

The AMERICAN REVENUER



"Dedicated to the Service of all Revenue Stamp Enthusiasts"

Member: National Federation of Stamp Clubs

Branch: Society Philatelic Americans #248

Vol. 17, No. 5, Whole Number 155

May 1963

25c SECOND ISSUE REVENUE AND ITS VARIETIES 1871-75

**By Philip H. Ward, Jr.
ARA #246**

Our first adhesive revenue stamps, which were issues to aid in the payment of the heavy expenses incurred by our Civil War, are among the most attractive stamps of any type ever issued by any government. They were designed by artists of the old school, far different in their tastes from most of those who are responsible today for our recent issues.

Our Second Issue Revenues, the first series in which all denominations were printed in two colors, were first issued on September 2, 1871. They all have portraits of George Washington after Gilbert Stuart beautifully engraved in black with several types of fancy borders.

The 25c was the denomination most extensively used, hence more varieties of interest to the stamp collector may be found than in any other value. The stamp was first issued on September 2, 1871 and the last deliveries were made on July 2, 1875. During this time the issue totalled 4,672,322 stamps. The die was approved on May 6, 1871 and one plate was made by Jos. R. Carpenter of Philadelphia, the bank note engraver who produced most of

these stamps. The plate was No. 11 and produced 102 stamps per sheet. They were printed on a violet paper with silk threads, and normally perforate 12. The border was printed in blue.

Singles used, mainly pen cancelled, are plentiful and unused copies are not scarce. Blocks are readily available but mint blocks are not plentiful.

The most important variety of the 25c is that with the inverted center. It is the rarest of all of the Second Issue inverts, which seems surprising because of the large number of the 25c produced. We would imagine that about 8 or 10 copies exist. No multiple piece is known. One mint copy exists, fresh as the day it was printed. This was acquired by the late Edward Stern of the Economist Stamp Co., on a visit to Russia. When he returned from his trip he informed us that he had purchased a large box of mixed stamps and that while going over the lot to figure its value, he noticed an inverted 25c unused but did not pick it out from the lot for it might attract attention. After the purchase he took the stamps back to the hotel but was unable to find the invert. He naturally thought that it had been removed. On his return to New York he located the stamp, which we acquired from him at the time.

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A second variety of interest is the stamp with sewing machine perforation. We know nothing about the first finding of this oddity but it has been known for some years. It exists not only in singles but in strips. We know of two blocks of four, one unused with sheet margin at top with imprint reading "WILLOX'S CHAMELEON PAPER, PATENT" and in a second line, "GEORGE T. JONES PAT".

Some years ago a man brought into our office 15 or 20 stock certificates of the Southwestern Market Co. of Philadelphia dated during April 1872. These documents were rather attractive, showing engravings of horses and cattle at a stream with two other animal pictures. Each certificate had a 25c stamp imperforate with large margins on all four sides. As there was no pair in the lot, the variety has never been listed by Scott.

We also had the pleasure of discovering another variety of this stamp,

namely one perforate 8 (Scott's R-112c). Several years back we acquired from a junk dealer upward of a ton of stock certificates, record books, old stamped documents and even uncanceled current revenue stamps in part sheets that had been thrown out as trash by a large Philadelphia organization. Among them were cancelled stock certificates and parts of certificates dated around June 1872 of the Philadelphia Trust, Safe Deposit & Insurance Company, each with a 25c perf. 8. About ten were in fine condition with perforations on all four sides. Most of them, however, were cut apart by scissors so the perforations only show on part of the stamp. Only a few were on the entire document.

(Editor's note: The above is reprinted from the April 12, 1963 issue of Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News by permission of the author.)

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Josef Schonfeld, ARA 354

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SPRINGER'S CATALOGUE IN SECOND EDITION

The Second, 1963, edition of Springer's Catalogue of U. S. A. Taxpays, B. N. A. Fantasies, M. & M. Facsimiles and Other Material Heretofore Classified as "Unlisted" has recently come from the press.

This is not just a revision of the previous edition, although the listings and prices of the previous catalogue have been overhauled, but an extension of the first edition. While the first edition contained just 16 pages, the present edition runs 28 pages with an additional heavy cover, similar to that on the first edition.

Again, approximately the first half of the catalogue is devoted to U.S.A. Taxpaid Revenues. The major addition in this section has been in the listings of the Class A Cigarettes issues. Over four additional pages of material prior to 1932 have been added to the previous listings, giving what is probably the most complete listing of these items available.

The listings of the additional Class A and Class B Cigarettes, as well as the Small Cigar stamps have been rearranged in a convenient and systematic manner. Several early items have been added to the Tobacco listings.

The taxpaid listings conclude with the Tax Exempt and Fermented Fruit Juice listings as contained in the earlier list and an addition of the Rectified Spirits of Puerto Rico.

These listings are followed by a four-page listing of Match & Medicine Facsimiles, used by many concerns after the repeal of the tax which caused the original issue of these popular items.

The one-page listing of Telegraphs is the same as in the first edition, although some adjustment has been made in the prices of a few of the items.

The listing of B. N. A. Fantasies, etc., which includes express and college stamps has been expanded by the addition of several new items. The catalogue concludes with a listing of express franks, the new edition including one of the American Express

Co. in addition to those of Wells, Fargo & Co. which were included in the first list.

This new catalogue should be on the bookshelf of every revenue collector. It is the stated hope of the catalogue editor that this can be expanded, by completing the listings begun and the addition of several other categories which could well be added, to 300 pages. To do this, he will need the support of the collecting fraternity.

To date, Mr. Springer must have put many hours and much of his own cash into this endeavor and if he is to continue this and expand it he will need the support of all those interested in these fields.

Although the number of illustrations in the new edition is about double that of the first edition and the number of listings also about fifty percent greater, the price has been maintained at \$1.00. The catalogue is available from the editor and publisher, Sherwood Springer, 6719 Seventh Avenue, Los Angeles 43, California.

Mr. Springer again plugs the American Revenue Association on the back cover of his catalogue. Let's show our appreciation for this support by ordering one of his new catalogues.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Your attention is called to the ballot enclosed with this issue for the filling of the vacancy in the office of vice-president. Due to the time element involved, the election will be completed in mid-June, giving nearly all members about a month after the receipt of their ballot to send it in, but the results will not be officially announced to the membership until the September issue of the Revenuer.

Since the editor has been requested by the president to receive the ballots for this special election, you are invited to include in your mailing any comments you may have on how we can better serve you. Of course, all of the suggestions may not be such that we can follow them as there are several hundred members, but we will strive to best serve the largest number to the best of our abilities.

HIRAM E. DEATS, ARA 114 HONORARY LIFE MEMBER NO. 1

The entire philatelic world and particularly the revenue collectors suffered an irreparable loss on March 16, 1963, with the death of Hiram Edmund Deats. He was one of the early members of the ARA and was made its honorary life member, this decision of the board of directors appearing in the January 1953 issue of *The American Revenuer*.

He was the sole surviving member of the group that had founded the American Philatelic Society.

He is probably best remembered in the revenue field for the Boston Revenue Book, "Revenue Stamps of the United States," written with George Toppan and Alexander Holland.

This work was based largely on the material he obtained when he purchased records, proofs, stamps, files and other philatelic material at the death of Joseph R. Carpenter who had printed the first revenue issue.

His revenue collections were many and varied. According to the report of Philip H. Ward, Jr., in Mekeel's, "He had one of the finest collections of early colonial and revolutionary revenues ever assembled, including such rarities as the Massachusetts ½p red, of which only 3 or 4 copies are known; the ½p Pamphlet and Newspaper stamp of 1790 (RM18) of which only 2 copies are known; several of the General Issue "C", including one on the entire document; most of the first, second and third Federal Issues of 1797-1817; many of the "Federal License" stamps (RM451 to 488) including two that were unique; possibly ten thousand revenue stamped paper (RNA1-RNW4); one of the finest collections of Cotton stamps, Hydrometer stamps and Lock Seals. His tin foil revenues were undoubtedly the most extensive. He also had a magnificent lot of Tax Paid stamps and proofs, strong in the Beer and Tobacco issues."

As Mr. Ward disposed of most of his collections, he is well qualified to describe their extensive and varied quality.

His library was very extensive and was probably about the finest ever held by an individual.

His interests were many and varied. In addition to his many philatelic writings, he wrote extensively on historical subjects, particularly of Hunterdon County and New Jersey, where he spent nearly all of his 92 plus years.

He will be missed throughout the philatelic world and particularly by the revenue collecting fraternity.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

John A. Norton, Secretary-Treasurer
143 Merrick Road, Lynbrook, N. Y.

New Members

946 St. Laurent, John C.

Applications Received

Turner, James D., 705 Benwood Dr., Carbondale, Ill. by J. A. Norton U.S.I.R., particularly 1st, 2nd and 3rd issues.

Melhorn, Wilton N., 2065 S. 9th St., Lafayette, Ind., by William T. Adams. U.S.I.R. and State Revenues, Scott and Non-Scott.

Reinstatements

5 Hermann, Charles H.
536 Kimelman, William
615 Palmer, Ralph A.
794 Crevatin, Ermanno
917 Kuehl, Henry E.

Membership Summary

Previous membership total	363
New Members	1
Reinstatements	5
Current membership total	369

REVENUES WIN AWARDS

"Revenues of Lithuania" exhibited by Joseph J. Gudonis, ARA 545, were awarded a Silver Plaque as Third "Best of the Show" in the 16th Annual Stamp Show of the Frankford Arsenal Stamp Club, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the same show, a Blue Ribbon went to John Walmsley, Philadelphia, for his 12-page showing of "U. S. Consular Fee Stamps and Cancellations," while an extra Red Ribbon went to Mr. Gudonis for 32 pages of "Revenues of Mexico."