

The AMERICAN REVENUER



"Dedicated to the Service of all Revenue Stamp Enthusiasts"

Member: National Federation of Stamp Clubs

Branch: Society Philatelic Americans #248

Vol. 18, No. 10, Whole Number 170

December 1964

Sweeping Overhaul in M & M Catalogue Prices

Sherwood Springer, ARA #399

In one of the most sweeping revisions of the last thirty years, the editors of Scott's U. S. Specialized Catalogue came up with a total of 235 price changes in the Match & Medicine section of their 1965 edition. Needless to say, these were nearly all upward.

Two new minor varieties were listed for the first time and seven other varieties, previously indicated by a dash, were given prices. The total net valuation added across the board amounts to \$2,070.27. Breaking this down we find 228 boosts amounting to \$1,581.27, new prices inserted of \$555.00 and seven items reduced for \$66.00.

Although, as usual, some of the rarities got attention and were pushed further into the sky, the really big news for the average M & M collector is that Scott's finally got around to tackling a lot of the nickel and dime varieties and scores of the 50c to \$1 items, which have been untouched for decades. This move finally gives some encouragement to those who have built a modest collection of the low-priced varieties but have found its value at a standstill over the years.

In the high-priced bracket the largest single jump was taken by the 8c

Swaim with inverted signature (RS-235h) which zoomed from \$175 to \$600. No copy of this rarity had reached the market for many years until Stolow put the Otto H. Schrader collection on the block last May. The Schrader copy brought \$400, or more than double last year's catalogue value.

Other Swaim's to post sizeable advances were the imperfs with the silk paper going from \$250 to \$350 and the watermarked from \$125 to \$300. The old paper die cut was boosted \$50 and the Jas. Swaim with manuscript signature, formerly indicated with a dash, was given a value of \$400.

Two experimental paper varieties were listed for the first time. The 3c American Match Co. (RO11e) was given a price of \$20 (apparently in error, since the old paper catalogues \$40) and the 2c Merchant's Gargling Oil (RS179e) was unpriced.

Among the items priced for the first time were the 1c Barber Match (RO-17e), \$5; the Barr double transfer (RS27t), \$25; the black Fleming experimental silk (RS88e), \$10; the J. S. Johnson DT's (RS150t) silk and watermarked, \$7.50 each; and the Lippman experimental silk (RS163e),

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\$80. Dashes were also inserted in the double transfer listing of the blue Fleming (RS90t) to correct an oversight in the 1964 edition when these were first listed but were given no paper specification. Silk and watermarked varieties are now indicated.

The blue Alexander's Matches was raised from \$300 to \$350, the 3c lilac Bousfield & Poole from \$400 to \$450, the black Brown & Durling from \$150 to \$200, the silk paper L. G. Hunt from \$150 to \$200, the blue N. Y. Match from \$100 to \$125, the Pierce from \$100 to \$125, the white Powell wrapper from \$150 to \$200, the Wise & Co. from \$100 to \$175, the 2c Curtis & Brown Mfg. silk from \$100 to \$125 and watermarked from \$50 to \$75, G. G. Green tete beche pair from \$60 to \$80, 1c Jayne imperf from \$85 to \$110, also the 4c, both on silk, from \$100 to \$135, 2c blue imperf Ring's from \$100 to \$150, the 4c black, perf., wat-

ermarked from \$60 to \$80, also the silk part perf. from \$65 to \$90, the lake Seabury & Johnson from \$200 to \$225, and the 2c imperf Hoyt from \$85 to \$100.

Downward adjustments were made in a handful of numbers which apparently had been overpriced. In the match issues were the Ives & Jud! (RO119d), \$17.50 to \$15; F. Mansfield (RO130d), \$5 to \$4 and the Russell silk paper (RO163b), \$3.50 to \$3.00. Among the medicine issues the 1c John Henry old paper (RS114a), \$25 to \$20; the 4c watermarked Hiscox, changing an italic listing of \$200 to a Roman price of \$150 and the 4c watermarked Van Duzer, \$35 to \$30. Another reduction, involving the 4c John I. Brown (RS41b), I assume was made in error. The price was changed from \$8 to \$6 and, judging from the scarcity of the 4-centers on the market, I have a feeling this was

intended as a raise and the printer goofed.

Revisions in the lower priced material were so numerous that only a detailed study of the 1965 edition will reveal their extent. You might as well resign yourself to buying a copy. The increase in value of your collection should pay for it many times over.

U. S. FIRST PROVISIONAL ISSUE

Homer C. Landis, ARA #77

The next stamp in the issue was made by overprinting the then current 2c carmine postage stamp, "I. R." with the identical Roman capital letters as used on the last described 1c stamp. The letters on this stamp are dark blue. This stamp is Scott's #R-155.

The small periods exist in the exact same place as on the 1c stamp. The comma or broken period is also found but it is located after the "R." on the 43rd stamp in the pane.

62,000,000 stamps were overprinted, all in June 1898. This overprint is also found inverted. The following plate numbers are found with the normal overprint: 475, 480, 481, 482, 483,

484, 485, 487, 501, 502, 503, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 522, 523, 524, 525, 550, 551, 552, 553, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562 and 563.

All the plate numbers are known to exist in all four positions except 525. This is the only real rare number of the lot and no bottom strip has been found.

The following plate numbers exist with inverted overprints.

475 TBRL	509 BL	523 TBRL
480 BL	510 TBRL	524 TBRL
481 BL	511 TBRL	551 TBRL
482 BL	512 TBRL	552 BL
483 BL	513 TBRL	553 BL
501 BL	515 BL	556 BL
502 BL	516 BL	557 BL
503 BL	517 BL	558 BL
505 BL	522 BL	559 BL

All three of these overprinted stamps were printed on paper with double line watermark USPS. The letters are found only horizontal in relation to the stamp, never reading up or down. They exist in all four possible positions, normal, inverted and then backward, like you would see them in a mirror, both normal and inverted.

To be continued

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

With the exhibition season in full swing, it is apropos to consider the benefits that accrue to a member who chooses to show some of his revenue stamps. In preparing a write-up, one is bound to learn more about the issues in the exhibit. There is considerable satisfaction in seeing one's pride and joy in an orderly arrangement, behind glass, for the edification of other collectors, and the admiration of the general public. If the collector spends some time near his exhibit, he may be able to explain it to others and thus learn of some previously unknown source of material. In the end he may win a prize to show the family that all the effort he has put into his stamping is worth while. Judges at shows seem to be becoming more aware of the importance of revenue collections, and it is gratifying to see awards being made to revenue exhibits in open shows. Members are encouraged to show their material, and reap some of these benefits, and who knows, you might even be able to recruit a new member for the A. R. A. if you are well prepared, and have an application in your pocket!

Elsewhere in this issue you will note an announcement of an organization meeting of a Chapter to be formed in New York City. To the members in the area, and to our Vice-President, Dr. Samuel Frank, who is expending effort to make the venture a success, I wish the best of luck.

I would like to wish all the members of the A. R. A. a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May your stockings be filled with revenues!

—Robert M. Leard

NEW BOUTWELL VARIETY TO BE LISTED BY SPRINGER

A new major variety of the Puerto Rico Rectified Spirits stamps has been reported recently and a copy submitted to Sherwood Springer for examination, with a view to its inclusion in the third edition of the Springer Taxpaid Catalogue.

The "Boutwells," as they are popularly called, were printed by the engraving process. The variety to be listed, of the 58c denomination, is lithographed. This denomination was the last to be added to the series before use of the stamps was discontinued in 1961.

The copy examined is cancelled in black, "B. C. / MARCH 1 / 1961". During that period the 58-centers were being used in fairly large quantities and stamp discontinuance was already in sight. The question arises: Had the decision been made some time earlier to switch from engraved to lithographed stamps for all future printings of the Boutwells (following the pattern of producing many other taxpays) or did someone goof in estimating the quantity of 58c stamps needed to finish off the use of the stamps?

If the latter is the answer, it is possible that only a small stop-gap shipment of quickly produced lithographs was rushed to Puerto Rico to fill last minute needs.

Incidentally, previous to the Boutwell issue in 1942, U. S. wine stamps were used with the overprint "RECTIFIED SPIRITS / PUERTO RICO". These are now listed and priced on page 649 of the new Scott's U. S. Specialized Catalogue.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW YORK CHAPTER PLANNED

Plans have been laid for a meeting to organize a chapter of The American Revenue Association in New York City. The organization meeting will be held Friday, January 15, 1965, at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St.,

New York City, at 8:00 p.m. On hand to aid in the establishment of the chapter will be Vice-President Sam Frank who has been hard at work making the arrangements for this initial get-together. We have a successful chapter holding monthly meetings in Los Angeles, and it is thought that the members in the New York area would enjoy a similar monthly meeting to talk revenues and exchange information, and perhaps do some trading. The Collectors Club has been kind enough to furnish us a place to meet, and it is not required that attendees be members of The Collectors Club or The American Revenue Association. The only requirement is an interest in revenue stamps. Should more information be desired, it may be obtained from Dr. Samuel Frank, 3 Fairway Dr., Mamaroneck, Phone OW 8-2868.

HUBBARD JOINS SAN JOSE FIRM

The San Jose Stamp and Coin Center recently added Elbert Hubbard ARA #1, to its staff. He will manage the stamp department.

Mr. Hubbard was the first editor of The American Revenuer and the first president of the ARA. In addition he has edited the latest edition of the State Revenue Catalog.

WE STILL NEED Articles and Ads for the Revenuer

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U. S. Revenue Mixture,
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juvenile market only.

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The American Revenuer

**REVENUERS WIN THREE
TROPHIES AT POVPEX**

The American Revenue Association was well represented in the winners' circle at POVPEX '64 held under the sponsorship of General Dynamics / Pomona Stamp Club at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona on October 17 and 18.

It is gratifying to note that two of the three awards made in a thirteen entry United States section went to revenue exhibits.

Recently elected ARA president Robert M. Leard, ARA #777, not only carried away a first award trophy but also received a presentation kiss from Julie Jackson, the show queen, to the delight of fellow revenueurs and their wives who attended the banquet in lieu of their monthly meeting. His winning exhibit comprised "Selected Pages from a First Issue Revenue Collection."

The third award trophy went to Homer C. Landis, ARA #77, for his frames of "Scott's Design RF2. Varieties and Cancellations."

Irvin Burns, ARA #388, won a third award trophy in the Postal History Abroad Section for his frames of "Local Issues of the World," attesting to the versatility of the Revenue Collectors.

The Los Angeles Chapter also made a club entry of three frames of interesting Revenues and Tax Paid with pages contributed by the members.

An accident, however, marred the evening's pleasure for the visiting revenueurs. Mrs. Abe Hochman, in walking toward the parking lot after the banquet, caught her heel in a pavement crack and was thrown to the cement. Jeanne, in great pain, was taken by ambulance to a Pomona hospital and her companions spent two hours of anxiety waiting for the X-ray results. First report was that no bone was broken and the patient returned to her home the following morning. Later examination, however, revealed a fracture of the hip and Jeanne was hospitalized for ten days.

—Sherwood Springer

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SILAS WRIGHT ON CUSTOMS STAMPS

In my column of September 22nd, I inquired as to the identity of "Wright" whose portrait appears on the Customs Fees stamps, listed in Scott's U. S. Catalog as Nos. RL1 to RL8. He was no stranger to several readers, and although numerous "Wrights" are listed in the biographical encyclopedias, he was readily identified as Silas Wright and, apparently, a great personage in his time.

Silas Wright was born in Amherst, Mass., May 24, 1795. He studied law and went to Congress in 1827. In 1829 he was Comptroller of New York State and was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1832, where he remained for twelve years. He was Governor of New York State from 1845 to 1847. He refused an appointment to the U. S. Supreme Court, and later declined to be Secretary of the Treasury. He might even have been President of the United States.

He was evidently a man of strong convictions and of loyal character. He had been a great friend of Martin VanBuren, who was elected President in 1836 and served one term. In 1844 Wright's party planned to nominate him for President, but he would not accept the designation because of his friendship for Van Buren, and instead he worked for the latter's nomination. James K. Polk, however, got the nomination, and the Convention, by acclamation, then chose Wright for the Vice-Presidency. Wright was away at the time, but when he learned of it he refused to run.

Silas Wright died at Canton, N. Y., August 27, 1847, and shortly after his death John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem about him, "The Lost Statesman," in which there is the line, "Man of Millions, thou art lost too soon." R. H. Gillette wrote a book "The Life and Times of Silas Wright," and in 1917 Irving Bacheller wrote a historical novel on his life, "The Light in the Clearing." Later, I am informed, a motion picture was produced based on incidents in the life of Silas

Wright. He was a graduate of Middlebury College (Vermont) and at Weybridge Hill, Vermont, a marble monument, twenty-eight feet high, was erected to his memory in 1850.

It is singular that he should be pictured on stamps issued under the Treasury Department, having declined service in that bureau. A reader suggests that as the stamps were issued in 1887, during the first term of Grover Cleveland, the administration had probably embraced the traditional political custom of honoring one of their party's "saints." Acknowledgements with thanks to readers: D. O. Barrett, Frank M. Cowen, Alfred R. James, B. M. Hayward, Lloyd T. Hayward, Julian Blanchard, and S. C. Sumner.

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Foreign Revenues
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Locals, including reproductions
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In collections or in quantity

For cash or auction

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The American Revenuer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary-Treas.: Frank Q. Newton Jr.

6730 N. Temple City Blvd.
Arcadia, Calif.

New Members

- 1004 Case, Herbert H.
1005 Frigstad, Roger K.
1006 Bookler, Lee

Reinstatements

- 450 McCallum, William R.

Applications Received

- Garrett, Eugene A., 1637 Wellesley Dr., Santa Monica, Calif., by Abe Hochman. U. S. Revenues, Match & Medicine.
Powers, Roger T., 911 Fairway Dr., Towson, Md., by Howard Beaumont. First Issue U. S. Cancels, Handstamped or printed.
Goldman, Donald I., 5 Red Brook Terrace, Great Neck, N. Y., by F. Dorfman. Match & Medicine, general revenues.

Resignations

- 838 Lehman, Howard
855 Keiser, Irving

Address Changes

- Richardson, H. T., Box 9182, Metairie, La.
Hartley, Dr. Lionel, 6 Center Ave., Norwalk, Conn.
James, Elmo A., Box 361, Fort Pierce, Fla. 33451.
Dodd, Leonard J., c/o Union Hotel, 572 Church St., Arcadia, Pretoria, Union of South Africa.

Membership Summary

Previous total	378
New members	3
Resigned	2
Current total	379

A word of thanks to those who paid their dues promptly. A special thanks

December 1964

are due those members who are once again Contributing Members, and several new CM's too.

Since this will be the second month of your new Treasurer a "state-of-the-nation" financial report seems appropriate. Firstly, the fact we had a Roster during the last two years is due to the efforts of John Norton, to whom we all owe thanks. From all indications we would not have had any or would have been in the red. However, you will note that a respectable surplus occurred.

Secondly, since the majority of your dues go into the American Revenuer, we urge prompt payment from those who are not yet paid up—and more material for your Editor.

CANADIAN REVENUES

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REVENUE MART

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WANTED: Stamped Paper— Revenues used as postage—Postage used as Revenue—Literature. Write description and price of material before sending. For sale: Medicine Ad photos; Photo—Table of Stamp Duties March 3, 1863. J. D. Laurenz, ARA 667, 2825 Reppuhn, S.W.-Inaw, Michigan. 179

SCOTT listed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and later too, including dated Docs. Non-Scott U. S. tax-paids, modern foreign revenues, hydrometers, lock seals, beer stamps, cigarette, cigars, snuff, and other stuff. John S. Bobo, 1668 Sycamore St., Des Plaines, Illinois. 60018. tf

JOHN S. BOBO of Des Plaines, Illinois has almost everything in revenues. Scott listed, non-Scott listed tax-paids and Foreign. Inquiries invited, 1668 Sycamore St. 60018. tf

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