by Paul Berdanier and Kanelous has been left blank but has been completed in Figure 1; see especially the symbolic rising of a phoenix from the flames. The second, also reproduced in *Boy’s Life*, is by Hugo Steiner-Prag. The final example by Gordon Aymar employs a square format with the slogan “Czechoslovakia shall rise again.”

LONG LIVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Figure 4. Early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for Czechoslovakia (Images courtesy APRL).

Shown in Figure 5 are three early Overrun Countries essays for Poland. The one on the left by Gordon Aymar again employs a square format, similar to his essay for Czechoslovakia. The Poland essay in the middle is by Paul Berdanier, Paul Shively and Sam Marsh, with more complete flag details shown in the *Boy’s Life* image in Figure 1. The final essay is by Edward Wilson.

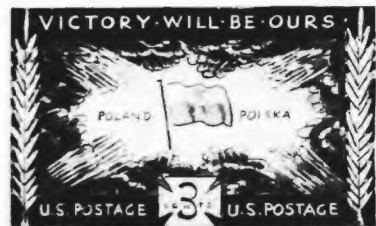


Figure 5. Early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for Poland (Images courtesy APRL).

There are two early essays for Greece shown in Figure 6. That on the left by Gordon Aymar shows a figure in front of a Greek flag with the slogan “Greece shall rise again.” The essay on the right by W. A. Dwiggins shows a phoenix arising from the flames, with space provided for an image of the Greek flag. Note that a crudely sketched Greek flag has been added for this essay in Figure 1.



Figure 6. Early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for Greece (Images courtesy APRL).

Two early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for Yugoslavia were available from the Forrest Ellis file at APRL. These are shown in Figure 7. The essay on the left by Paul Berdanier and Alexander Kahn depicts a phoenix arising from the flames under a Yugoslavian flag. That on the right by Gordon Aymar shows the flag over what appears to be a ruined city in flames, perhaps Belgrade, after being bombed by the Germans.

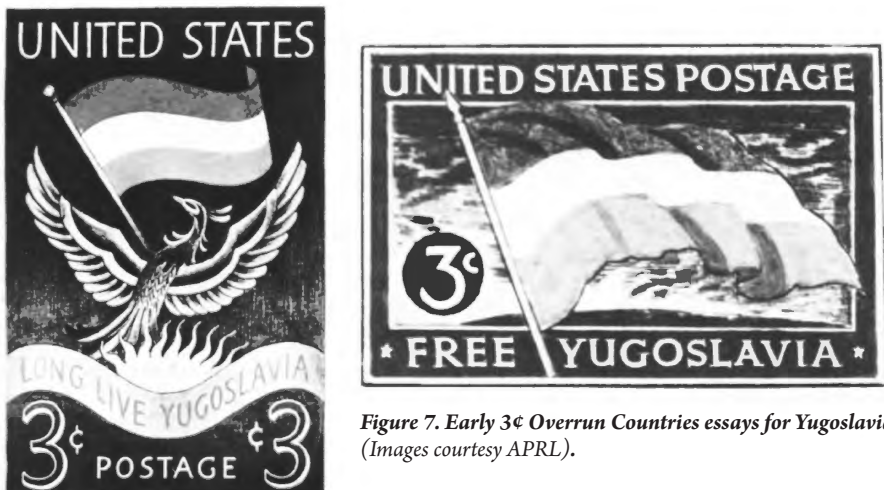


Figure 7. Early 3¢ Overrun Countries essays for Yugoslavia (Images courtesy APRL).



The final early essay from the Forrest Ellis file is one by Warren Chapel for the Belgian Overrun Countries stamp. Interestingly unlike the other early essays, this has a 5¢ denomination suggesting that it may have been one of the last early essays for Overrun Countries stamps produced by volunteer artists of the Society of Illustrators. Note the strong stylistic resemblance to Chapel's 3¢ essay for Norway shown in the top row of Figure 1 and in my earlier article on the Norway Overrun Countries stamp.<sup>5</sup>

Another area that remains to be fully explored is early essays produced by the American Bank Note Company. Several of these have been shown in a 2003 article in *The US Specialist* by James H. Patterson, including examples from Norway, the Netherlands, Poland and Greece.<sup>8</sup> Each of these essays is dated in pencil on the back "1/8/43."<sup>8</sup> Since I've discussed those for Norway and the Netherlands elsewhere,<sup>4,5</sup> I'll focus on the 5¢ American Bank Note Company essays for Poland and Greece, shown in Figure 9. The essay for Poland shows a phoenix rising from a fire instead of a Polish flag, and that for Greece shows a phoenix rising from fire on the left and a Greek flag at the right. Note that in each case that the Latin inscription "Ne pereat." (Let it not perish) appears above the head of the phoenix.



Figure 8. Early 5¢ Overrun Countries essay for Belgium (Image courtesy APRL).



Figure 9. American Bank Note Company essays for Poland and Greece.<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 10. The American Bank Note Company building at Broad Street in New York, circa 1908** (Image courtesy NY Public Library Digital Collections).

This suggests that these essays were prepared at a time when details of the twin motifs of incorporating a phoenix and overrun country flags were still being worked out. Also, the inscription barely visible in the bottom margin of each of these essays reads “American Bank Note Company.” Finally, as Tom Schilling has recently pointed out, the overall situation on essays and proofs from the American Bank Note Company for Overrun Countries stamps is complicated, and the full story is likely incomplete.<sup>5</sup>

Although some have criticized the final common design used for the Overrun Countries series for its sameness, in the words of Ken Lawrence, for beginning stamp collectors, these stamps are “often among their first prized acquisitions.”<sup>4</sup> Even now, as I flip through the pages of my representative worldwide stamp collection, I must say, the page with Overrun Countries stamps really stands out.

## Acknowledgment

The author would especially like to thank Scott Tiffney of the American Philatelic Research Library for providing the images used in Figures 2-8.

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Revenue Issues

# America's Embossed Revenue Stamp Paper, Part III: American Colonial Issue – The Massachusetts Bay Issue

by **Roger S. Brody**  
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The March 14, 1755, proclamation, announcing the coming stamp duties included samples of the printed and embossed stamps to be used for each of the duties as well as a detailed description of the new duties and schedule of the rates.

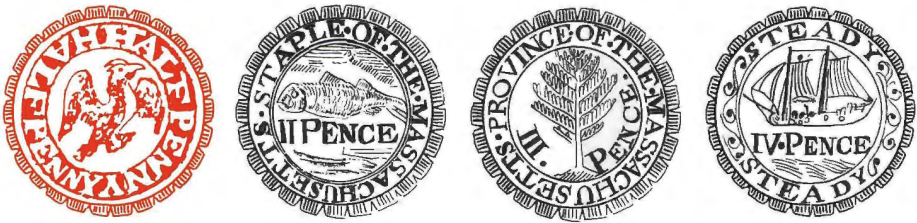


Figure 1. Half Penny and II, II and IV Pence Massachusetts Bay stamps

## Rates

There were four stamp Massachusetts values: Half Penny, II, III and IV pence (Figure 1).

The Half Penny typographically printed rate was intended for newspapers.

The II pence embossed rate applied to deeds and mortgages of real estate valued at less than £20; bonds and obligations (except for those imposed by the Probate Office, i.e., executors' or administrators' bonds) and other sealed instruments (i.e., letters of administration, etc.); as well as legal documents such as *capias* (arrest warrants), summons, and executions originating from a Justice of the Peace.

The III pence embossed rate was required on legal documents such as arrest warrants, summons, writs of review, writs of *scire facias* (appearance to show cause why a law or order should not be enforced), and writs of execution issued from courts of record i.e.,



Common Pleas Courts, Court of Assize (criminal court for defendants not free on bail), and the Superior Court, as well as bills of sale for all sorts of servants including slaves.

The IV pence embossed rate was intended for deeds and mortgages for real estate if the value was £20 or greater; for bills of sale for all or part of vessels and ships; charter parties; insurance policies; protests; bills of lading and receipts for money or cargoes on board any vessel; certificates under either the seal of a Notary Public or the Province of Massachusetts Bay itself; registers of vessels; and other legal documents including warrants, and monitions of decree of the Court of Vice-Admiralty.

The tax rates make a distinction between documents from the Justice of the Peace courts and the Common Pleas and other higher courts. The Justice courts were roughly comparable to the small claims courts of today. These courts were of the lowest jurisdiction having been given summary powers over disputes over private property involving small sums-up to £5 for one sitting judge and £10 for cases with two sitting judges. A case having three judges could be heard up to a limit of £30 with a limited right of appeal. Common Pleas courts were county courts of limited jurisdiction in higher value money matters but with a right to appeal to the Superior Court. Thus, a distinction was made in the duties applicable to documents from the “small claims” courts and the larger court of record dealing with larger property disputes, civil, and criminal matters.

What is most remarkable about the rates is the absence of any documentary duty on monetary instruments except bonds. At that time currency was extremely scarce and most economic transactions occurred by one of three mechanisms: trade; notes of hand (promissory notes payable in funds or goods); or adjustments of account balances, either by direct settlement or by creation of bills of exchange or orders that directed others to make suitable adjustments. The only bonds taxable were those signifying funds due in the future based on some stated condition. A brief examination of the types of instruments subject to legal dispute in a sample of 49 available Massachusetts arrest warrants of the same period are summarized in Table 1 and indicate that notes and accounts (possibly leading to bills of exchange or orders) were the predominant financial transactions. Promissory Notes amount to about one half of the financial transactions, while the dutiable bonds amount to only about one-seventh of the total.

**Table 1. Financial Transaction Frequency  
Indicated by Massachusetts Arrest Warrant Descriptions**

Type of Instrument	Number	Percentage
Bond	6	12
Notes of Hand:		
In Funds	26	54
In Kind Goods	2	4
Accounts:		
For Merchandise	9	18
For Services	6	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>

It seems likely that a primary factor underlying the choice of duties included in the Massachusetts Stamp Act was the ability of the government to collect the taxes. All duty rates imposed were easy to collect. Deeds were recorded in the county registry books by officials, and writs or warrants emanating from various courts and justices of the peace were created by controllable officials. Other documents such as bills of lading and vessel registers were normally created or examined by officials. The remainder of the documents taxed were often registered as part of their routine usage or collection such as bonds, letters of administration, protests, insurance policies, charter parties, and bills of sale for tangible recorded property such as vessels and servants.

## **Types of Documents**

A rather limited number of types of documents bearing Massachusetts Colony stamps are known to have survived. The various types of documents subject to the stamp act are described below.

### ***Bills of Lading***

A contract given to a shipper by an authorized representative of the transporting agency that lists the goods shipped; acknowledges their receipt; and promises delivery to the party named. No surviving Massachusetts stamped bills or receipts of lading are known to the authors.

### ***Bills of Sale***

A written statement certifying that the ownership of something has been transferred by sale. Bills of sale for slaves and indentured servants and for ships and other vessels were taxable with a stamp duty under the Massachusetts stamp act but none are known to have survived.

### ***Bonds***

A bond is a legal obligation under seal committing the signer(s) to pay specific sums of money or perform specified duties. Bonds are categorized as simple obligations (analogous to single bonds), penal bonds with a stated penalty for failure to pay, and performance bonds. Surviving bonds are moderately numerous with penal bonds being the most common. Performance bonds and single bonds are also known.

The penal bond with the embossed II pence stamp, Shown in Figure 2 describes the promise of debtor Andrew Brown of Arundel, Yorke County to pay £80, a sum equal to twice the amount of his debt to Joshua Lashell; if however, the original indebtedness of £40 is paid on or before the first of July 1756, the bond is rendered null and void. The calculation of interest in the lower right corner of the bond, indicates that the £40 debt was paid on time. Arundel, Yorke County, Massachusetts was in what is now the state of Maine. It was established in 1652 when the Massachusetts Bay Colony asserted territorial claims over the settlements of southern Maine.

### ***Certificates***

These include certificates of admission or licenses to practice in various Massachusetts courts as well as licenses or certificates of appointment of notaries. The act also

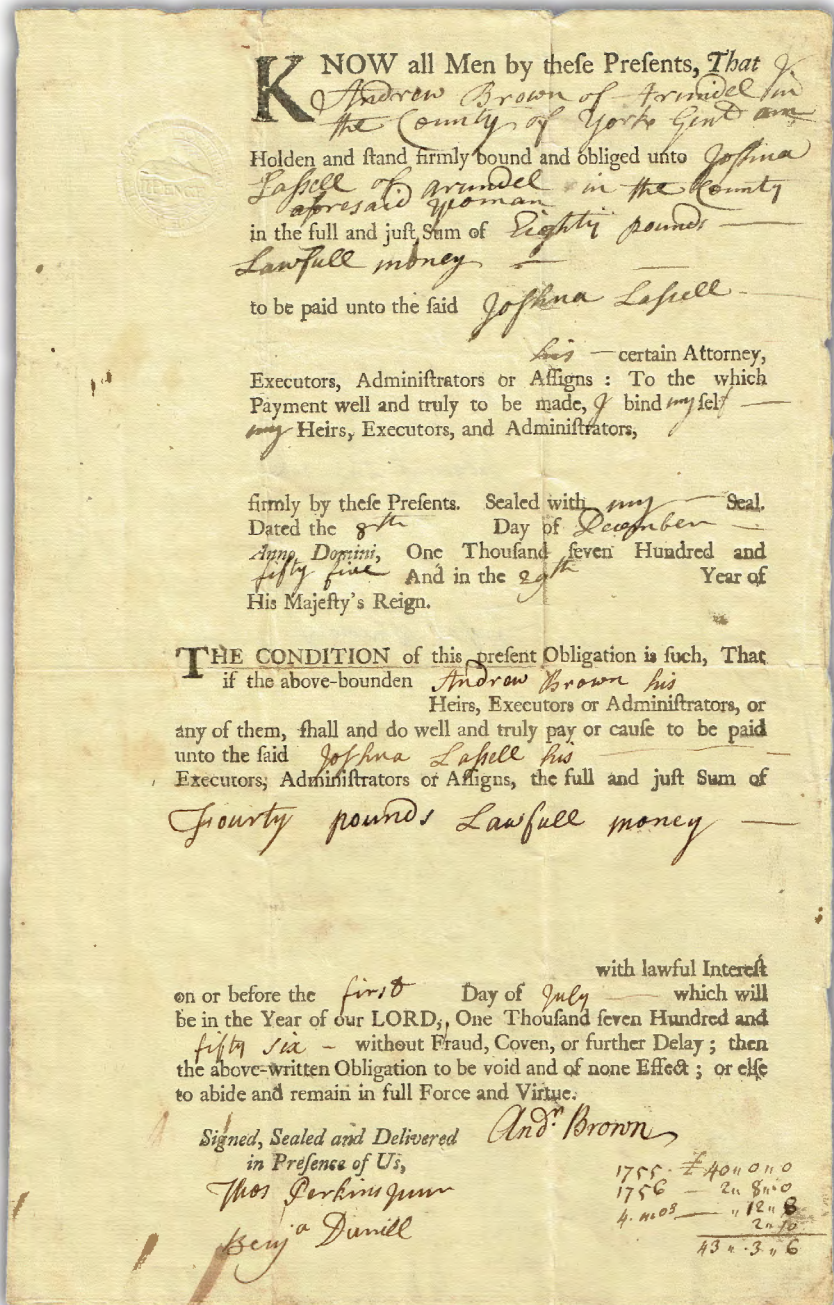


Figure 2. Penal Bond, Arundel, County of York, December 8, 1755

applied to certificates of shares in corporations although these were extremely limited in number in all the colonies including Massachusetts. Certificates also applied to documents written to entitle a person to receive a bounty granted by Acts of Parliament. No stamped examples of any kind of certificate are known to have survived.



### ***Charter Parties***

A charter party was a contract by which the owner or agent of a vessel leased the entire vessel or some part of it to the lessee to be used for transportation for the lessee's account. No Charter parties stamped with Massachusetts stamps are known to have survived.

### ***Deeds/Conveyances***

Within the context of the Massachusetts colonial stamp issue, deeds and conveyances were the formal documentation providing evidence of legal title to real estate. These mortgages and conveyance deeds were recorded in bound books or registries of deeds, but the originals were returned to the owners and only transcriptions were kept in the registry books. The recorded copies were not stamped, but the originals were. Leland Powers conducted a survey of the registry books in the especially populous Suffolk County which includes Boston (Powers, 1939). He found that the recording of the deeds was meticulous, noting they were on stamped paper, and the stamp denomination. Accordingly, he found that the earliest recorded use of a II pence stamp on a deed was on May 10, 1755, and of a IV pence stamp on a deed, May 6, 1755.

While the law required a II pence duty for conveyances valued below £20, and a IV pence duty above £20, the use of the correct stamp was not as meticulous as the recording. Several instances of deeds are known valued below £20 being stamped during the period of the stamp act with the higher duty stamp, as well as deeds stamped with the wrong stamp used after the expiration of the tax.

Deeds come in a variety of formats. There are large manuscript indentures on vellum as well as smaller manuscript and printed conveyances on paper of a size of approximately 13-inches long by 8-inches wide. The deeds or bill of sale conveyances on paper are the most common.

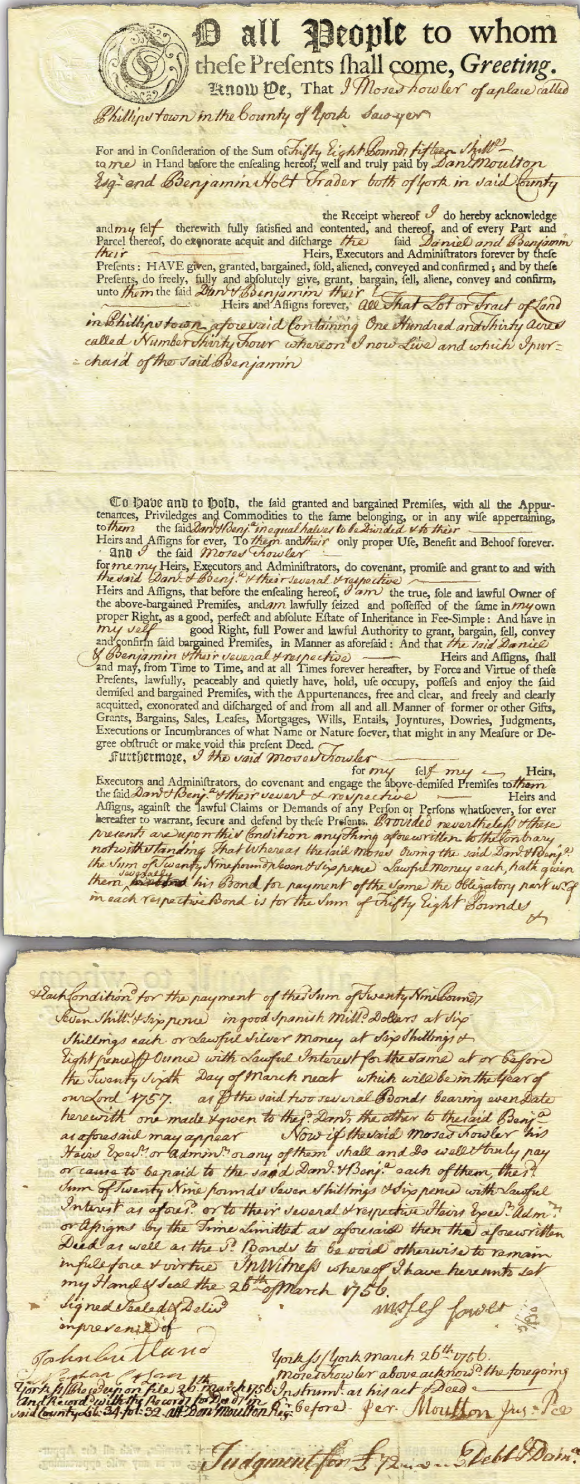
Massachusetts deeds are relatively common and comprise about 20% of the document population. They can be further classified as warranty deeds, quit claim deeds transferring existing title, and simple conveyances initiating title by gifts or grants etc., with the latter the scarcest. Of all deeds, about 65% are warranty deeds, about 25% are quitclaim deeds transferring existing title, and about 10% are conveyances initiating title by gifts or grants etc. Essex County deeds amount to about 30% of all the surviving conveyances.

Figure 3 shows a March 26, 1756, land conveyance with a IV pence embossed stamp by which Moses Fowler, a Sawyer of Phillipstown, York County sold to Dan Moulton, Esq. and Benjamin Hold, trader, both of York, for £58.15s, "land in Phillipstown, aforesaid Containing One Hundred and thirty acres called Number Thirty Four whereon I now Live." The back of the document details the execution of the deed subject to a bond payment due one year from the date of the conveyance.

Phillipstown was named for William Phillips, a proprietor of sawmills, who in 1661 purchased from the Indian Chief Fluellin, a tract of land on which the town was established. It was eventually renamed Sanford in what is now Maine

### ***Insurance Policies***

These are contracts by which one or more persons assume liability or risk for a ves-



**Figure 3. Land Conveyance, Phillipstown, County of York, March 26, 1756**

sel, cargo, building or life against catastrophe due to specific dangers or losses. No Massachusetts stamped policies are known to have survived.

## Leases

A lease is a contract where the lessor or landlord turns over possession and usage of lands and/or buildings to a tenant or lessee for a fixed period in return for fixed payments of rents. Leases of this period are generally seen as large manuscript contracts on vellum or paper. Leases are a scarce usage with only two surviving examples being known to the authors.

## Monitions

A monition is a pleading in a court case in a summons. No stamped examples are known to have survived.

## Newspapers

Newspapers, printed sheets of paper with news reports, advertisements, etc., were fairly numerous during the period of the Massachusetts stamp act but very few stamped copies survive outside of museum and historical society collections. The following are known to have published editions during the period of the Massachusetts stamp act and copies are known in private hands:

*Boston Weekly News-Letter.* The first successful newspaper in America, the *Boston News-Letter*, appeared in 1704, and until 1719 it was the only newspaper in the colonies. In 1719 a local competi-



# NEW-ENGLAND. The BOSTON Weekly News-Letter.

THURSDAY, JULY 8. 1756.

BOSTON, July 8.

Thursday last the Great and General Court of Assembly of this Province met here, when His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to make the following SPEECH to both Houses.

Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives,

URING your Recels, His Excellency the Governor, has transmitted to me [from Albany, several Letters from the Right Honourable HENRY FOX, Esq; one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, containing divers Matters of great Importance, which I am now truly before you. I am in the first Place to inform you, that His Majesty in his great Goodness, was pleased to recommend to the Consideration of the Parliament, the Case of His Colonies in New-England; together with those of New-York and New-Jersey, and the Sum of 115,000. Sterl. was thereupon granted, to be distributed in such Proportion as His Majesty shall think proper.

It is much to be regretted, that in the Sense which His Majesty hath of your past Services; but at the same Time it was justly, and ought to have that respect, to encourage us to go on to exert ourselves with Vigour and Zeal; nor should we think much of the Burdens we sustain, when we consider the great Charge which attends the Sea and Land Forces employed by His Majesty for our Preservation and Defence, two Regiments more being now added to the Seven before stationed, in the Provinces of New-York and New-Scotia.

The filling up these seven Regiments to their Complement of 1000 Men each, is one of the Things which I am to desire you to be assisting in, by encouraging His Majesty's Officers who are employed in raising Recruits within the Province, and by using your Influence, in the several Parts of it, to induce Men to enlist, or by coming into such Votes and Resolutions as shall be necessary; in all which, I shall most readily concur with you.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased in Order to encourage his Enlistment, to content that such Recruits should not be obliged to leave any where but in *Nova-America*; that they should be discharged when Hostilities shall cease; and that each of them shall have a Grant of 200 Acres of Land free from Payment of Quitrent for ten Years, either in the Province of New-York, New-Hampshire or New-Scotia, at their own Choice; and in Case they are killed in the Service, their Widows and Children shall be entitled to the same.

When you consider, Gentlemen, that the Regular Forces in His Majesty's Payable Troops raised by the Colonies, are all employed in the same common Service; and that the Defence of His Majesty's Subjects of these Colonies, and the preserving and restoring his just Rights cannot but be very dear to the Regiments upon the Establishment should be complete; and indeed it is in very much your Interest that they should be so; for at all Events, a sufficient Number of Men must be employed to oppose and put a Stop to the Progress of the French; and the greater the Difficulty is in his Majesty's Regular Forces, to which greater Number of Irregulars, in the Pay of the Colonies, will be found necessary.

I am very glad that by promoting and leading in the Expedition now on Foot, we have in some Measure already complied with another Part of His Majesty's Directions, the raising our Quota of the said Number of Men as was employed the last Year; but it is expected that these Forces should be under the Direction of the Commander in Chief, and left in his Disposal with the King's Troops, in such Operations as may be ordered on. And His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order that the Raising, Pay, Arms and Clothing of your own Troops, should be all that is to be required; Measures having been taken for laying in Stores and Provisions at the Expence of the Crown.

You are sensible that it was found necessary in order to encourage a voluntary Enlistment, to promise such as enlisted that they should not be carried beyond certain Limits; you will consider the best Method of removing, or raising any Difficulty that may be occasioned thereby. The other Part of His Majesty's Proposal I doubt not will be readily and gratefully accepted and complied with by you.

I am likewise required to recommend to you, to make Provision for paying to the Masters of any indentured Servants who have engaged or may engage in His Majesty's Service, such Sum as were paid by said Masters upon the original Contract, in Proportion to the Time such indentured Servants have to serve.

We have been small Proportion of such Servants among us, compared with the Southern Colonies; and I do not imagine that your Compliance can bring any great Burden on the Province.

If you remit your Laws to prevent Desertion, you will find some further Provision necessary; I trust whereof, I am informed, has been one Reason why the Quota of this Province for the present Expedition, has not been more seasonably completed.

It was His Majesty's Expectation, that the 2000 Irregulars which have been raised in New-England, and sent to New-Scotia, should have been encouraged by you to continue in that Service as long as the Fall, or until they could be replaced by others; in Consequence of the Engagements made to those Troops, and the earnest repeated Application of the last Assembly, to His Excellency Maj. General SHUTE, one Battalion has returned.

I can only therefore at present, desire you to use your Influence with the other Battalion, that they would consent to remain there the Term proposed; His Majesty having graciously condescended to declare, that their Zeal on this Occasion cannot fail of greatly recommending them to His Favour; and also to assure them, that every private Soldier, who should desire at the Expiration of the Service, to become Settlers either in New-Scotia, New-York, or New-Hampshire, shall have a Grant of 200 Acres of Land, free from Quitrent for Ten Years;

and the several Officers, larger Tracts according to their Rank, in such Proportion as His Majesty shall be pleased to determine.

Thus are the several Matters which have made it necessary for me to meet you at this Time, and I desire you without any Delay to apply your Votes to the Consideration of them.

Given at Cambridge, July 1. 1756.

S. PHIPPS.

PHILADELPHIA, June 24.

On Monday last Thomas LECH, Esq; and Capt. Daniel ROBERTSON were elected Members of Assembly for this County, in the Room of James LAMBERTON, and Joshua MORRIS, Esquires.

And on Tuesday Lieutenant Colonel William MATTERS, was chosen a Burgess for this City, in the Room of William CALDWELL, Esq; he is a Gentleman, who has been in the Service of Great Britain, and is now bound to the Northward from that Island, are taken by the French Men of War, and carried into Martinico.

From Winchester in Virginia, we learn, that the Party under Mr. GILL, which separated from Col. CROFT, and had an Engagement with a Body of Indians (as mentioned in our last) behaved with great Courage and Resolution; that Mr. GILL got the Advantage of the Ground, which he kept notwithstanding the Enemy attempted several Times to dispossess him; and that the loss of three of his Men, yet it was thought he killed not less than 15 of the Indians, who got into a very thick Swamp place where they fought, so that they could not be found.

The following is a List of the Persons killed and missing at Digham's Fort, George Woods, Nathaniel Brigham, Robert Taylor, his Wife, and two Children; Francis INNS, his Wife, and three Children; John M. DONNELL, Hannah GRAY, and one Child, missing. Some of the People who were killed in the Fort, was a Number of Men were found there, Suffered, Giles, found dead and scalped in the Neighbourhood of the Fort. Robert COCKMAN, and Thomas MCKINNEY, found dead and scalped. Alexander MCKINNEY and his Wife, James ADAMS, Jane COCKMAN, and two Children, missing. The above MCKINNEYS' House was burnt, a Number of Cattle killed, and many Horfes drove off. The Enemy's purpose is to be victorious, as they set and carried off a great deal of the best Fire Arms.

We learn that one of Lawrence Duppell's Children, mentioned in our last, as supposed to be carried off by the Indians, has been found cruelly wounded and scalped, a Boy, about four Years old, and that the other, also a Boy, eight Years of Age, was still living. We learn from the Jersey, that on the 18th last four Officers, with a Party of Men, set out from Paul's-Kill, towards the Great Swamp, near Indian Town, one of which was the Shawanoe Town, over the Sagschanna; but that they all appeared to have been defeated some Months past. They brought six Horses in with them.

We have Advice from Bethlehem, in Northampton County, that on the 21st Instant two Delaware Indians arrived there from Diogo, that formerly lived at Gadenhatten, who declared themselves to be Friends to the English, and were accordingly received as such. They said they left Diogo with a Company of their Friends, Men, Women and Children, to the Number of Fifteen, when they left a Day's Journey from Gadenhatten, and ventured forward, as the Risk of their Lives, to show whether the English would allow them and their Friends to come among them; and added further, that if they were admitted into the Favour of the English, a great many more Indians would join them from Diogo, they only waiting to know what Reception they should meet with; but that it was thought some of the Chiefs of the Indians there had gone over to the French, as they have gone hither up the Country. Upon which Captain NEW-CATTLE, an Indian, was immediately sent out, with some other Indians, to bring them into Port Allen.

Last Monday his Honour our Governor returned from Amboy. The same Day was brought to Town the Indian Scalp, one of them taken in the Engagement wherein Mr. Thomas CROFT was killed; the other by a Party of Rangers under Colonel CROFT; for each of which the Commissioners paid the Reward of 120 Dollars, as offered by the Governor's Proclamation of the 14th of April last.

We hear that Colonel CROFT is again gone out with a Party of Rangers, in Quest of the Enemy.

On Tuesday last in the Afternoon, we had a most violent Gale, with very hard Thunder, the Wind at South South-west, and blew exceedingly hard. Many Houses in Town are considerably damaged by it, being stripped of their Roofs and Chimneys, a great many Windows shattered to Pieces, and some of the Roofs carried a considerable Distance from the Houses. The Gable end of one House in Fifth-Street was entirely destroyed, and the Publick Library in the same Street suffered a good deal. The Vane of the Church Steeple was also much bent by the Wind. And from the Country we hear that Numbers of Trees are blown down, many Fences carried away, and some Barns, Stables, &c. damaged. In many places some People that were a Hay-making into a Barn for shelter, which fell in upon them, whereby a young Man was killed outright, and some others badly hurt; and it is said there were two People killed at Gloucester. The Burlington Boat was overlet coming down to Town, and two of the Passengers drowned, and one Mr. Cox, up Schuylkill, and four Cows, killed by the Lightning. Much more Damage we are afraid will be heard of, as it blew a more Hurricane for some Time.

NEW-YORK, June 28.

Monday last arrived here the Earl of Haldenside Viscount, Captain Simpson in ten Weeks from Cork, being the second arrived this Season from that Place.

The same Day Capt. Richards arrived in Port from London.

As the several Matters which have made it necessary for me to meet you at this Time, and I desire you without any Delay to apply your Votes to the Consideration of them.

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itor emerged in Boston, the *Boston Gazette*, and the first newspaper in Philadelphia, the *American Weekly Mercury*, was launched that year as well. By the time of the American Revolution in 1775, there were some thirty-seven colonial newspapers in business.

The July 8, 1756, edition of the *Boston Weekly News-Letter* (**Figure 4**) contains interesting news including a list of those killed and missing at Fort Bigham during the French and Indian War. The fort, a blockhouse and stockade, established on the plantation of Captain Samuel Bigham in 1754, was attacked and captured by the French and their Indian allies on 11 Jun 1756. The occupants of the fort, mostly women and children, were either killed or taken captive. Some perished when the Indians set fire to the fort, and others were killed and scalped as they tried to escape. In all, 5 people in the fort or the vicinity were killed and 18 captured.

*Boston Evening Post.* This paper was published initially by Thomas Fleet and later John Fleet. Thomas Fleet (1685-1758) was a printer and bookseller who published papers in Boston from 1731 through 1758. The paper also published editions during this period within the byline *Boston Post-Boy*. This is the most common stamped newspaper found in collector's hands.

*Boston Gazette.* The paper was published by Benjamin Edes and John Gill starting about 1755. It was a continuation of the *Boston Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*. This paper also published under the name *Boston Gazette and Country Journal*. The *Boston Gazette* is rarely found with the red printed stamp of Massachusetts.

Stamps surface printed in red ink are known to exist on copies of all three Boston newspapers.

### ***Letters of Attorney***

These were an official or legal document authorizing the transfer of certain powers to the person named by the person signing the document. Generally, they authorized the person to act for the signer in some specific task or action. Massachusetts stamped Letters of Attorney are a scarce usage with only a couple being known, on large sheets of paper—generally about 13 inches long by about 8 inches wide.

### ***Protests***

Protests are one of several kinds of declarations made in writing by a notary public. The most common is a declaration on behalf of the holder of a credit instrument such as a bill of exchange or promissory note, protesting losses or damages caused by it non-acceptance or non-payment. Another type is a declaration made while paying a tax, duty, etc. or performing an act demanded which the protester deems illegal, denying the justice of the demand and asserting his rights showing that his action is not voluntary. A third type is a marine protest, a declaration by a master of vessel or similar authorized official upon arrival in port after a disaster, stating the specifics of the event and pointing out that any damage or loss was not the fault of the vessel, officers, or crew, but due to the “perils of the sea” and protesting against them. Protests are scarce and no Massachusetts stamped documents are known to have survived from the period of the stamp act.

### ***Receipts of Legacy***

These are acknowledgments of receipt of sums due from an estate executor or ad-

ministrator for legacies due to the heir of a deceased person. Just one example is known.

### Registers of Vessels

A register is a sheet of paper upon which is written a register, entry, or enrollment of a vessel. None are known to have survived.

### Writs

As writs account for about two-thirds of surviving Massachusetts documents, it is helpful to further segment them into various subtypes. The Massachusetts writs are found in three broad categories: writs of arrest, writs of execution and summons. Other types are writs of review and writs of *scire facias* (writs of appearance to show cause why a law or order should not be enforced).

Writs of arrest are the most common being about 73% of the identifiable writs. They invariably call for the attachment of goods or the "body of the defendant if he may be found." Many are found with the notes of service indicating that the defendant had been committed to "gaol" (jail). Figure 5 shows a III pence "Pine Tree" embossed stamp, issued September 7, 1756, for the arrest of Jonathan Prince of Ipswich, to appear

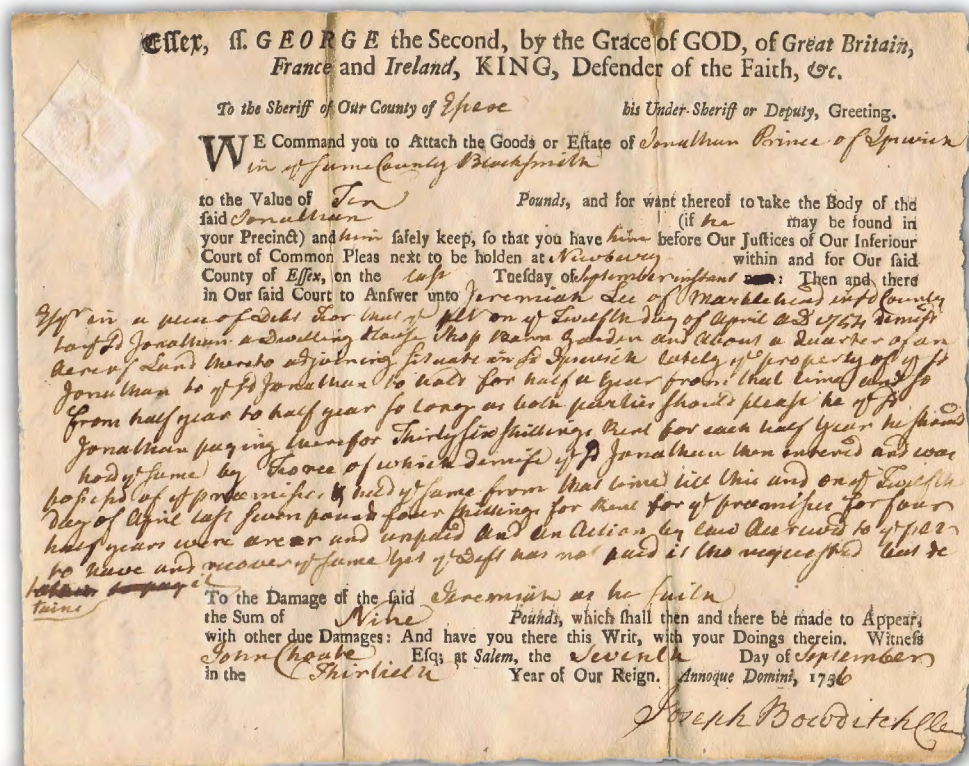


Figure 5. Writ of Arrest (Capias) September 17, 1756.

at the Court of Common Pleas at Newbury to show cause why a judgment of 35 shillings should not be enforced.

Writs of execution are the result of judgments and always call for the attachment of goods to satisfy these judgments; if the goods cannot be attached, the “body” of the defendant is to be arrested and confined to jail, i.e., debtor’s prison. About 15% of the identifiable writs are found in this category.

Summonses are the scarcest category accounting for just 12% of the identifiable writs. Where the other two writs invariably call for the attachment of goods or the “body” of the defendant, the latter generally only request that he be read the writ.

Writs are known originating from suits for damages before Justices of the Peace as well as from the Common Pleas Courts. Suits to be brought before the Courts of Common Pleas are much more common than those before the Justices of the Peace—in a ratio of 7 to 1. The median value for stamped writs originating from the Common Pleas Courts is suits for £18; the highest value known is £300 while the lowest value of a suit known is £3. Conversely the range for suits before Justices of the Peace are much narrower, with the lowest amount recorded just 20 shillings (£1), the highest 100 shillings (£5), and the median 40 shillings (£2).

Writ formats can be categorized into two classes: long forms and short forms. About 10% of the writs are printed on long forms 13” long with an 8” space for writing the particulars of the writ, and the short form 6 ½” long with a 2 ½” space for the particulars. The text appears to be the same on both forms, the longer space being provided for the specific detailing of the case. They are printed in two styles: generalized with the county omitted to be filled in by hand, and printed specifically for a particular county. Generalized writs of both long and short form comprise about 8% of the surviving writs. The three types of writs (i.e., arrest warrants, writs of execution, and summonses) are known on each variety of document: long and short, and generalized and specific to particular counties. About 8% of the writs are found being edited to another type, i.e., arrest warrants converted to summonses and vice versa.

Part IV will survey the surviving Massachusetts embossed stamped documents and illustrate more examples.

## Acknowledgment

This article and the next are a collaboration, based on the research and unpublished writings of John C. Rowe.

## References

Powers, Leland. 1939. When Did the Use of the Massachusetts Colonial Issue of Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper Cease To Be Compulsory? *Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper News*, Vol. 1, May, pp. 53-4.

## ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



**USSS Members can log into the society's website ([www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org)) and download the digital version of *THE PREXIES* by Roland E. Rustad**





*Vintage Photo of the Month*

## Viking Ship

by **Rodney A. Juell**

USSS #13852 | P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434



This month's photo shows the replica of a Viking ship on display at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. It was built in Norway and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, up the Hudson River, and through the Great Lakes to Chicago and the fair. This ship provided the model for one of the two Norse-American stamps issued in 1925, Scott 621. Also shown are the recently restored head and tail of the ship, located in a museum in Geneva, Illinois.







## USSS Resources

BUREAU ISSUES ASSOCIATION, REPORT No. 6.  
PLATE VARIETIES COMMITTEE.

SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 23. -P2

DOUBLE TRANSFERS ON THE 2¢ HUDSON FULTON.



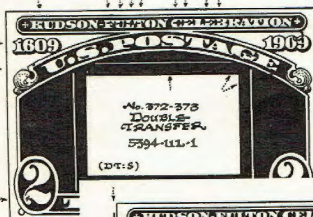
3-UL-5394 & 4-UL-5394 are well known, due to the curved, left end of the upper

# The SHIFT HUNTERS

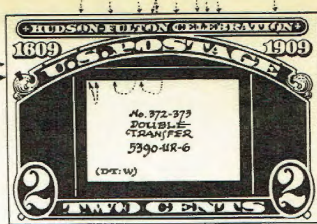
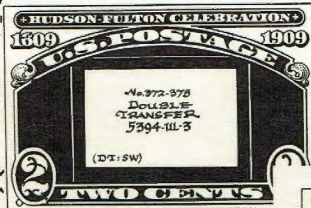
SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No. 87  
VOLUME VII, No. 10, OCTOBER

Last month's report is held up and mailed with this so that you would get the complete story on the HUDSON-FULTON at one time. The previous illustrations covered only the varieties of plate 5388, and we now continue into plates 5390, 5393 and 5394, and give in addition the one and only variety which has not as yet been plated. At right is an accurate illustration of 5390-UR-6, the only variety reported from the two top panes of this plate.

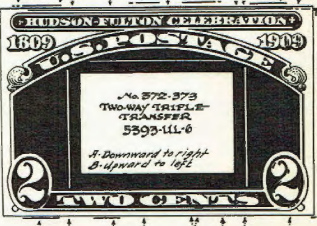
Below it is the Two-way Triple Transfer from 5393 UL-6, the only known triple in the issue. Diagonally



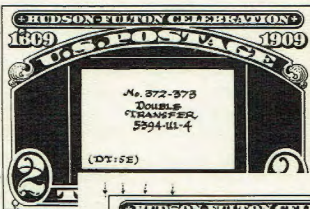
One of the features of these top row doubles of 5394-UL is the circle in the year dates... 1909 on position 1 and 1809 on 3 and 4. The circle comes from the deep cut around the cross at the ends of the top label... and well indicates the extent of displacement. The one and only unplaced variety is shown just below this paragraph, and while the only positive clue to position is the plate center line at left, as a rough guess we would spot it in the lower right pane of 5388. It is, by the way, the same variety reported by Ruespert and



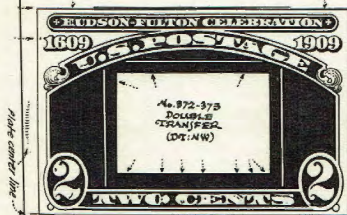
Showing degree of displacement



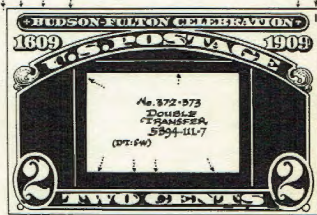
the page are the varieties from 5394-UL, with those from 5394-UR across the bottom. Included in the former group are the two best known of all the Hudson-Fulton doubles; positions 3 and 4 UL which are immediately below the imprint and number at the top of the pane, and so have been saved in the plate number and imprint blocks.



Sloane in SRL 65, and we would like to see those two copies for checking with our own, for the previous illustration did not show a guide line or doubling of the horizontal lines of shading at the left. Any more information will be welcome!!



Temporary reference "Dr. 1"



Right  
hand  
of  
panel  
doublet  
inverted



We will appreciate your comments on this new and larger format or any other comments you may have!

Cordially,  
Lee M. Hagen

P.S. A semi-weekly service will appear soon in WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR, under the column heading of THE SHIFT HUNTERS. This service will be reported, such items of non-disclosure, current varieties etc. as far as they are reported to us. What can you report?

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
92 E. LYNN ST., SEATTLE, WASH.



# The Shift-Hunter Letter: The Hudson-Fulton Commemorative

by **Watson Finger**

USSS #10347 | ✉ wcfhouston@yahoo.com

Clayton W. Bedford (1885-1933), one of the original members of the Bureau Issues Association, now the United States Stamp Society, was a very active philatelist living in Akron, Ohio. He organized the “The Shift Hunters,” a group of collectors interested in examining early US stamps for printing plate flaws, scratches, dents, extra speck of metal, and shifts of the impression, etc. which would show up on the postage stamp to make it a collectible “minor variety.” The group began the pioneer publication known as the Shift-Hunter Letter.

The complete run of the 91 letters has been digitized as searchable PDFs for viewing or downloading and are available on Resources section of the USSS website at [www.usstamps.org/resources](http://www.usstamps.org/resources).

After C.W. Bedford’s death in 1933, L. M. Ryer took over as editor. The figures below depict examples of Mr. Ryer’s records for the 1909 Hudson-Fulton commemorative and include specimens from the author’s collection. These plate varieties also exist on the imperforate version of the Hudson-Fulton commemorative, as all the plates are known for both issues.

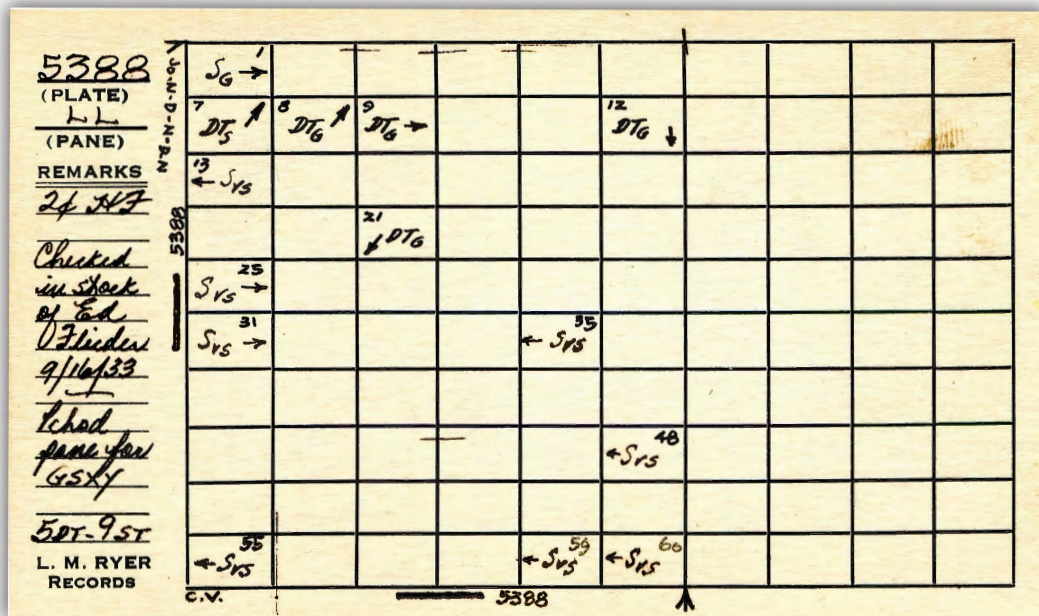


Figure 1. Plate position diagram for plate number 5388 Lower Left Pane.

Shown in Figure 1 is the Ryer's plate position diagram for lower left pane of plate number 5388. Note this pane contains five double transfers and nine shifted transfers.

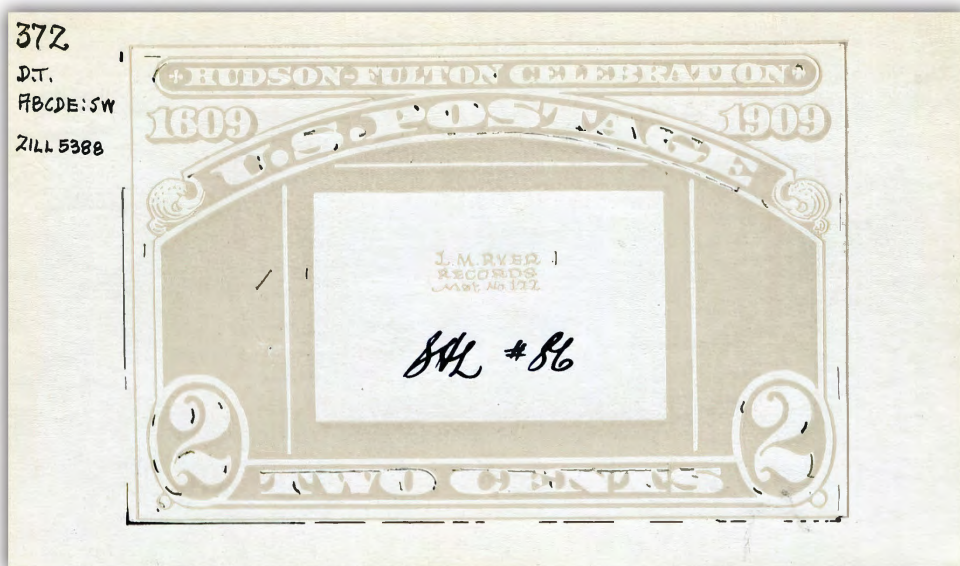


Figure 2. Ryer's mat for position 21, showing the details of a double transfer.

Figure 2 shows Ryer's mat for position 21. The mat illustrates the details of a double transfer. This is the double transfer that was detailed Issue #86 of *The Shift Hunter Letter*, a detail of which is included as Figure 3.

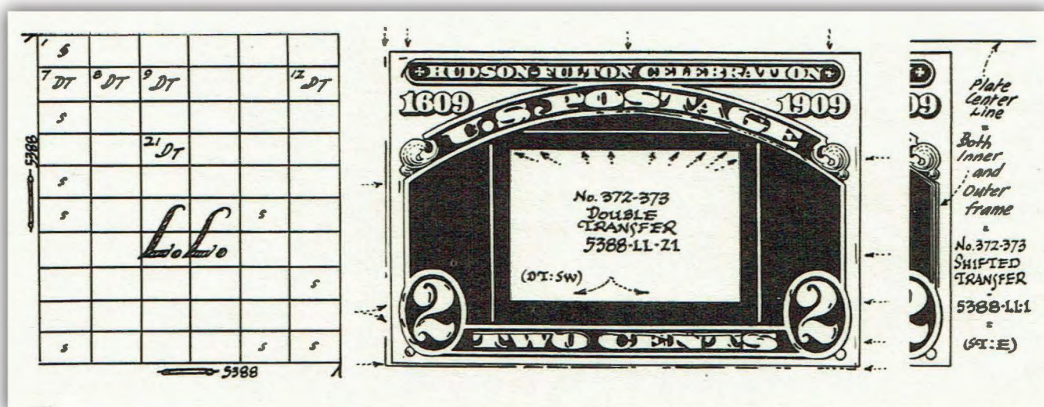


Figure 3. A detail of the report provided in Issue #86 of *The Shift Hunter Letter*.

Figure 4 shows the stamp overlaid on the mat and then enlarged to show detail (right).

L.M. Ryer's plate position diagram for the upper left pane of plate number 5394 is shown in Figure 5. His mat for position 4 (Figure 6) shows details of a double transfer. This double transfer was discussed in *The Shift Hunter Letter* issues #87 and #23.









Figure 6. The mat for position 4 shows details of a double transfer discussed in *The Shift Hunter Letter*.

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Plate 5394 UL, Position 4



Figure 7. An imperforate example of the Hudson-Fulton issue (enlarged on right) overlaid on the Ryer's mat.

USSS members are encouraged to browse full run of *The Shift Hunter Letters* available at [www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org). After many decades, these well-illustrated newsletters remain an excellent resource for collectors and researchers alike. The USSS makes these PDF versions freely available to the philatelic community.

If you are interested in further study of plate varieties, our Society has published *The Bureau Specialist*, Volumes 1-3, 1930-32, available on the USSS website store or by contacting the Executive Secretary at [execsecretary@usstamps.org](mailto:execsecretary@usstamps.org).

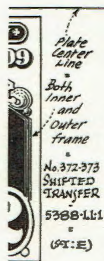
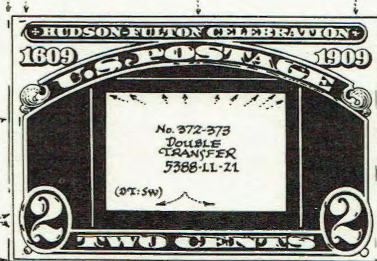
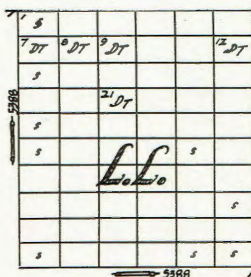
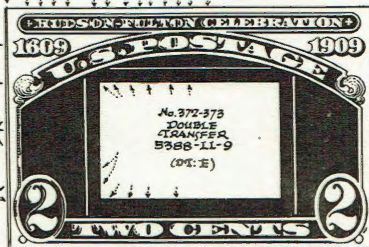
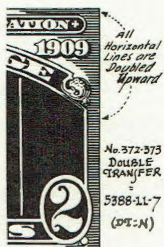
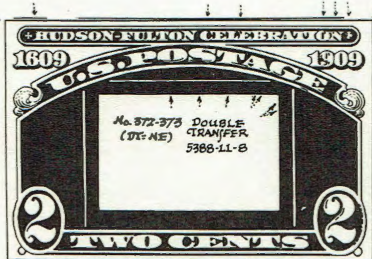
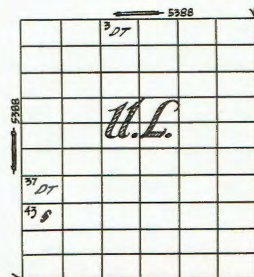
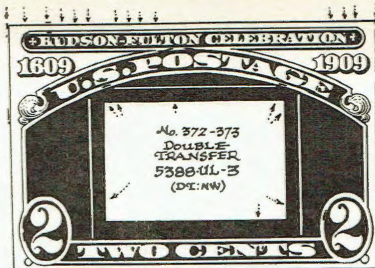


# The SHIFT HUNTERS

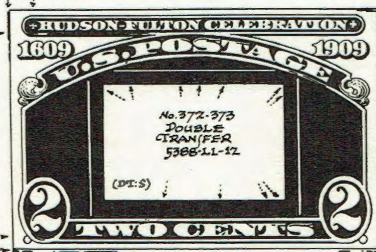
SHIFT HUNTER LETTER No 86  
VOLUME VII No 9 SEPTEMBER

hope you like it! This letter and that to follow will give the complete report of all varieties in the 2¢ Hudson-Fulton stamp of 1909, with the correct plate position shown in each accurate illustration. Some of these have been reported before, in SHL #23, KING and JOHL Vol. I, SHL #65 and elsewhere, but the positions of them have not been previously known or published. Cooperators making a complete report possible are H. M. Jones, J. C. Schenk, C. S. Ernst, and Charles. L. Palmer... all of whom we hereby publicly thank for their interest and assistance.

WE have been planning to change the format of these letters for many months, but thought that the best time would be the first issue of the new year. However, with the space requirements of a report carrying as large a number of illustrations as this, something had to be done at once -- and here you have the new style report that has considerable more space for illustrations and text than heretofore, and we



Only eight plates... numbered 5388 to 5395 inclusive.... were used for the issue, and only 5388, 5390, 5393 and 5394 are known to contain major varieties. There are 7 double transfers in the UL and LL panes of plate 5388, with the UR and LR panes as yet unchecked. Also in the UL and LL panes are a number of Shifts, the two larger of which are illustrated herein and indicated on the charts by the large "S". The smaller Shifts, wherein



the shifting shows only in the lines of shading in the ornaments below either of the year dates, are indicated on the pane charts by the small "s". Without doubt there are many of the unchecked panes available to our members for checking, and we ask that you make every effort to secure and check (or send to us for recording) any except the following panes:  
5388, UL, LL 5392, UL, LL, IR  
5389, LL, IR 5393, UL, LL, IR  
5390, LL, IR 5394, All  
5391, LL, IR 5395, IR  
Let's finish this job NOW!

Cordially,  
Lee Mayer

P.S. The Shift Hunters are a COOPERATING group of Plate Research Students who are publishing the discoveries of each for the benefit of all. The more you give the more you get. Send YOUR funds in for record and report NOW! Subscriptions to these Shift Hunter Letters \$2.00 per year and \$1.00 for the first year.  
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92 E. LYNN ST., SEATTLE, WASH.



# Printing Inks of the 2¢ First Bureau Issue Stamps — Analysis and Commentary

by **Leonard Piskiewicz**  
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## Analysis

The colors of the 2¢ First Bureau Issue stamps are listed by Scott as pink, carmine lake, carmine, rose, scarlet, rose carmine and red (Scott 248-251, 266-267, 279B). In recent years, attempts have been made to characterize chemically the composition of the inks used to print these stamps, most recently in an article by Harry Brittain in the July *Specialist*.<sup>1</sup> The author states that “It will be shown that these different ink formulations differed primarily in the amounts and identities of the whitening agents used to mitigate the intensity of the carmine pigment.”

The author completely ignores the “carmine” or “red” pigment used in the stamps, which may have been a wide variety of pigments commercially available in the 1890s. This is understandable, since the printing industry saw an explosion of technology in the late 19th century, including in the chemistry of the inks developed since the discovery of aniline dyes by William Perkin in 1856. Aniline dyes, also called azo-dyes (because of the chemistry involved in producing the dyes) soon led to a huge proliferation of azo-compounds used as dyes, with colors primarily in the red end of the visible spectrum. By the end of the 19th century, azo-dyes and their derivatives were significant articles of commerce used in a myriad of applications.

Examining the role played by aniline dyes at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) along with the roles of “whitening agents” requires consulting a book published in 1915, written by Norman Underwood, Chief of the Ink-Making Division of the BEP, and Thomas V. Sullivan, Assistant Chief of the same BEP Division.<sup>2</sup> Interested readers can download the book, freely available on line.

The Brittain article postulates five ink formulations containing varying amounts of whiteners — chalk (calcium carbonate,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), gypsum (calcium sulfate,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), kaolin (ideally aluminum silicate, found as a naturally occurring type of clay usually mixed with a variety of clay minerals of various compositions), barite (barium sulfate,  $\text{BaSO}_4$ ), sand (a catch-all name for small-grained minerals resulting from natural erosion) and talc (magnesium silicate). Of these six whitening agents, the last three are detected only in X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) scans, and barite is claimed to be detected on the basis of



two tiny peaks in a forest of big peaks in the XRD scan of ink Type-ε (5th letter of the Greek alphabet – epsilon). Barite is not identified in any of the FTIR (Fourier-Transform Infra-Red) spectra presented. The locations and close spacing of the two peaks attributed to barite in the 2θ trace of Type-ε suggests the presence of barite. The term 2θ — “two-theta” — is commonly used by crystallographers to describe the angle between the transmitted X-ray beam and the reflected beam in X-ray diffraction analyses.

At this point, a quick description of the use of aniline-dye pigments and relation to barite will give the reader some idea of the role of barite in producing the 2¢ First Bureau stamps. First, red aniline-dyes (also called azo-dyes) are used in the form called “organic lakes.” Underwood and Sullivan state, “... organic lakes consist of a dye and a base or carrier.” They also state that “Natural barytes” is “Very valuable as a base for plate [intaglio] inks.”<sup>3</sup> Further, for use in intaglio plate printing, they state,

*For fine work the barytes should always be added in the manufacture of the ink itself and not as an adulterant in the dry color. Water floated barytes is superior for plate inks to blanc fixe [synthetic barite] because of its grain which makes the ink wipe clean and polish well. Very finely ground barytes is also of great value as a base for organic lakes. The character of the dye and the method of precipitation exert a great influence on the value of barytes as a lake carrier.*<sup>4</sup>

The obvious implication of these statements is that stamps printed using red aniline-dyes can very well contain barite. The natural property of barite of facilitating intaglio plate printing should lead one to expect to find barite in intaglio inks, particularly organic red inks.

Confirmation of the presence of barite in Type-ε stamps, or any other of the 2¢ First Bureaus is easily accomplished by use of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy. Unfortunately, Dr. Brittain makes the gratuitously derogatory statement that, “These forensic identification techniques [FTIR and XRD] are far superior to that of X-ray fluorescence [XRF] since this technique yields only the identities of elements in the sample, leaving the investigator to guess how and to what those elements might be connected.” Apparently he has FTIR and XRD available to him but lacks XRF capability, and therefore chooses to poo-poo the usefulness of XRF.

## New Research

In view of the previously described parochial view of the spectroscopic techniques available, I decided the time had come to do some real elemental identification of what’s really in these printing inks. While the 1¢ First Bureau blue stamps are well established to be printed with Prussian Blue and Ultramarine, the 2¢ reds are a rat’s nest of dyes made into pigments called “lakes” that usually involve metallic ingredients that are made up of God knows what.

Note: Scott calls the color of the 2¢ BEP stamps’ forerunner, the 2¢ Small Banknote stamp of 1890, Scott 219D, “lake” — any guesses where that name came from?

So I rummaged through a shoebox of junk-covers and picked out two with “2¢ reds” with postmark dates in 1895 and 1903 to screen by XRF to see what turned up. These should represent Brittain’s Type-α or β and Type-ε.

It should be stated at the outset that XRF by its nature will identify elements, no matter the chemical compounds in which they are combined, and that results are qualitative and cannot be used for quantitative comparisons for different elements because of factors not worth describing in the present context. Suffice it to state that XRF will certainly provide a good idea of what's present and what isn't.

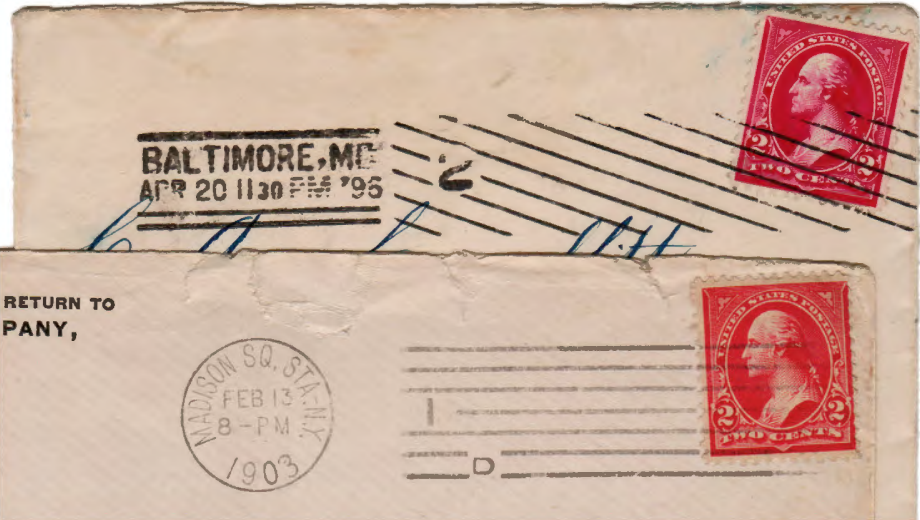


Figure 1. First Bureau 2¢ stamps postmarked 1895 and 1903.

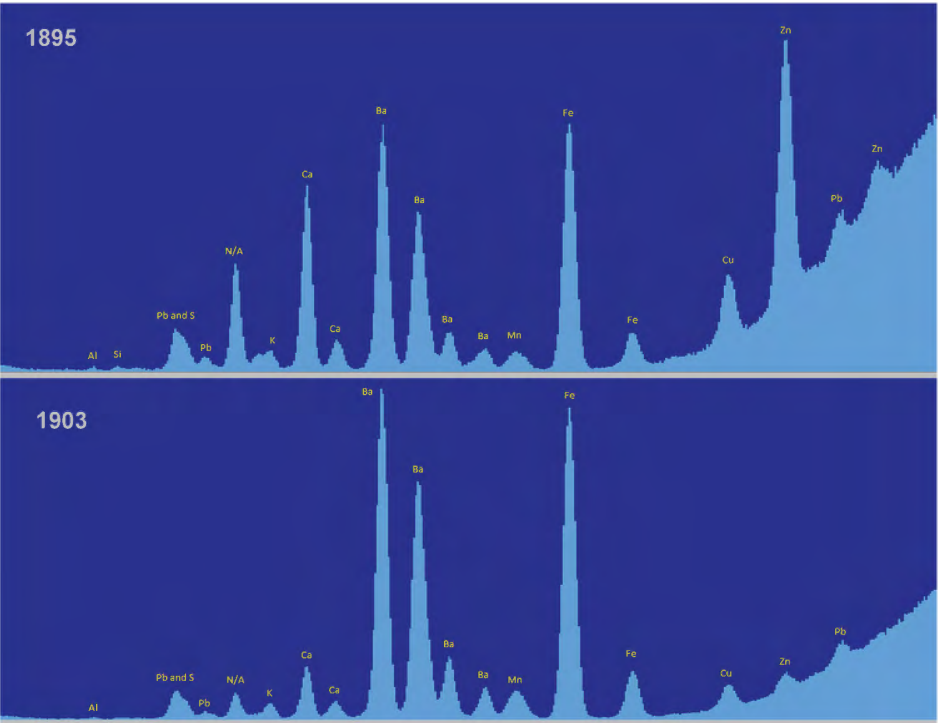


Figure 2. XRF spectral region showing prominent peaks for calcium (Ca), barium (Ba), iron (Fe) and zinc (Zn).

Figure 1 shows the two stamps examined with their dated postmarks. Figures 2 and 3 show XRF scans obtained under different instrument conditions that show spectra at different energy levels giving peaks that identify elements.<sup>5</sup>

The Figure 2 scans show some interesting and informative features. First, both the 1895 and 1903 stamps contain both barium and calcium. The relative peak heights indicate that the ratio of barium to calcium is higher in the 1903 stamp than in the 1895. That corroborates Brittain's finding of more barite in Type- $\epsilon$  than in Type- $\alpha$ ; in reality, he never detected barite in Types  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , but it's surely present. Both stamps also show presence of significant iron content; this element is environmentally ubiquitous and is one of the most abundant on the earth, and it's hard to get away from it. However, the 1895 stamp shows significant zinc content while the 1903 doesn't. Save that thought for later.

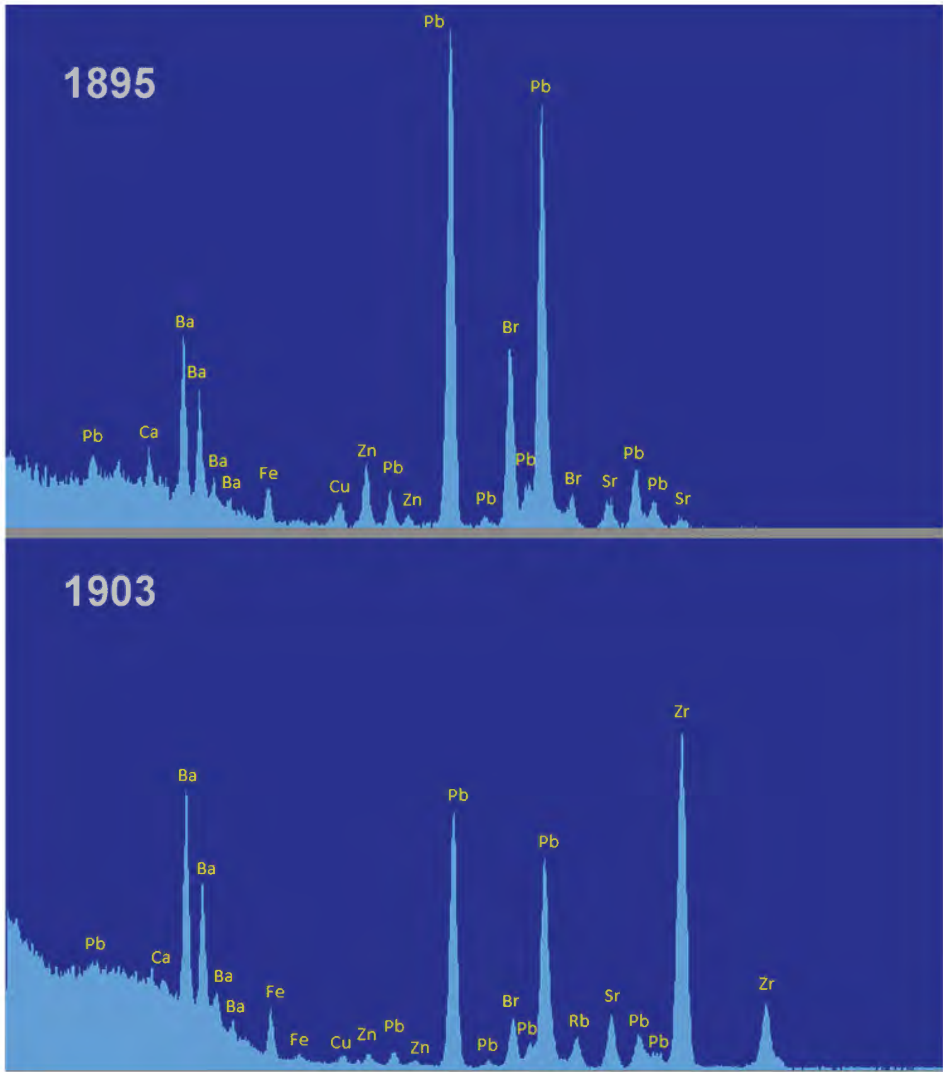


Figure 3. XRF spectral region showing prominent peaks for barium (Ba), lead (Pb) and zirconium (Zr).



The Figure 3 scans show a different energy level range of the analysis and indicate significant lead content in both inks. A few different origins of the lead are possible. White Lead and Lithopone are lead-based printing ingredients that have been used as whitening agents. Chrome Yellow with a red hue, made under basic conditions, was used to impart an orange tone to red ink.

Also, very curiously, the 1903 stamp shows significant zirconium content — a surprising result; where did that come from?

## Commentary

XRF is a useful, informative technique for identifying chemical element unknowns, along with all the other commonly used spectroscopic methods, including FTIR and XRD. All have their strong points and can help to fill out the picture and identify an unknown component. These data, along with the printed words of the BEP “old-timers” who put their knowledge into print can greatly advance our understanding of how the apparent varieties of the 2¢ First Bureau stamps came to exist. It’s not a simple story. Much needs to be done to determine what they actually did a century and a quarter ago to produce these stamps — if, indeed, we wish to spend all the effort needed to answer a question that may not be worth answering.

Considering the “art” of color production, independent of scientific analyses, the “old-timers” matched colors by eye, perhaps with the aid of colorimeters available at the time. Recalling that the BEP first got the contract for printing postage stamps for the Post Office Department in mid-1894, but had printed revenue stamps for the Treasury Department before that, they didn’t have any experience, as far as I can tell, with printing red stamps in high volume. It’s well known that the BEP had a learning curve to climb for the first few years of postage stamp production. It’s not surprising that they may have tried different formulations, particularly with the red dyes used for 2¢ stamps. Aniline dyes were still being developed at the time and the particular dyes the BEP used during the First Bureau production and their commercial availability may well have changed over the eight years of production.

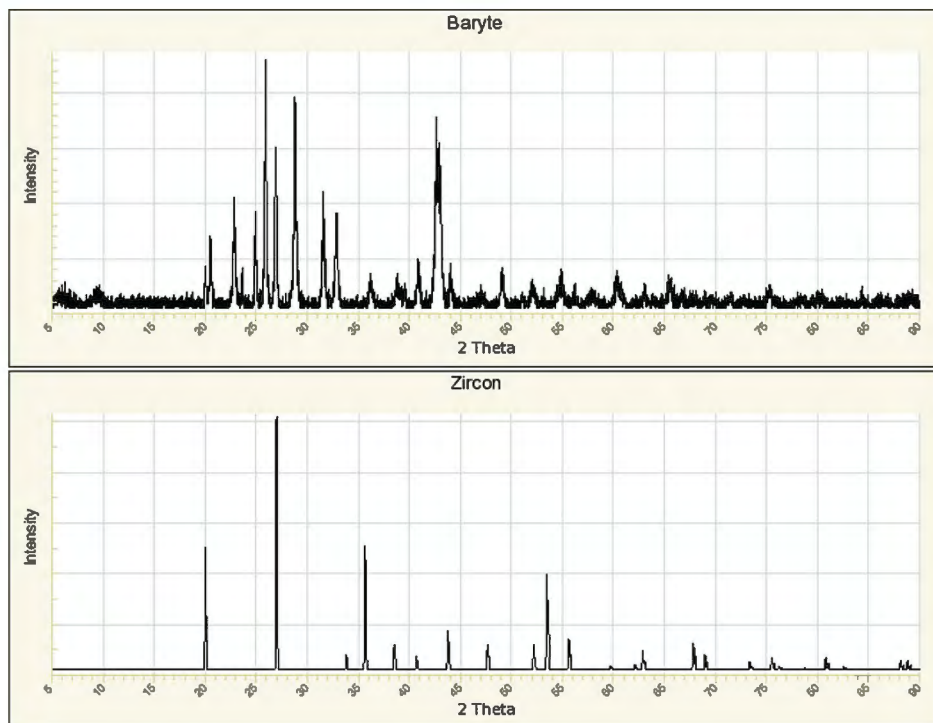
Evidence of change in formulations is evident in the XRF spectra. Not only did the relative amounts of barite and calcium compounds (chalk, gypsum, varieties of clay), other as yet unidentified ingredients were present, along with compounds that came and went in the course of production.

The XRF spectrum of the 1895 stamp shows zinc; its presence is not surprising. Underwood and Sullivan describe “zinc white” as “a very soft pigment of good body and covering power.”<sup>6</sup> — a not surprising whitening agent that may have been used — and was probably used in those early stamps.

The presence of zirconium in the XRF of the 1903 stamp was at first surprising, but a little thought from the mineralogist’s point of view provides an explanation. Zircon occurs in nature primarily as zircon, a simple silicate of the formula  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$ , found in most igneous rocks and in some sedimentary rocks (resulting from weathering of igneous rocks) as small grains dispersed throughout the rocks. The densities of barite and zircon are nearly identical (barite specific gravity = 4.50; zircon = 4.6–4.7<sup>7</sup>). Any natural source of barite that came from rock weathering would likely contain zircon, which would not

be removed by customary refining methods based on specific gravity (such as flotation methods used in gold panning). The best that can be stated is that the 1903 stamp was printed with ink containing barite mined from a naturally occurring source.

And instructive aside is why zircon was not detected in the XRD analysis that Brittain described. The answer turns out to be simple. The main peak in the XRD spectrum of zircon occurs at essentially the same  $2\theta$  value as one of the major peaks of barite (see Figure 4).<sup>8</sup> Unless the zircon is present in an amount great enough to overcome the presence of the barite peak in the XRD spectrum, it wouldn't be noticed. And in Brittain's work it wasn't.



**Figure 4. XRD spectra of barite and zircon; note the primary zircon peak at about  $2\theta = 27$  coincident with a prominent barite peak.**

The foregoing chemical and mineralogical ramblings are just a first glance at two randomly chosen 2¢ stamps analyzed just to see what would turn up. Results certainly belie Brittain's assertion that they leave "the investigator to guess how and to what those elements might be connected." The above discussion, I posit, leads to more information than has been previously published on these stamps. The main benefit is that we now know more about what we didn't know before these XRF analyses were done.

The XRF analyses described here have identified components in the inks used to produce the 2¢ First Bureau Issue stamps that were not reported and apparently not found in Brittain's FTIR-XRD research. Components found and not previously reported in FTIR-XRD articles include:

- Barium in the form of barite, present in both early and late production, but not detected in early stamps by FTIR-XRD.
- Zinc, most likely as “zinc white” as a chemically stable and effective whitening agent.
- Lead, possibly in the form of “white lead” or “lithopone,” both whitening agents commonly used for many applications including printing.
- Zirconium, almost certainly as zircon as a contaminant in barite used in late production, possibly acquired from a different supplier than the barite used in early stamps.
- Iron may be present as the metallic component of azo-dye lakes used as the red pigment.

Now the question remains – can this serve as a jumping off point to gain greater knowledge of the “types” of the 2¢ “red” First Bureaus for the benefit of collectors and catalogers, and is it worth the effort to do the research? In other words — Who Cares?

## Acknowledgment

Thanks to David Lowe for providing XRF data and informative discussions.

## Resources

1. Harry G. Brittain, “Ink Compositions Used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to Print the Carmine 2¢ Stamps of the First Bureau Issue,” *The United States Specialist* (2023) 94(7), 320-332.
2. Norman Underwood and Thomas V. Sullivan, *The Chemistry and Technology of Printing Inks*, D. Van Nostrand Company, New York (1915).
3. Ref. 2, p. 84.
4. Ref. 2, p. 80.
5. Spectra obtained with a Thermo Fisher Scientific Quant’X EDXRF Analyzer C10020.
6. Ref. 2, p. 74.
7. Data from mindat.org.
8. Data from rruff.info.com.

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Books & Literature by Jay Stotts

*SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL  
SERVICE OF THE  
NEW YORK CITY POST OFFICE  
1858-1873*



*Ardy Callender*

**Figure 1.**

***Supplementary Mail Service of the New York City Post Office 1858-1873*** by Ardy Callender.

Supplementary mail is a service whereby an extra fee is collected to handle mail on a mode of transport designated as an official mail carrier at the very last opportunity, just before the mode of transport departs on its journey. In some countries, it has been called a “Late Fee,” but on the docks of New York City, it was a supplementary fee and was applied to late mails up until just ten minutes before a ship’s sailing.

A new book, *Supplementary Mail Service of the New York City Post Office 1858-1873*, is now available on a specific niche within the service in the bustling

metropolis of New York City in the mid to late nineteenth century.

The book was written by Ardy Callender, a philatelist and postal historian from Houston, Texas, who has spent a philatelic lifetime studying the United States stamps of the nineteenth century and the postal history of New York City and mails passing through the city.

New York supplementary mail, as the book notes, dates back to 1853, but as collectors amass postal artifacts confirming their interests, the problem with the 1853-1858 period is that there seems to be no way to confirm that a piece of early supplementary mail was actually that. The supplementary fees were most likely collected in cash, so no extra postal frankings were affixed to envelopes, and no special supplementary markings were applied. Just like in any puzzling mystery, there might have been an occurrence, but there is no evidence, either physical or circumstantial.

So what happened in 1858 to make the study of supplementary mail interesting to the author, Ardy Callender? A new marking was introduced including the wording “Supplementary Mail” in all capital letters in an octagonal frame that was applied to such intended mail in New York City. The marking typically was applied with red ink, indicating that the fee had been paid, rather than was due to be collected from the addressee. Philately has assigned this marking the moniker “Type A” and other later markings carry designations identified by subsequent alphabetical letters.

The “Type A” marking was used until

1873, according to the book's Introduction section, so without including a term such as "Type A Supplementary Marking," in the title, it seems that the book is centered around this mark and its place in philately. The story, of course, is much broader than the marking itself, but the mark is center court in the field of play for this book. Callender does an excellent job of covering all the bases beyond just the Type A marking, discussing the supplementary mail operations, fees, markings (with all New York City postal markings very well represented and explained), the steamship lines, etc.

Chapter 1 is titled Historical Background. The reader might expect this to be about the historical background of the service itself, but this is the history of the philatelic writings concerning the service, not the New York Supplementary service history. In this chapter, Callender reports about the original writings of Dr. Warren Babcock about the service, which were first published in *The American Philatelist* in 1923. The chapter elaborates on the running feud between Babcock and the distinguished researcher, Stanley Ashbrook, and follows up with Henry Stollnitz's article in the *Forty-Second American Philatelic Congress Book* and the recent work by Leonard Piszkiwicz, *United States Supplementary Mail*.

Providing the philatelic background was a good choice by Callender to set the pace for his own work in this book. The approach of referring back to these historical philatelic writings continues through each following chapter as Callender relies on the historical writings to help justify his claims about how the service worked.

Chapter 2 provides an account of the physical operations involving the service, especially what went on at the piers in the minutes prior to ship sailings. Chapter 3 covers fees. Chapter 4 discusses markings,

both the Type A marking and the myriad of other associated New York City foreign mail markings. Both date stamps and killers are discussed in detail. Chapter 5 relates the significance of red ink in the handling of the New York foreign mails.

Chapter 6 is a quantitative look at mail volumes handled by the service. This chapter reminds readers of the small number of "surviving Type A covers" and proceeds to calculate yearly volumes of supplementary mail. Chapters 7 (Steamship Lines & the Post Office) and 8 (Correspondences) add some additional insight to the story. Chapter 9 sums up the postal history story with the demise of pier service. The past philatelic literature seems to draw a close correlation between the end of pier service and the last use of the Type A marking, a neat closing corresponding to the title's 1873 date.

Chapter 10 brings the reader in closer touch with the author. Callender, in 2006, on a routine visit to his bank safety deposit box to retrieve some of his supplementary covers, was pistol-whipped in the parking lot and lost his material. This chapter includes the details of the robbery, follow-up actions and the 2012 (six years later!) recovery of a portion of the material. The chapter ends with an illustration showing eight covers still missing from the 2006 robbery.

The book contains a pair of appendices. Appendix A is a census of all known "Type A" covers. Each cover is treated on a separate page with details ranging from an illustration to mailing information and source notes. The census accounts for 134 known covers, which will bring the reader up to August 2021, when the book was being formulated.

Appendix B lists suspect Type A covers. Five covers are listed here in the same



Figure 10-2. Supplementary Type A covers stolen on 27 January 2006

**Figure 2. An illustration showing eight covers still missing from Callender's 2006 robbery.**

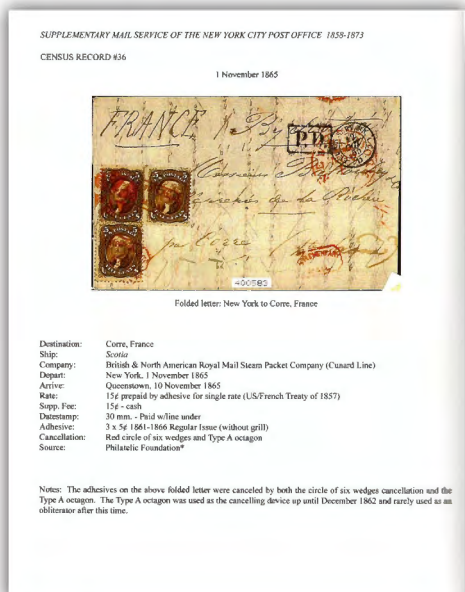
format as the census covers. Callender goes into detail about what makes them suspect. Appendix C lists fraudulent Type A covers and details why the seven covers in this census are frauds.

Appendix D is a very handy chronological chart of New York City markings on the mails from 1858 to 1873. This listing should be helpful for any postal history collectors interested in the New York City cancellations. Callender states, "Cancellations arranged in chronological order reveal distinct trends, not easily observed when the same cancellations are grouped by type, shape, dimensions or other physical characteristics." Tracings are included as part of these charts.

The book comes highly recommended

for anyone interested in postal history of the nineteenth century, especially concerning mail destined for foreign countries through the port of New York City. The book was published by the U.S. Cancellation Club and is an excellent new addition to their contribution of publications to philately.

*Supplementary Mail Service of the New York City Post Office 1858-1873, by Ardy Callender, is 224 pp. Page size is 8½ x 11 inches. A hardbound version and a spiral bound version (limited number) were printed. Either version is available for \$49 postpaid to US addresses. Checks should be made out to Ardy Callender and should be sent to 1546 Sheltons Bend Ct., Houston, TX 77077.*



**Figure 3. An example of a single page from the Appendix A census listing.**





## Plate Number Report

compiled by **Kim D. Johnson**

USSS #7335 | ✉ westhome1@aol.com



▲ #1299 1¢ Jefferson Coil  
37655



▲ #1305 6¢ Roosevelt Coil  
31450  
31451



▲ #1297 3¢ Parkman Coil  
38492



▲ #5038 5¢ Grapes Coil  
P222222

▼ #5039 10¢ Pears Coil  
B222222





▲ #5201 3¢ Strawberry Coil  
P2222

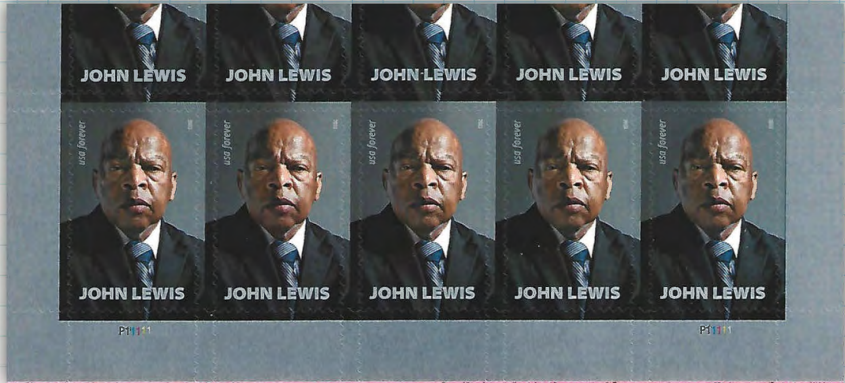
▼ #??? \$28.75 Great Smoky Mountains  
B1111 UL ≠ ≠ LR  
3r x 5c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15\*



▲ #5682 (87¢) Sunflower  
2 ounce rate  
B222222 UL UR LL LR  
2r x4c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8\*



▼ #??? John Lewis  
P11111 ≠ ≠ LL LR  
3r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\*







#????

Waterfalls

P1111

‡

‡

LL

LR

3r x 3c

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9\*

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This monthly report is used to update the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog*.





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Village of Lakewood, IL
- 17483 Larry Hanson, Shreveport, LA
- 17484 Steve Hetelle,  
Huntington Beach, CA
- 17485 Emily Chesler, Brooklyn NY
- 17486 Dr. Thomas Phillips,  
Huntington Station, NY
- 17487 Mike Shofner, Lewisville TX

## APPLICATIONS PENDING

- 17474-17481

## NEW MEMBERS

- 17468-17471, 17473

## REINSTATED

- 17285 Henry-York Steiner

## DECEASED

- 13995 Anthony Wawrukiewicz

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

<b>June 30, 2023</b>	<b>1410</b>
<b>ADDITIONS:</b>	
New members	5
Reinstatements	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

## SUBTRACTIONS:

Deceased	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>NET CHANGE</b>	<b>5</b>
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## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

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Effective last month, Robert “Bob” Rufe assumed the role of Executive Secretary for the USSS. Please note this results in a change of address for mail directed to the Society. The new address is P.O. Box 1602, Hockessin DE 19707-5602. The email is unchanged.

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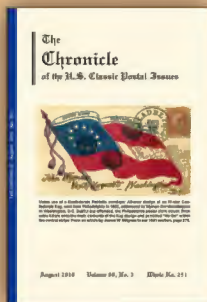
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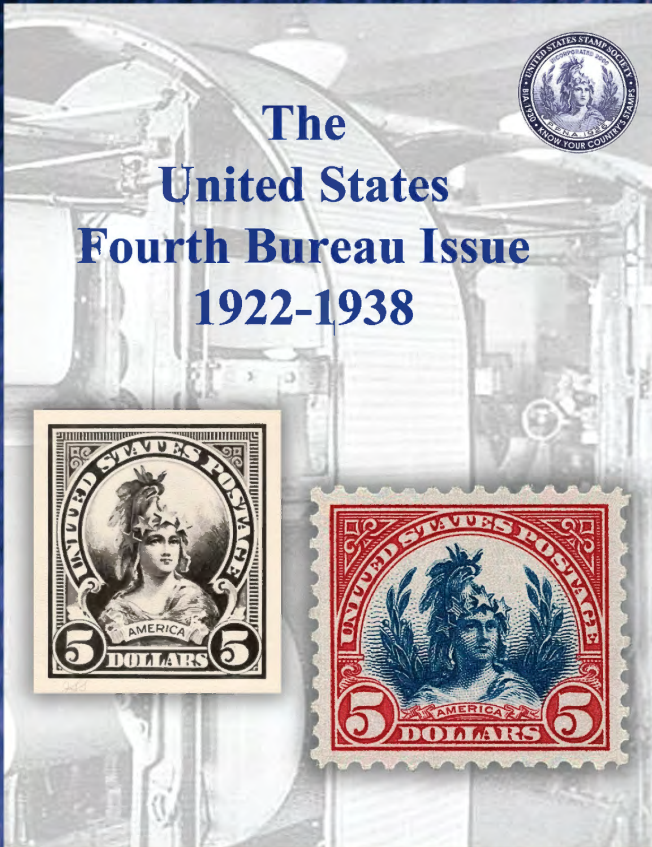
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