

# The AMERICAN REVENUER



**"Dedicated to the Service of all Revenue Stamp Enthusiasts"**

**Member: National Federation of Stamp Clubs**

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Vol. 21, No. 3, Whole No. 193

March 1967

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## **HUES—SHADES—CHROMA, A COLOR TRAVESTY**

**Elliott Perry, ARA HLM #6**

Collectors of early U. S. revenues soon become aware of discrepancies between the color names in Scott's catalog and the actual colors of the stamps.

A study of Proofs from the composite plate made in the late 1860's or very early 1870's and containing most of our Second and Third Documentary and 1871-74 Proprietary issues reveals why.

The 36-subject composite plate was made by transferring the frame of each of twenty-nine Documentaries (1c to \$50 values) and seven Proprietaries (1c to 10c values) to occupy the area of one rectangular plate.

The 36 portraits, on the other hand, were separately transferred to another plate from which were taken black impressions which followed after the impressions from the frame plate.

Consequently, a printing of the full plate of 36 frame designs would provide a set of Proofs all having the same color.

At least twenty varieties of hues or shades are known to exist as revealed by studying the Proofs in the Morton Dean Joyce collection.

Proofs, with their rich colors, be-

come utmost importance in this study as many of them are believed to show the intended color(s).

The wide range of shade variations observed on regular issues is partially explained in the Boston Revenue Book. Letters reprinted in this book point out some of the difficulty encountered with obtaining pigments and troubles caused by incomplete cleaning of vessels between color mixing.

In addition, a century, or so, of exposure to the elements has caused stamps to change color. For instance, R15, the 2c orange (or yellow, an unstable color), is frequently seen with the color changed to almost dark grey.

Still another factor which should not be neglected is the difference of opinion between individuals who have varying amounts of color spectrum perception; we do not all see color the same and have different sensitivities to individual colors.

So caution is necessary before a false conclusion is reached regarding the color of a stamp which may appear quite different than the catalog listing.

The primary purpose of this article is to point out problems concerning some catalog listed colors. For example, "violet brown" is an impossible color as there are no combinations of violet and brown which will yield the

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color seen on stamps. The same fact exists for mixture of brown and purple or lilac.

The hue scale goes from red through orange, yellow, green and blue to violet. Colors redder than violet—such as purple—are not in the spectrum, but occur in nature, are visible and can be produced. Hence violet can become redder until and after purple is obtained. These changes are always gradual from one adjoining color to the next, never to a color which does not adjoin. For instance, as red does not adjoin green, nor purple adjoin orange, no one can visualize reddish green nor purple orange. Brown is merely darkened orange. "Purple brown" actually means dark purple orange, which is a verbal "monstrosity."

The evidence is amply displayed by a U. S. Department of Commerce publication titled "The ISCC-NBS Meth-

od of Designating Colors and a Dictionary of Color Names." This is an extensive list of color names and groupings as recognized by a large segment of industry including those making printing inks.

Strangely, some of the Scott listed colors will be found in the ISCC-NBS Dictionary but the clue to this error is exposed when an attempt is made to translate the color reference code into the color chart which supplements the dictionary. It is obvious from the sources given in this book that the data covering stamp inks is outdated and was probably included without a thorough review.

The following tabulation compares Scott colors of composite plate proofs with the frequently used Ridgway "Nomenclature of Colors" system, one of the sources listed in the ISCC-NBS Directory.

Scott Color	Ridgeway Number	Ridgeway Color Name
a. Violet	65.0j	dark purple
b. Violet Brown	67.2l	very dark, dull purple
c. Brown	9.0m	chestnut
d. Black Brown	17.0m	raw umber
e. Blue	49.0m	Prussian (blackish) blue
f. Ultramarine	45.0k	Antwerp blue
g. Green	37.0m	diamond green
h. Dark Green	37.2m	dark, dusky green
i. Yellow Green	29.0l	between "lettuce" and "spinach"
j. Orange	7.0h	between grenadine red & English red
k. Dark Orange	5.0h	scarlet
l. Light Red	3.0l	darkened scarlet red
m. Brown Red	1.0j	darkened carmine (no brown)
n. Violet Rose	70.0h	purplish carmine
o. none	1.0k	dark carmine (1c only)
p. none	3.1j	dark red brown (\$20.00 only)
q. none	30.0m	dark yellow green
r. none	35.0k	meadow green
s. none	45.0m	marine blue
t. none	65.1	dull purple (\$3.50 only)

Note: The Ridgeway system consists of number(s) preceding the decimal point to indicate hues from 1 (red) to 70 (purple). Number(s) following the decimal point indicate percentage of grey (causing dullness) from none to 30-60 range for the composite plate proofs. The letter indicates hue or darkening of the mixture by adding percentages of black, for the items under consideration, h—35%, i—45%, j—60%, k—70%, l—80% and m—90%. Also for these there are no tints as all colors are darker than spectrum hues.

Probably not more than five copies of these Proofs in any one variety of design, hue or shade are known to exist, leading to the conclusion that there was a very limited printing, certainly too limited to produce any definite variations. There is, of course, the fact that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made a later printing but the chances are that they did not match the original Carpenter colors.

This study of the color question is equally applicable to revenues and all other stamps made under similar conditions by the same printer.

Wide spread knowledge that errors generated decades ago are still being repeated in catalogs of today may be the first step toward a long overdue correction of color names.

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## SOME SMALL MATCH COMPANIES

### Bruce Miller, ARA #732

Presented herewith are what few facts and conjectures I am able to offer regarding several small match firms. Some may have had very interesting histories and I should be very happy to hear from any reader who can shed further light on their stories.

The Akron Match Co. suffered a short and troubled life and its ownership remains unknown to me. Except for the Barber Match Co., the only Akron match business on record is that of S. A. Lane & Co., established in 1838 by Samuel A. Lane. However, this firm lasted only a year or so and no evidence connects Lane with the Akron Match Co.

The Akron Match Co. was first heard of on January 15, 1868, when a private die was ordered. For some reason this order was never filled, and was eventually cancelled due to the destruction of the factory by fire on August 15, 1868. The die was re-ordered September 22, 1869, although yet another four months elapsed before any stamps were issued. No deliveries were made after July 1870 and the final fate of the Akron Match Co. remains a mystery. Perhaps it was burned out a second time and the owners called it quits, or possibly competition from the Barber Match Co. at nearby Middlebury proved too much.

The stamp of the Akron Match Co. (RO1) is not unduly scarce, although only 174,000 were issued. All copies I have seen bear the printed date "Feb 70" reading up in black.

J. J. Allen's Sons of Philadelphia consisted of William N. and N. Penrose Allen, whose line of business was fertilizer. They manufactured no matches themselves, but served as agents for matches produced by the Trenton Match Co., which they most probably marketed locally under their own brand name. The Allen brothers' stamp (RO4) is quite common.

The stamp listed by Scott as "RO12

1c black American Match Co. (Eagle)" remains pretty much an enigma. It was used by a firm in Amsterdam, New York, from November 1867 thru August 1869. It has been suggested that this firm was the predecessor of the American Match Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, which ordered its first 1c stamps just as the issue of the Amsterdam stamp ceased. Although the two stamps (RO12 and RO10) exhibit some similarity in the frame design, this is probably no more than coincidence. None of the men associated with the Cleveland firm is known to have resided in Amsterdam, and since the ownership of the New York company remains unknown, the mystery must stand. (Mr. Henry W. Holcombe has informed me in mss. that he has gathered a certain amount of data on the Amsterdam Match Co. and will publish his findings at a future date.)

The firm of Bent & Lea consisted of Charles P. Bent and James H. Lea and lasted less than a year. I have no information regarding it beyond the bare names of the owners. The stamp (RO29) was issued from August 1870 through April 1871 and is not common. It exists both with and without the tiny, scattered experimental silk fibres, and the remarks made under L. W. Buck & Co. (Q. V. below) may apply here also.

L. W. Buck & Co. were located at Clinton, Iowa and possibly started business in 1869, although their private die was not approved until June of the following year. The firm consisted of Buck and one B. F. Pool, and was capitalized at \$10,000. The factory employed 17 hands and during its short life produced \$29,250 worth of matches, sold only in Clinton and neighboring towns. Late in 1870, probably in December, the factory was destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt and Buck soon afterwards departed for California with his family.

The Buck stamp (RO45) is found both with and without the experimental silk fibres and is scarce either way. In view of its short life (565,000 issued, June through December 1870) it seems entirely possible that there

was only a single printing of this stamp. If this were true, then the so-called "old paper" copies without discernible fibres (which are in the minority) may be simply those stamps from portions of the experimental silk sheets where the widely scattered fibres happened to be absent.

W. E. Doolittle's small match business was located at Hayesville, Ashland County, Ohio, and evidently lasted about two years. Probably the matches were sold locally and the business turned out to be unprofitable, or, like others, ended in a call for the local fire department. Regarding William E. Doolittle himself I have no information other than the bare fact that he was a resident of Hayesville for at least several years prior to his match venture. His stamp (RO-71) was issued from March 1866 thru November 1867 and is fairly scarce.

The die inscribed "Louisiana / Matches / L. Frank" was, according to the Boston Revenue Book, "... ordered June 29th, 1875 by L. Frank, Agent of the Louisiana Match Manufacturing Co. of New Orleans, La." However, the New Orleans directory lists one Simon Frank as agent of the firm and no mention of L. Frank is to be found in any connection. Perhaps L. Frank was the original agent and was replaced by Simon Frank prior to the compilation of the directory, or, conversely, L. Frank may have succeeded Simon Frank after the directory appeared. An essay of this de-

sign is said to exist with the name given as "S. Frank".

The Frank stamp (RO85) was issued from March 1876 until some time in 1878 and is not uncommon. It is one of the very few match stamps printed, in brown, and also one of the few used in the South.

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## REVENUES AT FILATELIC FIESTA

Revenues were in evidence at the Filatelic Fiesta Stamp Show in San Jose, Calif., Feb. 11 and 12. The exhibit, "United States Revenues, First Issue 1862-71" of Homer Landis, ARA #77, was awarded First Prize in the United States and Possessions section. "Private Die Match Stamps of the United States," shown by Bruce Miller, ARA #732, was awarded Honorable Mention in the same section.

An outstanding collection "American Eagle on Stamps," built by Czerna C. Lafler, not a member of A. R. A., was awarded First Prize in the Topicals section. It consisted of 9 frames, 108 pages, with lots of stamps, mostly Revenues. Shown were Second and Third Issue, Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper, Revenue Stamped Paper, Private Die Proprietary Stamps, Tax Paid, State Revenue Stamps, etc., the works. Any revenueur would enjoy it.

Finally another non-A. R. A. member, Frank Vignola of San Francisco, took the Grand Award of the show for his three frames of "Nepal—Revenues and Documentaries."

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**PARK CITY MATCH CO.,  
ALEX. UNDERWOOD & CO.,  
ELECTRIC MATCH CO.**

**Bruce Miller, ARA #732**

Although the three firms named above were not (directly connected, their histories contain certain mutual elements, and for this reason they are best dealt with in a single article.

It was Alexander Underwood who established the Park City Match Company at Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 1857. Underwood was born at Forty Fort, Pennsylvania in 1810, and during his long life pursued several occupations and lines of business, including those of architect, builder, mill operator and woodenware factory owner. He started his first match business at Newark, New Jersey, in the 1850's, and in 1857 moved to Kenosha. The business he started there that year was taken over in 1865 or 1866 by Cyrus Biggs and T. T. Bent, who moved it to a new location and changed the name to the Kenosha Match Company. Bent served as secretary of the new firm, while Biggs was presumably the president. Later Biggs became the sole owner, and in 1867 the factory was evidently closed down, for in that year the private dies were sold to James L. Clark of Oshkosh.

According to the Boston Revenue Book, "Stamps were also delivered (from the Park City dies) to one G. N. Jones . . .". Whether Jones succeeded Biggs as owner of the Kenosha Match Company or operated an entirely different business I am unable to say.

In the meantime, Alexander Underwood had returned to Newark, where in 1866 or 1867 he set up a new match factory under the name of Underwood, Burchard & Co. In addition to Underwood, the members of this firm were Henry M. Burchard, John H. Hubbard, John B. Fellows and William L. Carthers. Burchard apparently dropped out sometime prior to October 1867, for the private die approved that month bore the name "Alex. Underwood & Co."

According to the 1870 census, no

matches were manufactured at Newark in that year, suggesting that Underwood closed out his business sometime in 1869. Shortly thereafter his die was sold to the Electric Match Company.

The Electric Match Company was organized in 1870 and had its main office in Chicago, although the factory was located at Kenosha, Wisconsin. And this factory was none other than that of the defunct Kenosha Match Company, the quondam Park City Match Company founded by Alexander Underwood in 1857.

The president of the Electric Match Company was George N. Jackson, while the secretary and factory superintendent was Henry M. Underwood, son of Alexander Underwood.

As can be seen from the dates given, all of the Underwood stamps on silk paper and probably some on old paper as well were issued to the Electric Match Company. Deliveries of stamps ceased after March 1872, indicating that the Electric Match Company went out of business not long after that date.

An altered version of Underwood's die, with the name "Electric Match Co." substituted for that of Alex. Underwood & Co. turns up from time to time. It exists only as a proof, usually in black, and for some reason was never issued.

Alexander Underwood died at Newark, New Jersey, in 1890.

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## AMERICAN FUSEE COMPANY

Bruce Miller, ARA #732

The American Fusee Company, Ltd. of Erie, Pennsylvania, was incorporated February 1874 with a capitalization of \$100,000. The original officers were W. R. Davenport, president; E. D. Ludwig, vice-president; William A. Galbraith, treasurer and E. Gaylord, secretary and manager.

The factory employed 20 to 35 people and the production capacity of 43,000 boxes per day was devoted largely to "American Safety Parlor Fusees." These were a version of the strike-on-box or "safety" match and were based on a patent by J. W. Hjerpe, granted October 13, 1863, as well as several subsequent patents. Safety matches originated in Sweden and were probably imported as early as 1861. The match heads were compounded of potassium chlorate and antimony sulphide, while the abrasive ignition surface on the box contained non-toxic red phosphorus. The "safety" aspect of such matches related to the makers, who thereby avoided exposure to the highly poisonous white phosphorus used in conventional matches. For the user they were often anything but safe, since showers of burning phosphorus particles were apt to fly off the box when the match was struck. For this reason, safety matches were slow to gain acceptance. The first domestic manufacturer, the Universal Safety Match Company of Boston, survived for only three years.

The writer has received, through the kindness of Mr. Henry W. Holcombe, an unopened box of "American Safety Fusees," still sealed with the 1c private stamp on silk paper. When opened, the box contained 26 Fusees, packed with heads at the top. Considering that this box must have sold for at least two cents, matches were evidently not one of the great bargains of the "good old days." The fusees are round, and 49 mm in length, of which 20 mm are occupied by the pinkish-red head. They sparked feebly when struck on the ignition surface of a modern safety match box, but, when ignited by another match,

burned readily with a quick, bright flame.

Despite the early resistance to safety matches, the American Fusee Company enjoyed fair success, and continued in operation until 1884, some two years after it was absorbed by the Diamond Match Company.

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## CHAPTER MEETINGS

Various local chapters of ARA members hold regular meetings. If you are in the area at the time, your presence would be most welcome.

**Los Angeles.** Third Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the library of the Los Angeles Philatelic Club, 417 South Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Cal.

**New York.** First Thursday of the month at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N. Y.

**Seattle.** Meet monthly at the Collectors Club of Seattle, 908 East Madison at Broadway, Seattle, Wash. Contact the chairman, D. C. Strock at 4109 25th Ave. S. W., Seattle, Wash. 98106, for details as to the time and dates of the meetings.

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### New Members

1108 Horowitz, Leon, M.D.  
 1109 Kullman, William L.

### Reinstated

964 Erck, Peter L.

### Application Received

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 E., Seattle, Wash. 98115, by D.  
 C. Bartley. Collects USIR and  
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### Address Changes

Eisele, Herman, 822 Engineers Bldg.,  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44114.  
 Richardson, H. T., Box 233, Slidell,  
 La. 70458.  
 Sternad, Frank A., P. O. Box 203,  
 Brighton, Mass. 02135.

Previous membership total	406
New members	2
Reinstated	1
Current membership total	409

### Notes & Comments

All members in arrears for current dues as of January 31, 1967, were notified to this effect by first class mail at the beginning of February. To those who have responded, thanks. Members with dues still unpaid at the beginning of March will be regretfully listed in the April issue of The American Revenuer as dropped for non-payment. The ARA's business year extends from October 1 through the following September 30 and dues notices for the coming year are enclosed in the September issue of The American Revenuer. Hence, those members dropped as of March have been given a period of almost six months in which to remit dues. This seems more than adequate leeway, but if anyone feels otherwise please notify the secretary.

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