

The American Revenuer

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A re-used stamp found on a check. More, inside, page 41.



JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN REVENUE ASSOCIATION

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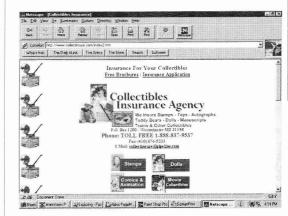


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Pay to the order of...(22)

A proposed revision of the listing of the instructive clauses found on receipts with the Type H imprint

by Ben Czech

Introduction

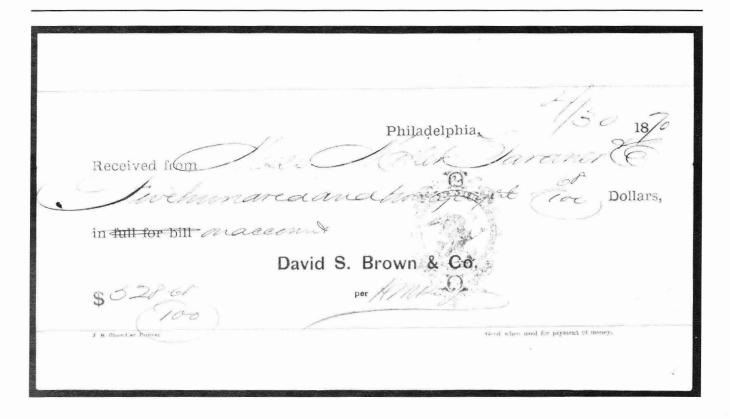
In spite of the varieties added in the 2001 edition to account for the colors in which the clauses are printed, I believe that the Scott U.S. Specialized's treatment of the H types with instructive clauses remains inadequate. One of the primary reasons for the inadequacy of the listings remains hidden to the casual reader because of the ellipses in the wordings of the clauses themselves. The purposes of this column are (1) to survey the known receipts that have both an additional

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Types of instructive clauses, their user, position and color

Type 1 Clause: "Good when used for payment of money" (7 words in 1 line)

User	Position of Clause	Color of Clause
David S. Brown & Co., Phila., PA	lower right	black
ype 2 Clause: "Good when used as a recei	pt for payment of money" (10	words in 1 line)
Hazeltine & Co.,Warren, PA	top	black
Franklin Sugar Refinery, Phila., PA	bottom	black
Hall & Carpenter, Phila., PA	bottom	black
Henry Disston and Son, Phila., PA	vertically at left	black
W.A. Drown & Co., Phila., PA	vertically at left	black
Lewis Brothers & Co., Phila., PA	lower left	red
ype 3 Clause:"Good when used as a receip	ot for the payment of money" (11 words in 1 line)
Hood, Bonbright, and Co., Phila., PA	lower right (Chandler, printer)	black
Hood, Bonbright, and Co., Phila., PA	ower right (Zane, printer)	black
Mellor, Bains & Mellor, Phila., PA	lower left (Chandler, printer)	black
The Hood, Bonbright receipt printed by Zan	ne is also known with the imprinted stam	p inverted.
ype 4 clause: "Good when used as a receij	pt for the payment of money" (11 words in 2 lines)
G. W. Blabon	Center	black
Landreth's Agricultural Warehouse	Center	black
Henry Disston and Son, Phila., PA	Center	red
Thatcher Brothers, Pueblo, Colo	Center	yellow
ype 5 clause: "Good only when used as a i	receipt for the payment of mon	eys" (12 words in 1 lin
J. T. Way & Co.	Bottom left	black



instructive clause and an imprinted type H stamp and (2) to produce a listing scheme that is both comprehensive and consistent with both the way collectors have collected these documents and cataloged other similar varieties.

The clauses were the work of the printers of the receipts, not the Carpenter firm that imprinted the receipts with the type H stamp. The Carpenter correspondence file shows that the firm returned receipts without clauses to printers for the addition of the the government-required clauses. A careful reading of the correspondence reveals that the wording of the clauses varied. So it comes as no surprise that the wording found on extant examples shows similar variation. To date the ellipsis in the wording of the clauses in the Scott listings serves to hide the variation of wording. Lipson (1992) reported 7, 10 and 11 word versions of the clauses. A 12 word version of the clause can now be reported.

Type 1 Clause

The shortest receipt clause is the seven word version reading "good when used for payment of money." To date only one user of this type of the receipt clause has been identified, David S. Brown & Company of Philadelphia. J.B. Chandler, a Philadelphia printer, was responsible for this clause. It is one of the varieties apparently grouped under the current Scott catalog number of RN-H3e; Castenholz (1990) identified it as H9b, presumably because it is one of three variations grouped under the old Scott numbering scheme as RN-H9. Because of the difference in the wording of the clause, it is accorded a major number in the listing at the end ot this article, H-1.1 for H receipt clause 1.

Type 2 Clause

The second type of the receipt clauses consists of 10 words, "good when used as a receipt for payment of money." The six instruments known with this variation on the receipt clause are listed in Table I. Only one copy of the Hazeltine receipt has been recorded and it was lot number1552 in the auction of Jovce's match and medicine collection conducted by Levitt (1989). The clause is printed at the top of the receipt in black and is listed as H-2.1a at the end of this article. This clause is also found printed in black at the bottom of the receipts of two different users, Franklin Sugar Refinery and Hall & Carpenter; this variety is listed as H-2.1b at the end of the article. Both of these varieties are grouped under the current Scott listing of The seven word Type 1 instructive clause.

Chrowns tor to your cudit with thanks

The ten word Type 2 instructive clause.

RN-H3e; the Castenholz (1990) identification is H9a, his expansion of the old Scott listing of H9.

The type 2 clause printed in black is also found reading up vertically at the left of the instrument. This variety, found on the receipts of two different users, is currently listed as Scott RN-H3d; Castenholz lists it as H8, as it was a number of years ago in the Scott catalog. While Castenholz pictured the Disston receipt, there is a second user, W.A. Drown & Co., on which the clause has been printed vertically. In this article it is listed as H-2.1c.

The type 2 clause has also been found printed in red on the receipt of Lewis Brothers and Company of Philadelphia. To the best of my knowledge only one copy of this receipt is in collectors' hands. In the listing at the end of this article it is identified as H-2.2.

Type 3 Clause

The third type of receipt clause consists of eleven words "good when used as a receipt for the payment of money," and has been found on the receipts of Hood, Bonbright and Company in two different type faces printed by J.B. Chandler and Zane respectively. In the Zane version, the receipt is also known with the imprinted stamp inverted. This type of clause forms part of the RN-H3e listing in the current Scott catalog and is listed as H9c by Castenholz (1990). Each of the two printings of the Hood, Bonbright & Co. receipts is relatively common. More than half of the known H receipts with instructive clause come from this one user. There are two copies recorded of the same clause at the lower left of the receipts of Mellor, Bains & Mellor, Perhaps not so surprising these receipts were also printed by Chandler. The 11 word clause is found in the list at the end as number H-3.1.

Type 4 clause

The wording of the fourth type of receipt clause is the same as type three, except that it is printed in two lines instead of one. So far it has always been found printed in the center of the instrument. On the Landreth's Agricultural Warehouse receipt (only one recorded copy) the clause is found printed by Haehnlen of Philadelphia across the imprinted stamp and in the other three users it is below the imprinted stamp. The Landreth receipt also has the distinction of being the only example in which the clause is in upper case letters. The 11 word clause in two lines is found printed in three different colors, black, red, and yellow. Castenholz lists the three colors, but assigns the same number H7 for all three. In the list below they are assigned numbers H-4.1, H-4.2, and H-4.3 respectively.

Type 5 clause

The J. T. Way & Co. receipt is the only known user of the twelve word version of the instructive clause and only one copy has been recorded in collectors' hands to date. In the proposed listing at the end it is assigned H-5.1.

hiladelphi Good when used as a receipt for the payment of money. Zane.

The 11 word Type 3 instructive clause in one line (above) and the 11 word Type 4 clause in two lines (right).

Discussion

There are six potential factors that could be considered in a catalog listing of the instructive clauses on the type H receipts: (1) the wording of the clause, (2) format (in one or two lines), (3) color, (4) location, (5) orientation (vertical or horizontal), and (6) use of upper case only or upper and lower case in the wording. The use of all six factors leads to a very long list of varieties, many of which are reported as single copies. No doubt some specialists will pursue and compete in the marketplace to own all of these varieties. However, it is probably more reasonable to aim at fewer factors for a listing in the Scott catalog.

The question is which of the factors should be weighed most heavily. All six factors were determined by the printer of the receipt face, although one seems to have been prescribed by the government mediated through Joseph Carpenter, the contract printer of the type H stamps. That factor is the wording of the clause itself. An examination of the American Phototype clauses which were incorporated with the stamp on type B and C stamps also shows variation in the wording of the clause. So does the correspondence file of the Joseph Carpenter firm. Of all the factors this one seems paramount and must be considered the primary one in a proposed catalog scheme. That would give us a minimum of 4

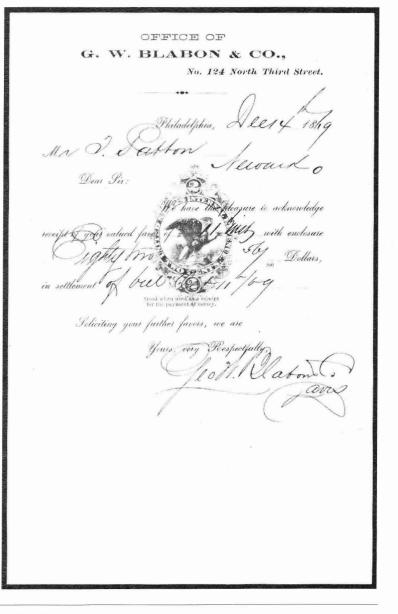


Table II

Proposed listing for Type H stamped revenue paper with instructive clauses

Ben's Number	Proposed Scott Number	Description
H-1.1	RN-H6	"Good when used for payment of money" in black
H-2.1a	RN-H7	"Good when used as a receipt for payment of money" in black at top
H-2.1b	RN-H7	"Good when used as a receipt for payment of money" in black at bottom
H-2.1c	RN-H7a	"Good when used as a receipt for payment of money" in black, vertically at left
H-2.2	RN-H7b	"Good when used as a receipt for payment of money" in red at lower left
H-3.1	RN-H8	"Good when used as a receipt for the payment of money" in one line in black
H-3.1a	RN-H8a	same as H-3.1, but imprinted stamp is inverted
H-4.1	RN-H9	"Good when used as a receipt for the payment of money" in two lines in black
H-4.2	RN-H9a	"Good when used as a receipt for the payment of money" in two lines in red
H-4.3	RN-H9b	"Good when used as a receipt for the payment of money" in two lines in yellow
H-5.1	RN-H10	"Good only when used as a receipt for the payment of moneys" in black

major listings. The precedent of considering format in one or two lines adds an additional major listing.

To this writer the color of the clause also seems basic and it has been added to the basic number after the decimal point. In Scott's listing scheme this might be a lower case letter. The location and orientation of the clause on receipt are of relatively minor interest and this is shown by assigning a lower case letter. Scott might be advised to simply footnote this information.

Finally, it might be noted that the clause on the receipt of Landreth's Agricultural Warehouse (Type 5) is printed in all upper case letters whereas all the other printed

State Revenue News—4th quarter 2000

"X-Files: the unexpected, the unexplainable and the downright weird" is the issue theme for the fourth quarter 2000 issue of *State Revenue News*. This is truly a collection of articles about the odd-ball things various states have taxed with stamps. Some of the areas covered include California Suction Dredge, Concord Grapes and Poll Tax stamps, Minnesota star shaped Gambling stamps, New Jersey No Fee Trout stamps, Louisiana Paris Green stamps, Carroll County Marylands tobacco stamps with the wrong courthouse, a variety of others and "The Most Terrifying tax Stamp of All Time: clauses are printed in upper and lower case letters. Although worthy of mention, this seems too minor to incorporate into the proposed classification scheme.

References

- Castenholz, B. J. Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper, Part 4 (The Eastern Central States). Pacific Palisades, CA: Castenholz and Sons, 1990
- Lipson, E. N. "The restrictive clauses that exist in conjunction with the Type RN-H stamped revenue paper." *The American Revenuer*, 1992 November-December; 46:195-99.

The South Dakota Substitute Lard" stamp. Substitute lard?

In addition to the articles, this issue contains a listing of the members of the State Revenue Society and an index to articles that have appeared in *State Revenue News* since the publication of *Riley's fiscal philatelic literature handbook* in June 1997.

State Revenue News is the quarterly publication of the State Revenue Society. Subscription is with membership. For more information write to the Secretary Scott Troutman, Box 270184, Oklahoma City OK 43137-0184.

A critique

by Anonymous, ARA

I have noted several articles published recently in *The American Revenuer* and feel compelled to respond. Odd as it may seem, both authors were the owners of the pieces written about and both writers concluded that the stamps affixed to their respective document was placed there as a philatelic fraud; that is, to fool a revenue stamp or document collector.

The first article was by Scott Troutman published in the June 1999 issue and dealt with a document bearing three copies of the 3ϕ 1861 postage issue on a small manuscript promissory note. The second article appeared in the March-April 2000 issue and was authored by M.E. Mateson. It related to the use of a 4¢ Scovill private die stamp used on a document.

When I read the first article by Troutman I was tempted to write Scott with my thoughts, but bided my time. Then the most recent article appeared; the one by Mateson. Rather than give my opinion privately, I thought it might be best to publish my thoughts with regard to both documents publicly here in *The American Revenuer* so that all sides would get a good airing.

and the second management and the second management THE STATE OF OHDO, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, 33. I CERTIFY, That I this day solemnized the Marriage of A.C. 102. with Many dre Hanger Witness, my hand, this _____ day of _____ Honry h

Case Number 1: Three 3¢ 1861 Postage Documentary Usage

Scott points out that there are just too many things wrong with the document to be a genuine postal payment of a fiscal tax. He goes on to note that the face value of the stamps is only 9¢ when the tax was 15¢. This is true at 5¢ per \$100.00 or fraction a rate of 15¢ is correct. He further notes that the stamps were creased before usage and were probably not from the same sheet. The cancel is noted as pigeon scratches without an identifiable author. He also noted that a different pen was used to cancel the stamps than was used to write the note. Finally, he notes that one of the stamps is dirtier than a cleaner one that overlapped it, and as we know, the dirt is suppose to cover the surface of the stamps uniformly, not vice versa.

With all these problems pointed out, I was convinced of the item's genuineness. That is, that the stamps were affixed sometime at or after the execution of the note in an effort to pay the appropriate tax.

First of all, in assessing the genuineness of any stamped document we must, as it were, remove our postal historian hats and put on our fiscal historian hats. Remember, most of these stamped documents never were in the hands of an official of the Federal Government. As a consequence there are many more irregularities to be noted on stamped documents than on their postal cousins. Generally, there was voluntary compliance with the tax laws out of self-interest. That is, the law would deny the benefit of an unstamped

Figure 1. A

certificate bearing a 3¢ postage stamp in lieu of the required 5¢ revenue stamp. or improperly stamped document to the user thereof. As a result there was reasonably faithful compliance with the law and tax schedules.

I have become acquainted with many stamped documents from many original sources and at this point nothing surprises me.

I have no reason to disbelieve Mr. Troutman when he concludes that the postage stamps on this document were from different sheets and were creased before affixing to the document or that one stamp covered by another was dirtier than the stamp on top. Nor do I disagree that the cancels were made with a different pen than was used to create the note or that the so-called cancellation did not meet the letter of the law. The rate is also clearly wrong and short by 6¢.

My disagreement has to do with what all this means. May I suggest that it means that the person, either the maker or the payee, knew that tax stamps were required, but had none at hand. Postage stamps were deemed sufficient if only for the sake of appearances. The stamps may have been removed from a cover uncanceled or with spare manuscript cancellations or they may have been carried in a wallet for a long time before being impressed into use.

Figure 2. A note with a \$1 Third Issue revenue stamp dated more than a year before the stamp was issued.

I have found over the years that the 30 1861 postage was often used in lieu of a 5α first issue revenue stamp. Both stamps bore the portrait of Washington and were roughly the same color, dull red. Figure 1 shows a marriage certificate bearing the 3α postage

rather than the appropriate 5¢ revenue to pay the 5¢ certificate tax. Is it possible that the stamps were not put on and cancelled when the note was executed and delivered? Of course. Was this uncommon? No. Figure 2 shows an 1870 \$2,000.00 promissory note with a \$1.00 Third Issue documentary stamp to pay the appropriate rate on the note. The stamp was not issued for more than one year after the note was executed! It thus must have been stamped long after the law required and backdated.

To me this piece gives every indication of reliability and in my opinion is genuine an all respects. It is a nice example of the lengths to which people in those days went to attempt to legitimize an otherwise unstamped document.

Case Number 2: The 4¢ Scovill on receipt.

This article by Mr. Mateson features the illegal use of a 4¢ private die proprietary stamp of the A. L. Scovill & Co., patent medicine manufacturer of Cincinnati, Ohio. (Scott No RS21 1).

It was nice to see this as I own one myself. See figure 3. My example is on a probate court claim. It was creased horizontally, probably while on the medicine wrapper. The stamp represented the 50 general certificate tax, both underpaid and improperly paid.

Mr. Mateson appears to question under just what taxable category his document falls. It comes under the general receipt tax which was a flat 2ϕ on receipts for amounts over \$20.00 and was in effect from August 1,

Childober after date, 9 Horse Lillo housand cesit Just familiate Value No 2000 40

The American Revenuer, March-April 2001 (Vol. 55, No. 2)

Kanis MCM (and Decease B. C. Heroman F To 12 days mirring in Potato State of Ohis, I B. C. Azuman owner Ct allen County) 55 of the anefed against The C Setate OT do ma 110 le and subscree mu days ale Marshall

Figure 3. A probate court claim with an illegal use of a 4¢ private die stamp instead of the required 5¢ documentary stamp. The tax is underpaid and improperly paid with a stamp that was creased before it was attached to the document.

The revenue stamps of Saudi Arabia



Ottoman revenue used in Hejaz.



Hejazi Railway Tax stamp.

by R. J. Thoden, ARA

When I first went to Saudi Arabia many years ago, I noticed that many types of revenue stamps were in use. Having always had a special interest in revenue stamps, I decided to collect them. This proved to be quite a challenge, as I soon discovered that there was apparently nothing in print anywhere about them, nor did I know where to go to find out anything about the stamps I noted in use every day. Eventually, however, I had seen enough stamps of the Kingdom period (1932 to date) to write A Preliminary Listing of the Revenue Stamps of Saudi Arabia, which was published in The American Revenuer in 1977 (1977 January; 31:6A-6D and 1977 February; 31:18A-18C).

Since then, with the help on many people, some collectors and others just friends who steered me to sources of information, I have learned much more. I have seen many more stamps and located some

information on how they were used. The first revenue stamps used in what is today the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were those of the Ottoman Empire. When the Hejaz became independent in 1916, the Ottoman tax laws were evidently continued in use, and stamps were issued under the name of the Hashemite Arab Government in the same categories as the Ottoman revenues. When the combined Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd was formed in 1926, revenues inscribed The Arabian Government appeared, followed by those of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932. Over the years some categories of stamps were discontinued and new ones added. The use of revenue stamps declined significantly in the 1970s when the price of crude oil rose significantly and the government no longer needed the revenue from the stamp taxes. Today, only one or two categories of revenue stamps are still in use.

After working on this project off and on since the appearance of the preliminary listing, I am putting the final touches on A *Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia*. It will be about 100 pages, split about equally between listings of revenue stamps and appendices containing tax regulations, a scarcity rating table, brief information on Hejaz railway tax stamps of other Middle East countries, etc.

I suspect this will be a money-losing effort, so I would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in buying a copy (a preliminary estimate of the price based on printing 100 copies is \$20–25). Please write to *The American Revenuer* Editor who will forward your replies to me. Thank you.



Hejaz and Hejd flat rate documentary stamp.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visa stamp.

Critique/continued from previous page

1864 to October 1, 1870.

This item falls nicely into that period and should have been taxed at a flat 2ϕ . This is not a receipt for payment of a judgment regardless of the wording in the receipt.

The handling of these documents is one of the keys to understanding this situation. In estate matters the executor (in cases with a will) or the administrator (in cases without a will) who were appointed by the court handled the routine winding up of the estate. In some cases this may have taken several years. Debts would have to be paid as well as various other claims. The heirs would then get their respective shares. Monies owed to the decedent would have to be collected and paid into the estate. All the while periodic accounts would be filed with the court by the executor or administrator, supported by such documents as the one in this case.

In some cases, the executor had no usable stamp at hand and may have pulled a private die stamp from a wrapper or box and glued it onto the receipt as was done in this case. In some cases, the stamps were damaged before or during removal as happened in both cases here. Thinning in the case of the Mateson item and creasing in the case of the item shown here.

The stamp was undoubtedly cancelled by

the recipient of a residuary legacy, one Brazilla Constable. Note the one day difference in the date of the receipt and the date on the stamp.

Either the executor, who undoubtedly prepared and stamped the document or the legatee was in error as to the exact date. Not an unusual circumstance at all.

Mr. Mateson's item I adjudge to be completely genuine also.

Congratulations gentlemen! You each have a wonderful item.

Literature in review

Taxation on Playing-Cards in England from 1711 to 1960 by John Berry (supplement to The Journal of the International Playing-Card Society, ISSN 0305-2133 January 2001). 87 + vi pages, A5, smyth sewn, card cover, illustrated. Published by the International Playing-Card Society (6 Reynard's Copse, Highwoods, Colchester CO4 4RU, United Kingdom) available from the publisher for £8 plus postage and packing to non-IPCS members. (This should be available in North America from Eric Jackson.)

It should be noted that although the title refers to taxation in England, it is in fact a study of the taxation of playing cards in all of Great Britain and the United Kingdom as well as some coverage of Ireland and America. The book consists of two parts; the first being a discussion of the tax laws and how taxes were collected. The second part consists of tables and illustrations of embossed stamps, aces, labels, wrappers and tax-wrappers.The latter tables are not a complete catalog listing and are not priced.

The author is a playing card collector and not a philatelist. in fact he was quite surprised to find when writing this book that there was a considerable amount of information about the area in the philatelic literature. There is a short bibliography consisting of both philatelic and card collecting references. It is informally arranged with comments about each by the author.

The author points out a number of common errors in the philatelic literature, one being the conception that the official aces carried an unstated duty of six pence while in fact they carried no implied duty, the duty being collected by the deck's wrapper.

The taxation of playing cards is an interesting area of study. Those with access to the Internet may wish to view the society's web site at <www.pagat.com/ipcs/> for additional information about this area of collecting.

Kenneth Trettin

The December 2000 issue of the quarterly *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* features a continuation of Christopher Ryan's "An illustrated chronicle of Canada's excise stamp tax on matches." This is an in-depth look at this tax and the match manufacturers. Other items note a new high serial number on a Saskatchewan \$10 electrical stamp, a rare perforation on the Second Issue Bill stamp, a document with an apparently very early us-

Canadian Revenue Newsletter—December 2000

age of a 3ϕ Third Issue Bill stamp and another broken surcharge variety on a George V excise tax stamp.

The Canadian Revenue Newsletter is published quarterly by the Canadian Revenue Study Group of BNAPS. For information contact the group's Chairman Fritz Angst, W2200 First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.

India stamped paper from the 1980s

by Terence Hines, ARA

A recent purchase yielded a set of eight different denominations (50 paise, 1, 1.50, 2, 2.50, 4, 5 and 10 rupee) of India revenue stamped paper, all used during the 1980s. All are printed in purple on gray paper, which varies in shade some from denomination to denominaation. Shown here are examples of the 50 paise and 1 rupee denominations. The design of the 50 paise value is used only on that value while the design on the 1 rupee value is used on the higher values reported here. Two distinct watermarks are used on these items. One is of the Asoka Pillar (the central design element on both of the designs shown here). The other is the wording "HUNDI INDIA" and over it the equivalent in Hindi. At least in this group, the pillar watermark is found only on the 50 paise, 1.50 and 10 ruppe denominations.

50党 Continuious to our Hund No. HNK-15. dated 23/12 Industries Ltd Mangetrul Letter STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BED/852/06/ 1 रू. Re. This Bill of Exchange No.82/003 is a part of our Invoice No.BL/82/DT/25 dt. 15-6-1982. For BURLINGTON Per Pro, BURLINGTON (Authorised Signatory)

...that while reviewing the taxation of playing cards book, I went the the publisher's web site <www.pagat,com/ipcs/> where you can find a lot of interesting information about the history of playing cards. Surfing around brought me to<www.usplaying card.com> where you can find information about the history of the U.S. Playing Card Company, originally Russell, Morgan & Co. which once had a private die proprietary stamp. U.S.P.C.C. also acquired New York Consolidated Cards and Lewis I. Cohen which also had private die stamps.

...that another web site worth checking out is <www.chicagopex.com/> where you can find a lot of information about this show which is our ARA Convention show for 2001. You will

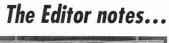
The California Revenuers met February 10 on a beautiful winter afternoon in San Francisco at the Holiday Inn during the Rosen show. You good people who did not drop in missed out on some interesting taxpaid material for trade or sale.

Our program begun with an outstanding talk "Indians on revenues" by our newest associate Russ Whitmore. Joe Ross and Bill Barr discussed their trip to Aripex in Tucson in January. Cal-Rev newsletter editor Rick Graham enthralled us with his adventures at stamp camp at A.P.S. headquarters in Pennsylvania last summer.

Fourteen associates met at the Easter Seal Show in Sacramento on March 18. It was announced that Earl Stritzinger, one of our charter members, passed away in February. Earl was a very fine gentleman and quite knowledgeable in state revenues and documents.

The fourth quarter 2000 issue of *Duck Tracks* relates the news of Robert Houtman's second consecutive victory in the annual Duck Stamp contest. In this issue Charles Ekstrom also relates his experiences as a judge in this contest. Ira Cotton also presents an overview of state duck stamps. find information about exhibiting stamps and literature, hotel information and information about how to get there.

...that still another web of interest is <groups.yahoo. com/group/revenues cinderellas>. This is a discussion group that you must





register to join. You can go to their site and read messages posted by other members or the messages can be e-mailed to you as they are posted or as one daily message. It is a new group with not a lot of members at the present.

Cal-Rev February and March meetings

The program was a show-n-tell led off by Bill Oliver who talked about Philippine Giros stamps, in particular a rare sheet with each stamp being a different value. Bill is writing an article about this item which has a fascinating history. Jim Busse showed German revenues on documents, one of which was the results of a physical for a day care worker. the second one was a form to prove that the person was not of Jewish descent. Both were from the Third Reich period. Two promissory notes from India were displayed by Anson Stout. John Johnson and Joe Ross gave interesting presentations too.

Future meetings will be at WESTPEX in April and an annual potluck dinner on July 29. For more information about any Cal-Rev meeting contact Jerry at <calrev1@ yahoo.com> or call 925-682-3020.

Jerry Lurie

Duck Tracks—fourth quarter 2000

Duck Tracks is published quarterly by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society. A subscription to their magazine is by membership. For more information contact Anthony Monico, Secretary, Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438.

St. Vincent Mystery



Figure 1. Is this a half penny revenue stamp?

by Peter Elias, ARA

Back in the mid-1970s I acquired a St. Vincent REV-ENUE overprinted stamp that has been vertically bisected and overprinted "Half Penny" (Figure 1). At the time, no one could tell me anything about this stamp. So far I have been able to ascertain that the stamp is real and that the "Revenue" overprint is real (Figures 2 and 3). In the 1880s St. Vincent locally overprinted the 6 pence yellow-green issue with "Revenue." In perusing the books St. Vincent (by Pierce-Messenger-Lowe, 1971) and the Barefoot Revenue catalog, there is absolutely no mention made of any half penny revenue stamps. In fact, all St. Vincent revenue stamps from that period were either 1 pence, 3 or 6 pennies, 1

shilling, 5 shilling or higher. There was no need for a half penny revenue stamp. Based on that, one could conclude that this is a fake.

Digging into this further though, one discovers that at about that time, St. Vincent ran out of $\frac{1}{2}$ penny stamps for postage use, and they resorted to locally overprinted and bisected stamps (Figure 4). St. Vincent 31 is based on the same 6 pence yellow-green issue of 1880 (#28), is also vertically bisected and also overprinted "d $\frac{1}{2}$."



Figures 2 and 3.

I live near the Wineburgh Philatelic Library in Dallas and have perused any and all articles, journals and books that might relate to subject and have not found anything mentioned. I have written to other St. Vincent collectors and also the Postmaster General of St. Vincent. The only I have not tried is checking old government archives in Kingstown, St. Vincent it-

self.

My only conclusion at this point is that this might be an undocumented local overprint manufactured for postage use (not revenue use).

If anybody has any ideas about this item (especially the other half), I would greatly appreciate it. You can contact me at Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 USA or <peter_elias@compuserve. com>.

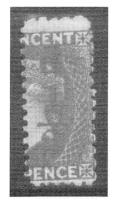


Figure 4. St. Vincent 31.

CHICAGOPEX 2001—ARA annual convention

We are again including a copy of the Philatelic Exhibitor's Prospectus and Application on the mailing wrapper of this issue of *The American Revenuer* for Chicagopex 2001 which is the ARA Annual Convention show. While this is a large show, it does normally fill up. Entries close August 15, but you are encouraged to apply earlier. There will be ARA members on the jury. Hotel information appeared in the last issue. It is the Rosemont Suites at O'Hare (888-476-7366). Make your reservations as soon as you can.

Information about the show is available online at <www.chicagopex.com> including the application forms and hotel and transportation information.

Bad Doings at Arrow Rock

by Scott Troutman, ARA

I was leafing through a dealers stock and came across a pair of handsome checks from the bank of Arrow Rock, Missouri. The first has a jumbo fourth issue Liberty head revenue with wide margins on a check featuring the image of a great stag. It was not, however, the one that caught my attention.

The one that caught my attention was the other one. Here a nasty looking fourth issue is slobbed on with some kind of discolored guckenpuckey. And by the cancellations it is obvious that somebody put one over on the government. My guess is that Mr. Shepard who made out both checks, had run out of stamps and he decided to do a little manipulation that made him little more than a counterfeiter. He appears to have soaked a stamp off some other document, probably a legal document, which was a particularly poor choice. This stamp you see had been cancelled the first time with a heavy grill like embosser and also a star shaped punch had been put through it at the top. He appears to have got out some mucilage, which in 1883 you either brushed on or had a rubber applicator at the top. He didn't do a particularly neat job, but at the time this glue would have been clear, and he gambled no one would pay that close of attention. No one did.

Harrison & Sons cashed the check for \$70, and when it got back to the bank they cancelled the stamp with a "Cancelled" handstamp in purple ink. A month later when the first check I had looked at came through it got the same treatment except they were using a blue ink that day.

The jumbo stamp has a little discoloration starting on the left edge. Makes me wonder where it came from.



The American Revenuer, March-April 2001 (Vol. 55, No. 2)

The American Revenue Association

President's Letter

I had hoped to have handed off the Presidency by this time. Perhaps by the time you read this you will have cast your vote to relegate this officer to the status of ARA Past-President. If you have not yet voted, I believe that there is still a brief period to cast your ballot. See the last TAR for the details. Your ballot must be received by June 5, 2001.

I have attended three stamp shows recently, in St. Louis, New York City, and Plymouth, Michigan. My reason for attending each varied. The three shows were busy, filled with collectors and dealers. If someone told you recently that stamp shows are dying, don't believe them.

The prediction of a major snow storm on the East Coast, precluded me from spending more than one day at the St. Louis show, but it certainly was worth it. I was exhibiting and exchanging information on imprinted revenues with ARA members, Bob Hohertz and Hermann Ivester. In spite of spending better than ten years studying the imprinted revenues, there remain many questions to answer. It came as a complete surprise during the show that I was able to purchase three imprinted items that must find their way into my exhibit. Another reason for going to St. Louis was to facilitate the scanning of my exhibit of 2¢ imprinted revenues for publication in The Check Collector, the journal of the American Society of Check Collectors, one of our sister organizations. If you have an interest in imprinted checks you should also be a member of the ASCC. Information on membership is available on the Internet at <http://members.aol.com/ asccinfo> or from the Secretary coleman Leifer, P.O. Box 577, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

My reason for attending the New York Postage Stamp Mega Event was very different, primarily to work for one of our ARA member dealers. In contrast to past years there were busy times all four days. The first day saw more people at the booth than the available seating. That persisted for several hours, something that I had not experienced for perhaps five years. In addition there were collectors that were new to revenues. I had to wait until Sunday afternoon to take notes on Ed Tricomiís playing card revenue exhibit which was in the Court of Honor. When you attend a stamp show, donít miss the exhibits. They often contain much information that remains unpublished. Which reminds me to urge our membership to share your findings and research with your fellow members. If you are not a iwriter,î ask our editor for some assistance.

In contrast to the three and four day extravaganzas of St. Louis and New York, the Plymouth Show is a two day show. Again my reason for attending was very different, to serve on the panel of jurors who were judging the exhibits. To my delight there was a wonderful exhibit of the 1898 Proprietary battleships, including a complete run of proofs and a very impressive showing of printed cancellations. The Plymouth Show is a well run two day show which involves a large number of local stamp collectors. The show was crowded with collectors both days. That came as a surprise as the weather was terrific, beckoning many to spend their time outdoors. The emphasis was on fun and I can assure you that the two days were an absolute delight. And ves, there was a goodie or two to be found in the dealer bourse! While there I was able also to meet with an ARA member who I only knew as a competitor on Ebay. We did some show and tell with portions of our collections. I will be returning in the future.

Right after I returned from two of the shows, there was a significant package of material from one of our ARA members in my mail box. So one should not forget those dealers and members who advertise within the pages of this journal. Stamp shows, dealers, and ARA members have been and continue to be a major source of items for my collection. Not all the action takes place on Ebay.

Ronald E. Lesher

Secretary's Report

Applications for Membership

In accordance with Article 4, Section 2(c) as ammended December 31, 1979, of the ARA By-laws, the following have applied for membership in the ARA. If the Secretary receives no objections to their membership by the last day of the month following publication the applicants will be admitted to membership.

ARENBERG, I.K. 5683. 22 Ludlam Ave., Box 28, Bayville NY 11709. Proposed by Eric Jackson. United States, US-Financial Documents, US-Occupied Territories, US-Proofs & Essays, US-Stamps on Documents.

BAIRD, JOHN, JR. 5693. 74 Pasture Lane #116, Bryn Mawr PA 19101. Proposed by Eric Jackson. US-Documentary, US-Proprietary.

BARHAM, TERRY 5692. 12615 SE 164th Street, Renton WA 98058. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Cinderellas, Scandinavia, South East Asia.

BUCKMAN, JAMES F. 5681. 8452 Fredericksubrg Rd. #278, San Antonio. TX 78229. Proposed by Ken Trettin. United States, US-1,2,3 Issues, US-19th Century, US-Private Die Canned Fruit, US-Private Die Match, US-Private Die Medicine, US-Private Die Perfumery, US-Private Die Playing Cards, US-Revenue Stamped Paper.

DUDA, RICHARD 5691. 106 S. Hatlen, Mt. Prospect IL 60056. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Canada, US-Non-Scott Listed, US-State.

EAKIN, PAUL 5684. 259 Thorny Point Rd., Stafford VA 22554. US-First Issue, US-First Issue Cancels, US-Revenue Stamped Paper, US-Stamps on Documents.

EVANS, CHRIS 5680. 105 Lake Terrace Court, Carrollton GA 30117. Proposed by R.C.F. Canada-Wildlife Habitat, Cinderellas, Proofs & Essays, US-Scott Listed, US-State Fish & Game. **FREEMAN, JERRY 5687.** Box 572, Gresham OR 97030, Proposed by Eric Jackson. United

States, US-State. FRICK, DAVID 5690. Box 3704, So. Pasadena CA 91031-6704. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Ja-

pan..

GAGNON, PATRICK 5679. 15604 NE 19th Ave., Vancouver WA 98686. Proposed by R.C.F.

HART, NORMAN 5682. 1 Bapaume St., Rockhampton Old, 4700 Australia. Proposed by Eric Jackson.

KELLER, BRIAN 5694. 703 E. Second St., O'Fallon IL 62269. Proposed by Ken Trettin. United States.

MOTO, MIGUEL 5685. 3005 Highway 66, Ashland OR 97520. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Mexico.

MOYERS, DAVID 5695. 585 Santa Monica Circle, Youngstown OH 44505. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Canada-Playing Cards, US-Cancels, US-Cigar, US-Cigarette, US-Cinderellas, US-Playing Cards, US-Potato Tax, US-Snuff, US-Tobacco.

MULLIN, PAUL 5686. 215 Swinburne Rd., West Chester PA 19382. Proposed by Eric Jackson. US-Beer, US-Hunting Permit, US-State Fish & Game, US-Taxpaids.

NICKEL, NEIL H. 5678. Box 1678, Troy MI 48098-1678 Proposed by Eric Jackson. United States, US-Scott Listed, US-State, US-State Fish & Game.

PALMER, J. WILSON 5688. 6803 S. Shelby Ridge Rd., Spokane WA 99224. Proposed by Eric Jackson. Canada, Caribbean-British, United States, US-1,2,3 Issues, US-1898 On Document.

PEELING, HARRY 5689. 15610 73rd Terrace North, Palm Beach Gardens FL 33418-7408. Proposed by Eric Jackson. United States, US-Non-Scott Listed, US-Scott Listed.

PENDLETON, SCOTT 5696. 601 Kerr Ave., Cadiz OH 43907. Proposed By Eric Jackson. United States, US-Non-Scott Listed, US-State: Ohio

RICHARDS, GEORGE II 4040. Box 1661, Duxbury MA 02311. Proposed by Eric Jackson. US-Private Die Canned Fruit, US-Private Die Match, US-Private Die Medicine, US-Private Die Perfumery, US-Private Die Playing Cards

Resigned

0888 BOODY, PETE 1562 CUMMINS, HARRY 4565 DOLENTE, RAYMOND 5618 FILTENBORG, JAN 4563 GETTEL, GERALD V 4594 JARDINE, S 5544 MAJEED, R S 4249 MANVILLE, STEWART R 5258 MERKYS, JULIUS LOU 5192 MEYERSON, HENRY 4242 PETERSEN, JAMES C 1360 RUSHEFSKY, NORMAN 5625 SHIRLEY, JOHN R. 5256 WILLIAMS, HARRY J

Deceased

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ODZIANA, JOE, 4236, 9903 West Q Ave., Mattawan MI 49071-9435

OSAKI, JUNICHI, 4783, Castle Ogikubo 403 Kamiogi 1-18-14 Suginamiku , Tokyo 167-0043 Japan

PACKARD, WILLIAM R, 5558, Box 1727, Clackamas OR 97015

PETKEVICH, CHARLES, 2852, 6202 SW 2 Court, Plantation FL 33317

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PRUESS, KENNETH P, 918, 1441 Urbana Lane, Lincoln NE 68505-1971

RITTER, DR DALE W, 1460, 975 East Ave PMB156, Chico CA 95926-1308

RUSS, ROBERT, 5486, 536 Harrow Rd., Richmond VA 23225-4234

SAUM, GARY E, 4378, 1452 Oakview Dr., Columbus OH 43235-1137

SCARPANTONI, BILL, 5619, 187 W. Clarkstown Rd., New City NY 10956-7240 SHREVE, CHARLES F, 5459, 14131 Midway Rd, #1250, Addison TX 75001-9829

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RONALD STEGALL 5607, 1149 Westview Terrace, Dover DE 19904

STOLL, GREGG, 5470, 407 East Forest Park Dr., Dickson TN 37055-2256

TAYLOR, ALLAN H, 5306, Beth Saida Retirement Village 66 Lichfield St., Blenheim, New Zealand

TINNEY, ROBERT, 5627, 298 HH Burch Rd., Oak Hill FL 32759

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WELLS, RICHARD B, 4648, 206 W. South St., Greenville MI 48838

WHITEHEAD, ROBERT C, 4007, 168 Skylake, Sautee GA 30571

WINUM, LAURENCE L, 1970, Box 247, Walden NY 12586

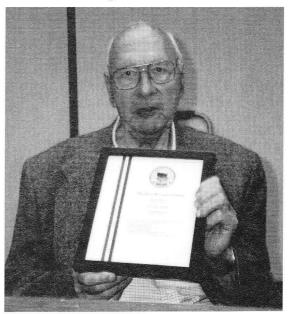
WISNER, PETER S, 3696, 18 Windsor Circle, New City NY 10956

Earl Stritzinger:a true master of the classics

by Mack E. Matesen, ARA

Earl Stritzinger passed away this Spring. He was eighty-seven years old. I suspect there was no collector of revenue stamps who resided in the Golden State who would not known of or come in contact with this "gentle giant." His stature in the arena of state revenues and in particular the those referred to as the classics (i.e. the first issues of the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Louisiana) was without parallel. He was an avid devotee in this arena and could memorize all who came in touch with him with his cogent informal discussions, as well as those formal presentations at numerous philatelic gatherings.

Over the years he traveled extensively within California as well as Nevada researching information about his beloved state revenues. His cozy den, at his residence in Albany, California, was replete with plaques, awards and varied kinds of presentations garnered with his gold medal award winning exhibits. Just last year, Mr.



Stritzinger was elevated to the status of Honorary Life Member in the State Revenue So-*Stritzinger/page 48*



ERIC JACKSON

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Post Office Box 728 • Leesport, PA 19533-0728 MAIL AUCTION #155

CLOSING DATE: July 18, 2001

Color illustrations of all lots will be found on our website at www.ericjackson.com. TERMS OF SALE: Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at a slight advance over the second high bid. Tie bids go t the earliest received. Bid on any sheet of paper. Minimum bid is \$2.00. Successful bidders who are ARA members wi have their lots sent with an invoice. Postage and handling will be added to the invoice, minimum \$1.50. All payment are due upon receipt of invoice. I accept American Express, Discover, Mastercard, and Visa. Send all of the raise information on the card. Pennsylvania residents will have 6% sales tax added to their purchases.

All stamps are in used condition unless noted as mint(*).

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RE183* VF PHOTO RE184* F-VF RE186* VF 80 **UNITED STATES - Scott Catalogue Numbers** 81 82 First Issue Revenues R7a SON red Wells Fargo & Co. 83 RE196a VF h/s cancel, VF PHOTO 12.50 Playing Cards RF13 black surcharge, F-VF thin spot Silver Tax RG125 F-VF corner crease Private Die Match RO2b F-VF filled thin, couple short 84 R8c black H. C. B'k. precancel, F-VF PHOTO 85 12.50 R9a VF 86 R12c F-VF 40.00 perfs PHOTO RO5a F-VF PHOTO R13b huge margins, VF PHOTO R14c black h/s, VF PHOTO 120.00 87 37.50 88 89 90 RO6c F-VF RO7d F-VF R28c F-VF 20.00 R32a VF 45.00 RO10b F short perfs RO12a F tiny abrasion R41a blue BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA h/s, VF 91 crease & thin spot PHOTO 40.00 92 RO14b F R47a VF 35.00 93 RO28a F tiny sealed tear 52.50 R51c F PHOTO RO33b blue h/s cancel, F PHOTO RO37a F-VF small repaired tears, couple short perfs 94 95 R52a VF PHOTO R52b black h/s, F PHOTO 50.00 65.00 PHOTO R57a VF 24.00 RO40d F thin spot PHOTO RO47d F-VF 96 97 19.00 R62c F R69a F-VF R70a red DEPOSIT..DUTY..ACCESS printed cancel, VF PHOTO 12.50 RO57c F-VF filled thin spots RO61b F-VF small filled thin PHOTO 98 99 35.00 RO52c F small filled thin RO57b F thin spot RO72d F thin spot PHOTO RO77a F thin spot PHOTO RO77a F vF filled thin PHOTO 100 R77c herringbone cancel, F short perf R85a F-VF PHOTO R86a SON black STEVENS, BAKER & CO., San 55.00 101 110.00 102 103 Francisco, h/s cancel, F PHOTO 110.00 R86c F short perf R90c black ATLANTIC NATIONAL BANK h/s, F pinhole PHOTO 104 25.00 105 **RO80c F PHOTO** RO82c F RO86c F thin spot PHOTO RO94d F-VF small faults PHOTO 106 77.50 107 R91c F 17.00 108 R93c F R94a F-VF corner crease PHOTO 25.00 RO99c F 109 90.00 RO107a F thins, small abrasion and short perfs PHOTO50.00 RO114d F-VF filled thins PHOTO 95.00 110 R98c black h/s, F PHOTO R100c F PHOTO 65.00 115.00 111 RO118a F couple short perfs PHOTO RO121b F few short perfs RO126c F-VF few short perfs PHOTO RO134d F-VF small filled thin PHOTO 112 R101c F PHOTO 90.00 27.50 Documentary R281 F-VF R289* sensitive ink, F-VF R290* sensitive ink, VF PHOTO R334 staple holes, F-VF PHOTO R485 cut cancel, VF B500 VF 113 114 7.50 115 20.00 RO141b F small thin RO142b F few short perfs 116 125.00 35.00 RO143a F short perf RO166c F PHOTO 118 10.00 R508 VF 119 15.00 R533 VF RO168b F 120 R535 VE PHOTO 110.00 RO178b F small repaired tear PHOTO RO179d F filled thin PHOTO 121 R560 staple holes, VF 25.00 122 10.00 R580 VF RO181b VF PHOTO RO181b VF PHOTO RO101b F-VF filled thin spots, short perf PHOTO Private Die Medicine RS29c F small filled thin R580 VF R585 F-VF PHOTO R640* F-VF R672 F-VF PHOTO R684 VF PHOTO 123 95.00 26.00 124 125 60.00 PHOTO RS36b F-VF thin spot PHOTO 55.00 25.00 R701 cut cancel, VF R702 cut cancel, VF 126 RS38b F vr e nil spor FIOTO RS38b F crease PHOTO RS48d small faults including repaired tear PHOTO RS50c F-VF small faults PHOTO 127 17.50 R705 perfin, VF PHOTO R706 VF R709 F-VF 128 100.00 27.50 12.50 130 RS57d F few short perfs PHOTO RS61d F crease, small thin PHOTO 131 R710 cut cancel, VF 50.00 R711 cut cancel, F-VF R718 F R728 F-VF 132 30.00 133 RS64c F-VF small filled thin 10.00 25.00 RS84a F small faults PHOTO 134 RS98c F-VF RS99b F clipped perfs, thin spot RS100b F-VF PHOTO 135 R729 F-VF 20.00 Proprietary RB2b F-VF RB3a F-VF 136 20.00 137 17.50 35.00 138 RS102b F RB6a F RS103d F small filled thin 139 R\$103d F small filled thin R\$107a F thin spots R\$110d F thin spot PHOTO R\$117b F minor faults R\$123c F small thins, light staining PHOTO R\$137d F filled thin PHOTO R\$137d F filled thin R\$155a F-VF small faults PHOTO R\$169b F short perf PHOTO R\$172c F-VF filled thins P\$174ib F PHOTO **RB7b F PHOTO** 50.00 RB16b F-VF light crease PHOTO RB17a F-VF 140 90.00 141 25.00 RB19b black h/s, F PHOTO 300.00 143 Future Delivery RC2* VF Stock Transfer RD157 perfin, F-VF PHOTO 30.00 144 145 20.00 RD255 cut cancel, VF RD308 cut cancel, VF PHOTO RD309 cut cancel, VF 15.00 146 90.00 42.50 42.50 148 KS172c F-VF filled thins 149 RS174jb F PHOTO 150 RS178d F thin spot 151 RS184d F-VF filled thin, light soiling 152 RS197c F PHOTO 153 RS209d F 148 RD312 cut cancel, VF RD359 F 60.00 Wines and Cordials RE40* F-VF RE44* F-VF RE47* F-VF 24.00 20.00 RE51* VF RE63* VF 25.00 RS223b F PHOTO 154 11.00 155 RS250d red printed cancel, F-VF filled thin PHOTO 11.00 RE104 F-VF 156 RS255d F corner crease PHOTO **RE105 F-VF** 15.00 157 RS256d F RE106* VF 37.50 RS261c F-VF 158 RE110a* strip of three, VF PHOTO 200.00 RS263d F filled thin spot RE163 perfin, VF RE164 VF 20.00 160 RS266d F thin 30.00 Private Die Perfume RT7b VF RE166 perfin, VF RE178 staple holes, VF 161 35.00 162 RT15b F red ms. cancel, repaired tear, filled thins and 45.00

	crease PHOTO 163 RT24a F	90.00 30.00
	164 RT27b F 165 RT27c F	22.50 20.00
	166 Private Die Playing Cards RU2a F-VF pulled perf PHOTO	70.00
	167 RU10a F PHOTO	80.00
	CANADA - Van Dam Catalogue Numbers 168 Bill Stamps FB12 VF short perf PHOTO	40.00
	169 BB13 VF PHOTO 170 FB16* F	40.00 45.00
	171 FB17* F 172 FB30 F	45.00 45.00
ls go to ers will	173 FB38* F 174 FB41a LL corner block of four, unused, F few short	45.00
yments	perfs at right PHOTO 175 FB52a* single, VF PHOTO	136.00
e raised	176 Electric Light Inspection FE2 F-VF 177 FE3 VF	20.00 15.00
	178 FE6 F 179 FE7 F-VF	35.00 15.00
55.00	180 FE8a VF 181 FE9 VF	5.50 10.00
30.00 18.00	182 Electricity & Gas Inspection FEG1-11 VF 183 Gas Inspection FG3 F-VF	20.05 10.00
15.00 40.00	184 Weights & Measures FWM1 F-VF blunt perfs at top 185 FWM2 F	
60.00 ort	186 FWM3 F-VF 187 FWM4 F-VF	45.00 45.00
80.00 110.00	188 FWM23 F-VF crease, couple short perfs189 FWM24 F-VF light crease	27.50 15.00
22.50 22.50	190 FWM25* F 191 FWM33* VF PHOTO	20.00 40.00
20.00 47.50	192 FWM43 F-VF 193 FWM46 F-VF	17.50 30.00
32.50 25.00 140.00	CANADA PROVINCES	
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Stritzinger: a mentor who reached out/from page 45

ciety for his many contributions to the promotion and understanding of state revenues. Likewise he received a round of resounding applause when President Ron Lesher presented him with what he referred to as his "25 year ++ membership pin" while attending PACIFIC 97.

Above all, Earl was a mentor who reached

out and touched so many, many collectors such as the late great E. L. Vanderford, Elbert Amsler Hubbard, Dr. Thill, Dr. Pruess, Michael Mahler, Ed Kettenbrink, Jr. and yes, even your author as well. His memory will live on within many of us with whom he has fostered the love for these most wonderful stamps, the classics.

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by an anonymous ARA member

Who is he?

He is unassuming, kind, caring, modest, understated, generous. He is a dedicated man, always willing to come up with fascinating stories and facts at meetings.

He regaled me with revenue narratives

form his passenger seat next to me as we drove toshows and gatherings. I am being mentored and I do not even know it.

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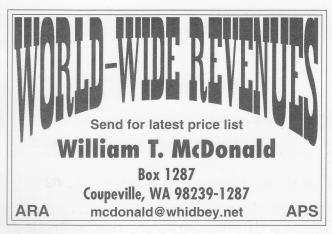
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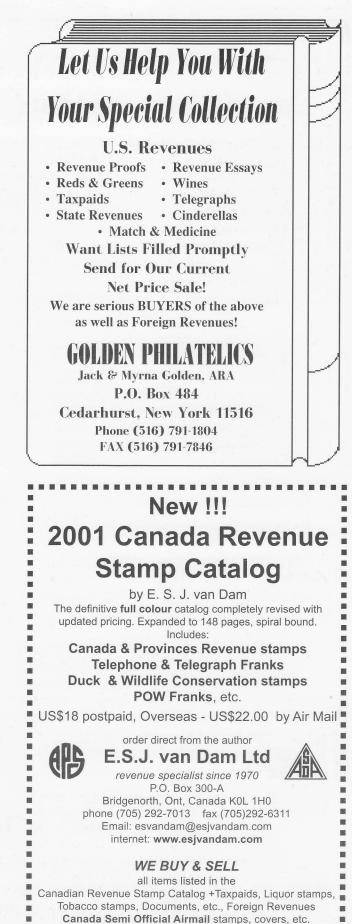
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