

U.S. Civil War Era Fiscal History Panorama

This exhibit surveys the vast field of U.S. Civil War era documentary fiscal history. Beginning October 1, 1862, for precisely a decade nearly every piece of paper that changed hands was subject to stamp tax, after which a 2¢ levy on bank checks was retained until 1883. The exhibit explains and illustrates those taxes via surviving stamped documents, transforming mute listings of tax types and rates into a veritable slice of life as it was.

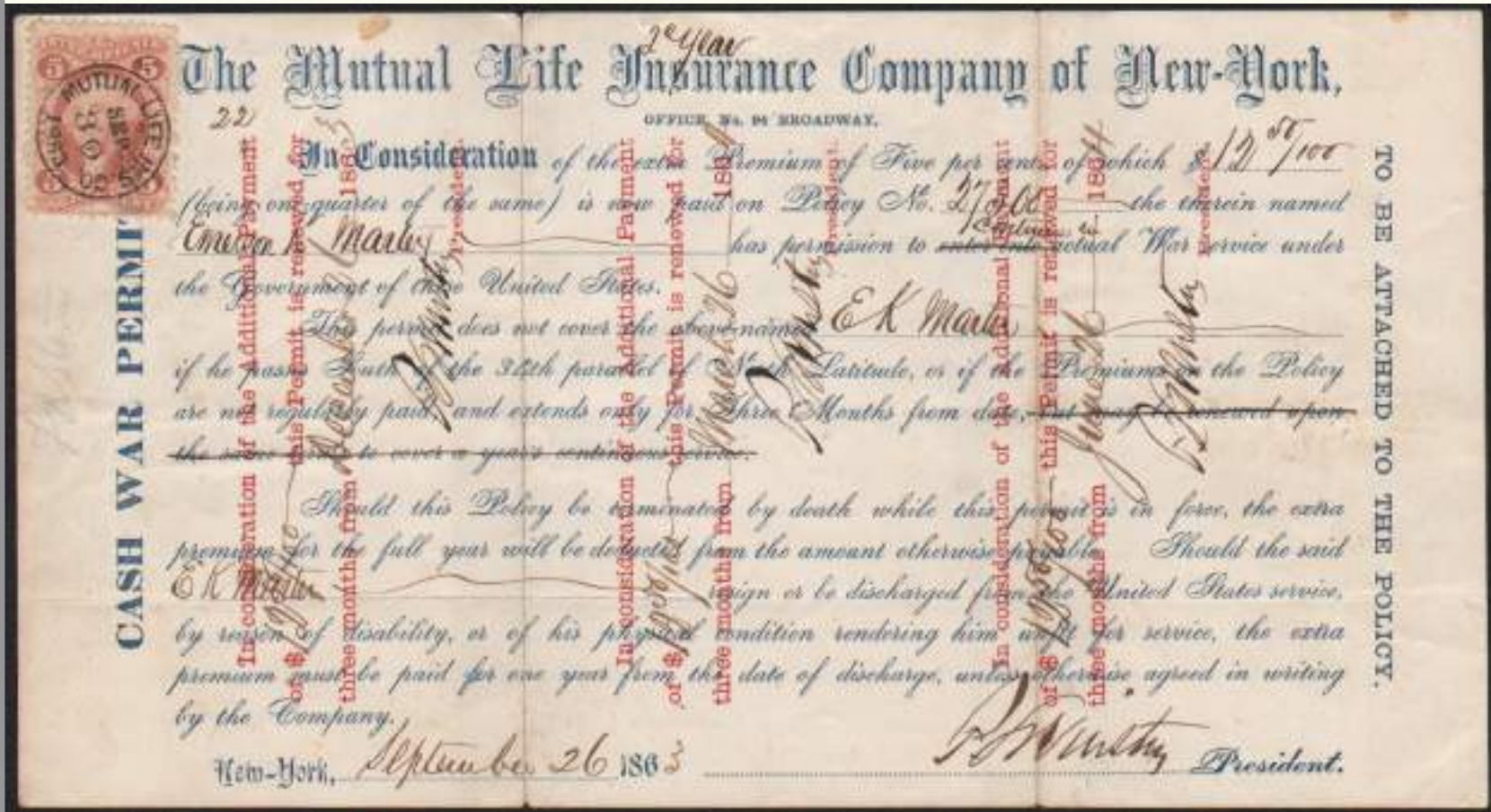
Thirty-nine distinct types of documents were taxed, from the familiar and commonplace like checks, receipts, deeds and mortgages, to the exotic and rare, such as gaugers' returns, lottery tickets, and warehouse receipts. Documents are arranged here by type.

Matching Usage: the Grand Scheme That Failed

The broadside below reproduces the original tax schedule of 1862, which already included 33 of the 39 document types eventually taxed, and 86 distinct rates, several open-ended. The first sentence ("No stamp appropriated...") proclaims in contorted legalese that taxes could be paid only by stamps bearing the name of the document on which they were used — i.e., Agreement stamps on agreements, Bank Check stamps on checks, and so on.

To the consternation of users, but the delight of latter-day collectors, 83 different stamps in 25 "titles" were created. These corresponded to the 33 types of documents taxed, with ubertitles "Certificate" and "Power of Attorney" each used on five types.

1. AGREEMENT
1862. Agreement or contract, not specified elsewhere, for each sheet of paper, .05



"War Permit" EMU

September 1863, keeping life insurance in force while the insured served in the Union Army, provided he stayed north of the 34th parallel! (Just north of Atlanta. To safeguard him, not from the fighting, but from malaria and yellow fever.) Fewer than twenty Agreement EMUs recorded



Steamboat Pass, Pawn Ticket

1866 season pass and 1869 pawn ticket with handstamp cancels: octagonal "PEOPLE'S LINE Steamboats" and "... STERN PAWN BROKER. ..." Both normally highly ephemeral, their survival a delightful surprise. The notion that a pawnbroker's handstamp cancel might exist would be well-nigh unimaginable if not for this example.

After mid-1863, documentary stamps were used interchangeably, here Agreement tax paid by 5¢ Inland Exchange.



Agreement to be Scammed!

For a \$5 investment in 1864, a Vermont woman is entitled to \$50 from an "immense" estate in England. Good luck!

Delays in stamp production made matching usage unworkable, and Congress rescinded the requirement after less than three months, on December 25, 1862, after which documentary stamps could be used interchangeably. However, users continued to affix matching stamps in significant quantities for some months, as stocks ordered in compliance with the original law were gradually depleted. These early matching uses ("EMUs") are the *creme de la creme* of fiscal history.

EMUs are shown for all recorded document types.

Additions and Afterthoughts

To the 33 document types taxed by the original schedule, six more were later added: in 1863, Bill of Sale of Ship and Lottery Ticket; and in 1864, Receipt and Gauger's, Measurer's and Weigher's Returns. A few subtypes were also added, and some types were eliminated altogether from the list. Within the types, numerous rate changes were enacted, swelling the cumulative number of rates from the original 86 to an eventual 146, with a concomitant huge increase in the scope and complexity of the field.

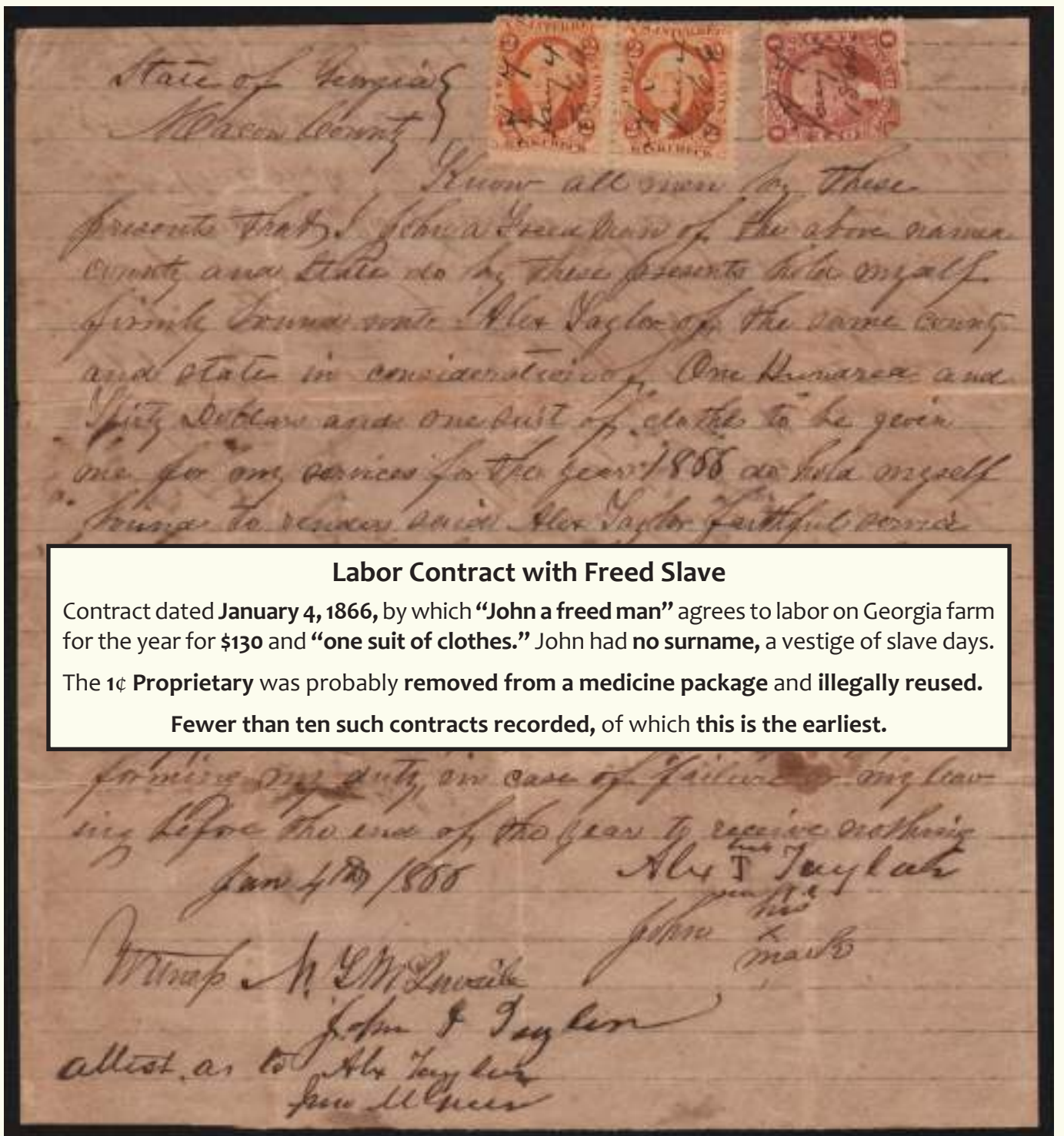
Arrangement of Types

There is no readily discernible rhyme or reason to the array of documents taxed, save that the legislators appear to have simply taxed everything that came to mind, remedying omissions as they became aware of them. For ease of comprehension and use, contemporary statutes, government schedules, and privately printed broadsides all listed the document types alphabetically. This exhibit follows their lead, adding numbering, as follows:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Agreement | 11. Certificate, General | 21. Lease | 31. Power of Attorney, Stock Transfer |
| 2. Bank Check | 12. Charter Party | 22. Life Insurance | 32. Power of Attorney, Voting |
| 3. Bill of Lading | 13. Contract | 23. Lottery Ticket | 33. Power of Attorney, General |
| 4. Bill of Sale of Ship | 14. Conveyance | 24. Manifest | 34. Probate of Will |
| 5. Bond, Surety | 15. Entry of Goods | 25. Measurer's Return | 35. Protest |
| 6. Bond, General | 16. Express | 26. Mortgage | 36. Receipt |
| 7. Certificate of Damage | 17. Foreign Exchange | 27. Original Process | 37. Telegraph |
| 8. Certificate of Deposit | 18. Gauger's Return | 28. Passage Ticket | 38. Warehouse Receipt |
| 9. Certificate of Profits | 19. Inland Exchange | 29. Power of Attorney, Real Estate | 39. Weigher's Return |
| 10. Certificate of Stock | 20. Insurance | 30. Power of Attorney, Rent | |

All recorded document types are shown.

- Types and rate changes are set off by headings with yellow background, outlined in black.
- Items or comments of extraordinary significance are outlined /printed in dark red.
- Occasional general comments are normally outlined in gray.



Labor Contract with Freed Slave

Contract dated January 4, 1866, by which "John a freed man" agrees to labor on Georgia farm for the year for \$130 and "one suit of clothes." John had no surname, a vestige of slave days. The 1¢ Proprietary was probably removed from a medicine package and illegally reused. Fewer than ten such contracts recorded, of which this is the earliest.



Unique First Day Use

The celebrated "first day check," October 1, 1862, stamped with matching 2¢ Bank Check orange. By Quincy Mining Co. President Thos. Mason for \$13,552 (about \$300,000 today), with cancel in matching hand and date. Delivery by the printers to the government agent in Philadelphia had been made on September 29. No other documentary stamp was ready by October 1, and no other first day uses have been recorded.

2. BANK CHECK
1862. Bank check, draft, or order, payable at sight, .02



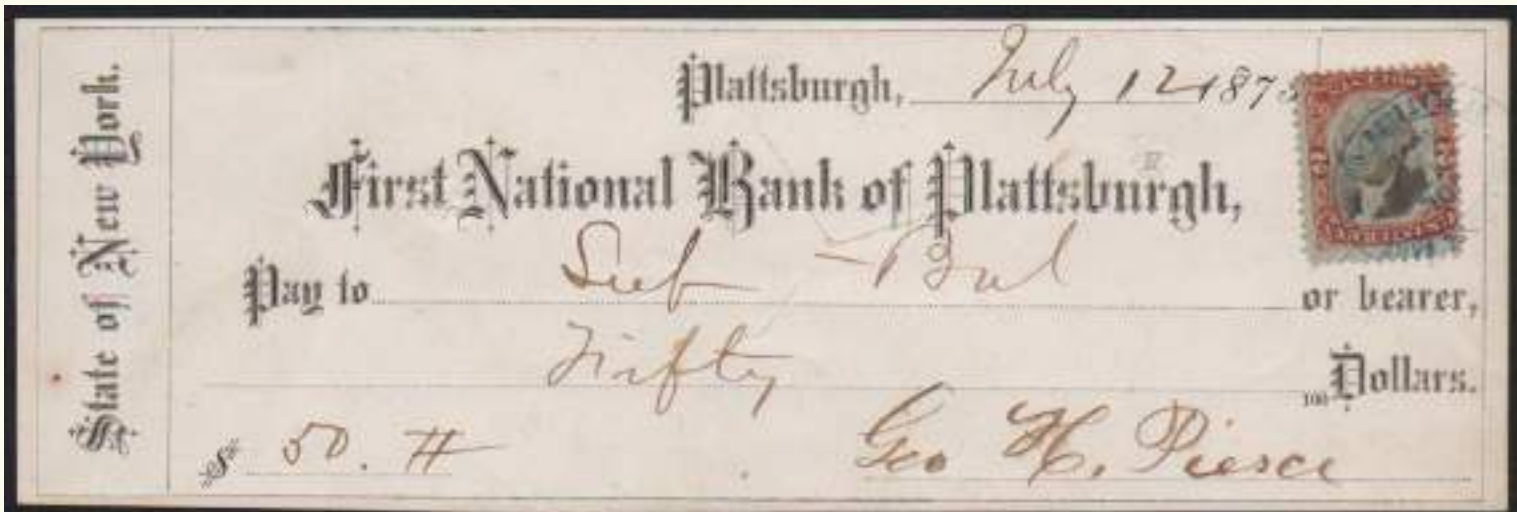
Major Double Transfer

Sole recorded example on document

November 1862 check (for \$37,000, equivalent to nearly \$1 million today) stamped with matching 2¢ Bank Check orange with major double transfer in bottom label.



This variety is so rare it was unknown to the editors of the *Boston Revenue Book*. It occurs only on the First Printing of the 2¢ Bank Check orange, printed only in late September and early October 1862.



2¢ Third Issue Invert

1873 check stamped with 2¢ Third Issue invert, one of three recorded on document with handstamp cancel

U.S. plus Nevada, Unique Wells Fargo Imprinted Stamp

Below, 1872 Wells Fargo bill of exchange, Pioche, Nevada, taxed by U.S. at 2¢ Bank Check rate, paid by 2¢ imprinted revenue, and by Nevada at 5¢ as a "foreign" bill payable out of the state. Sole recorded Wells Fargo bill with an imprinted revenue and one of a handful of Nevada documents from Pioche.

Pioche, 400 miles from the settled portions of the state was essentially lawless during the late 1860s and early '70s. "Reliable legend" has it that by the time of the first death there by natural causes, some six dozen had died by violence.



U.S. plus California; Final Shot of the Civil War

October 1864 bill of exchange drawn by master of whaling bark *Jireh Swift* of New Bedford, in San Francisco to unload \$100,000 in whale oil, taxed by U.S. at 2¢ Bank Check rate, by California at 1861-6 Exchange \$2 rate.

On June 22, 1865, the *Jireh Swift* would be captured and burned in the Bering Sea by the infamous Confederate raider *Shenandoah*. The Civil War was over, but proof did not reach the *Shenandoah* until August 2. The *Jireh Swift* had made a run for the Siberian coast, until a shot whistling past her stern brought her to. This is widely considered the final shot of the Civil War. Twenty minutes later the *Jireh Swift*, with 400 barrels of whale oil aboard, was in flames.



3. BILL OF LADING

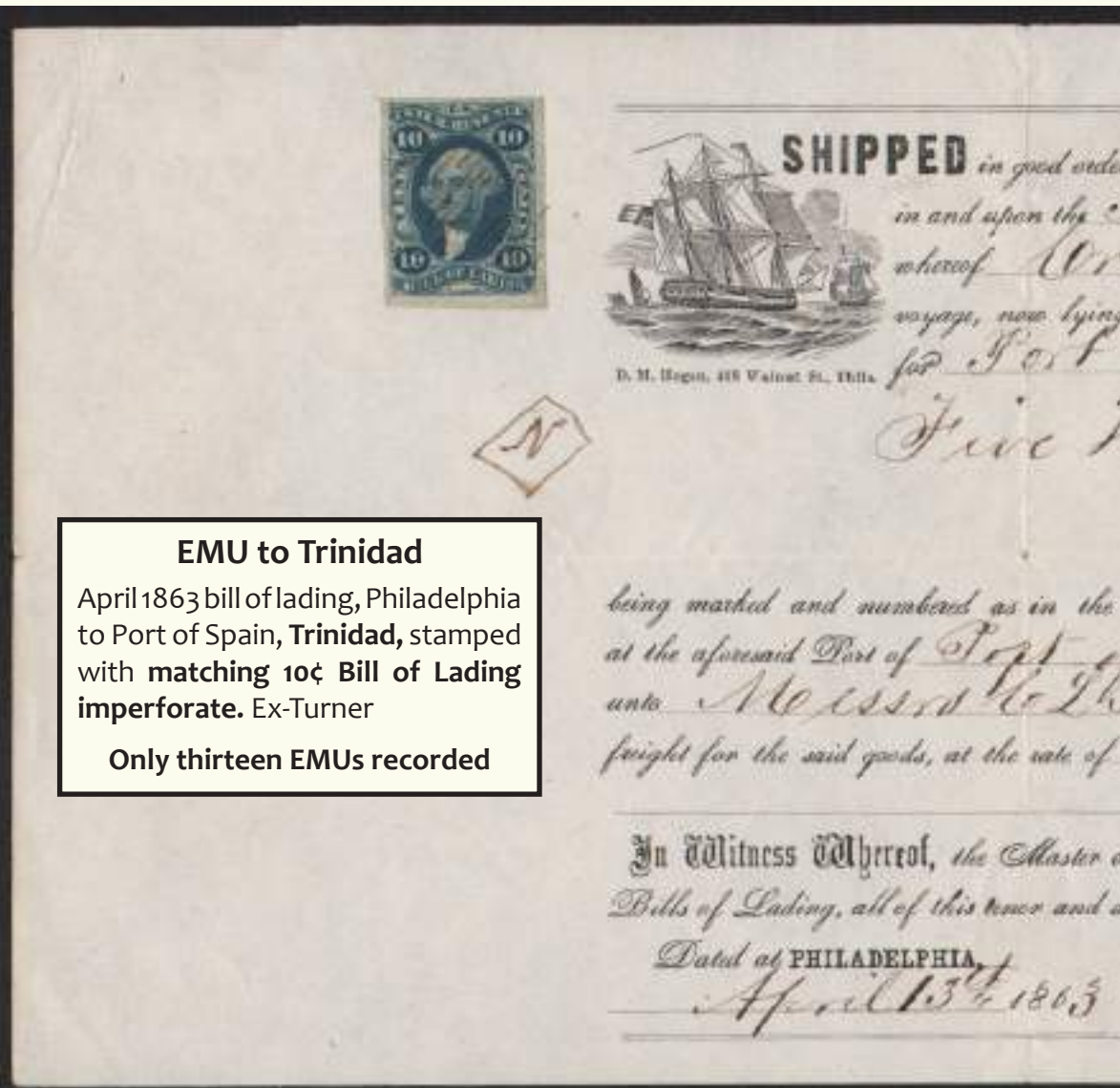
1862. Bill of lading for goods to be exported to any foreign port except those in British North America, .10



U.S. plus Louisiana Law

Sole recorded document bearing U.S. and Louisiana stamps

1882 check for stamped with 2¢ Fifth Issue, introduced as evidence in Civil District Court, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, with 30¢ filing fee paid by Louisiana Law stamps.



EMU to Trinidad

April 1863 bill of lading, Philadelphia to Port of Spain, Trinidad, stamped with matching 10¢ Bill of Lading imperforate. Ex-Turner
Only thirteen EMUs recorded



U.S. plus France

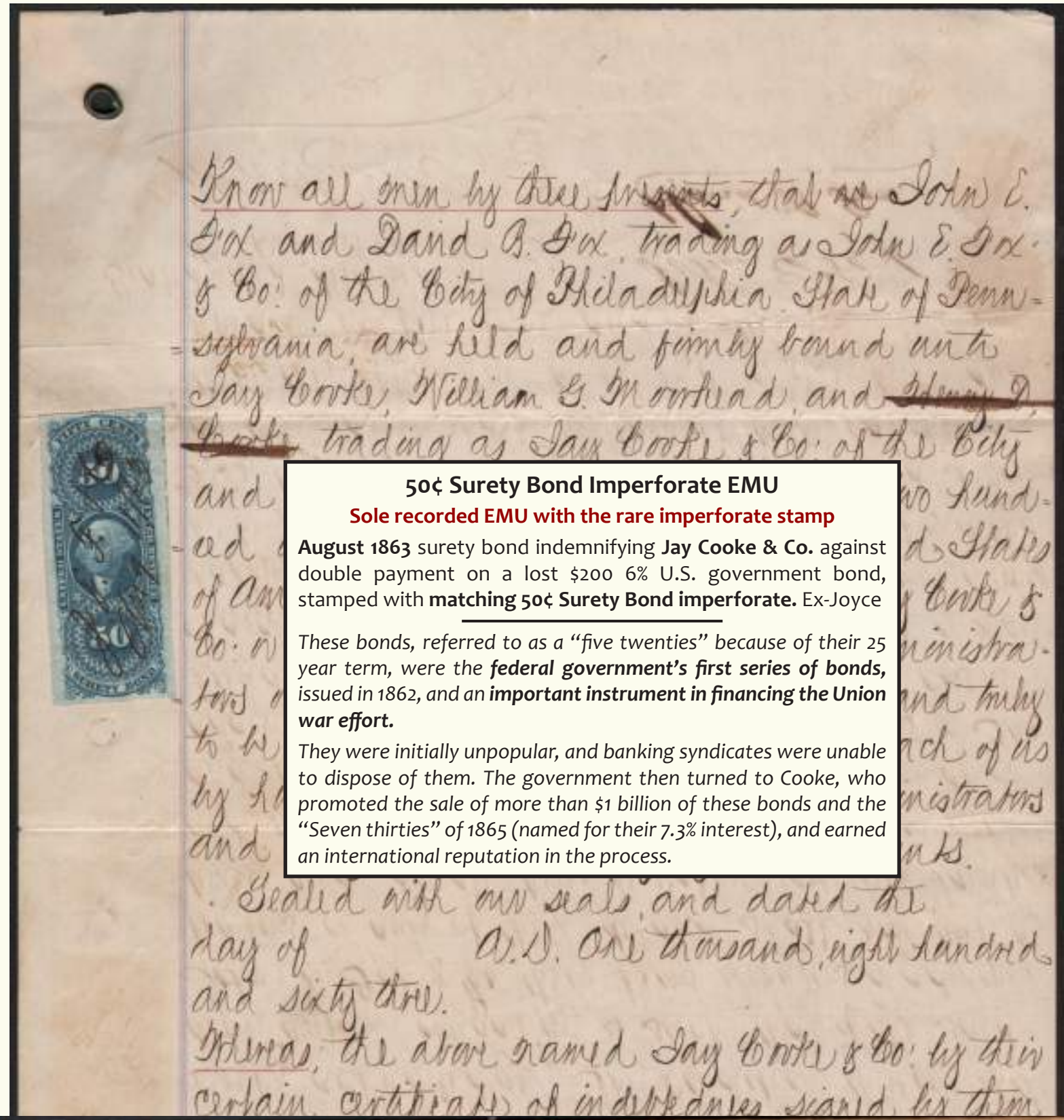
Sole recorded dual-nation usage on a bill of lading

1866 bill of lading, New York to Havre, stamped with U.S. 10¢ Inland Exchange and France Dimension 50 centimes.

A valid bill of lading was required to collect goods shipped. They were typically made in sets of three or four, "one of which to be accomplished, the others to stand void." Extant examples were nearly all held in reserve in the shipper's or consignee's files; very few, like this one, reached their destination and were executed.

4. BILL OF SALE OF SHIP	
1863. Value to \$500,	.25
Over \$500 to \$1,000,	.50
Each additional \$1,000 or fraction,	.50

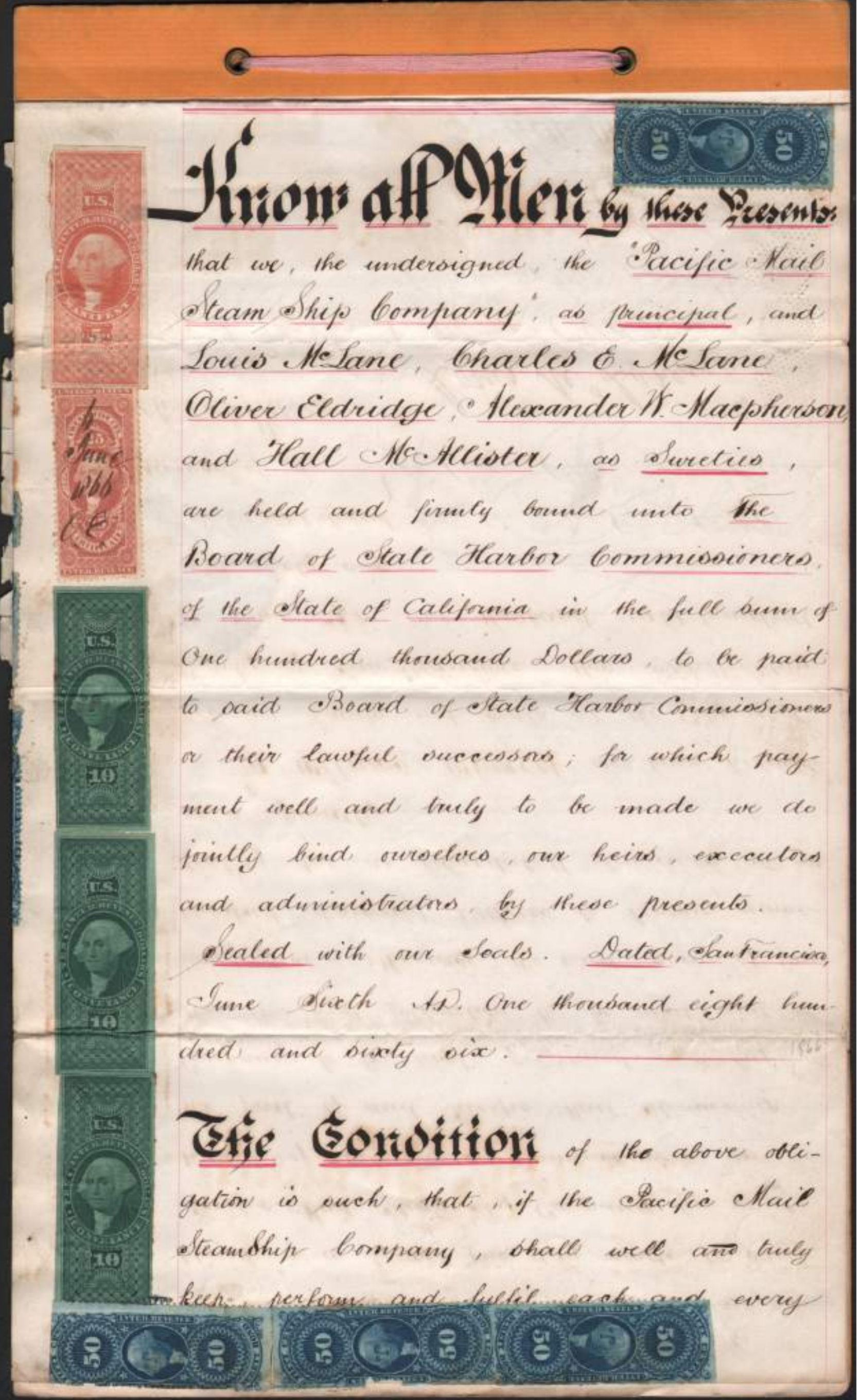
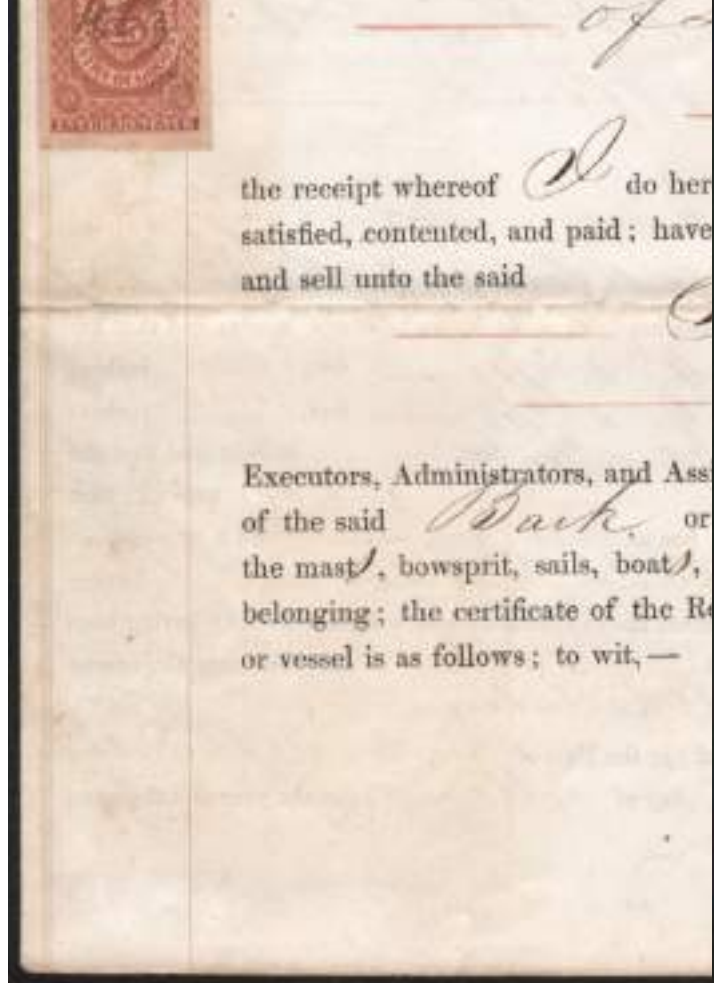
5. BOND, SURETY	
1862. For payment of any sum of money or for performance of the duties of any office,	.50



50¢ Surety Bond Imperforate EMU
Sole recorded EMU with the rare imperforate stamp
 August 1863 surety bond indemnifying Jay Cooke & Co. against double payment on a lost \$200 6% U.S. government bond, stamped with matching 50¢ Surety Bond imperforate. Ex-Joyce

These bonds, referred to as a "five twenties" because of their 25 year term, were the federal government's first series of bonds, issued in 1862, and an important instrument in financing the Union war effort.

They were initially unpopular, and banking syndicates were unable to dispose of them. The government then turned to Cooke, who promoted the sale of more than \$1 billion of these bonds and the "Seven thirties" of 1865 (named for their 7.3% interest), and earned an international reputation in the process.



Short-lived 1863 Rate
 Above, May 1863 bill of sale for three quarters of bark Jewess for \$27,000, \$13.50 tax paid by an array of imperforate stamps

Five recorded examples recorded of the short-lived 1863 \$1.00+ rate
 (These rates in effect only 17 months)

(Bond, Surety)
 1864. For payment of money, for each \$1,000 or fraction, .50
 For performance of duties of any office, 1.00

Wishful Thinking: \$50 Due, 25¢ Paid
 Right, 1866 \$100,000 bond of Pacific Mail Steamship Co. to State Harbor Commissioners, San Francisco, concerning a 15 year lease at \$1,250 per month.

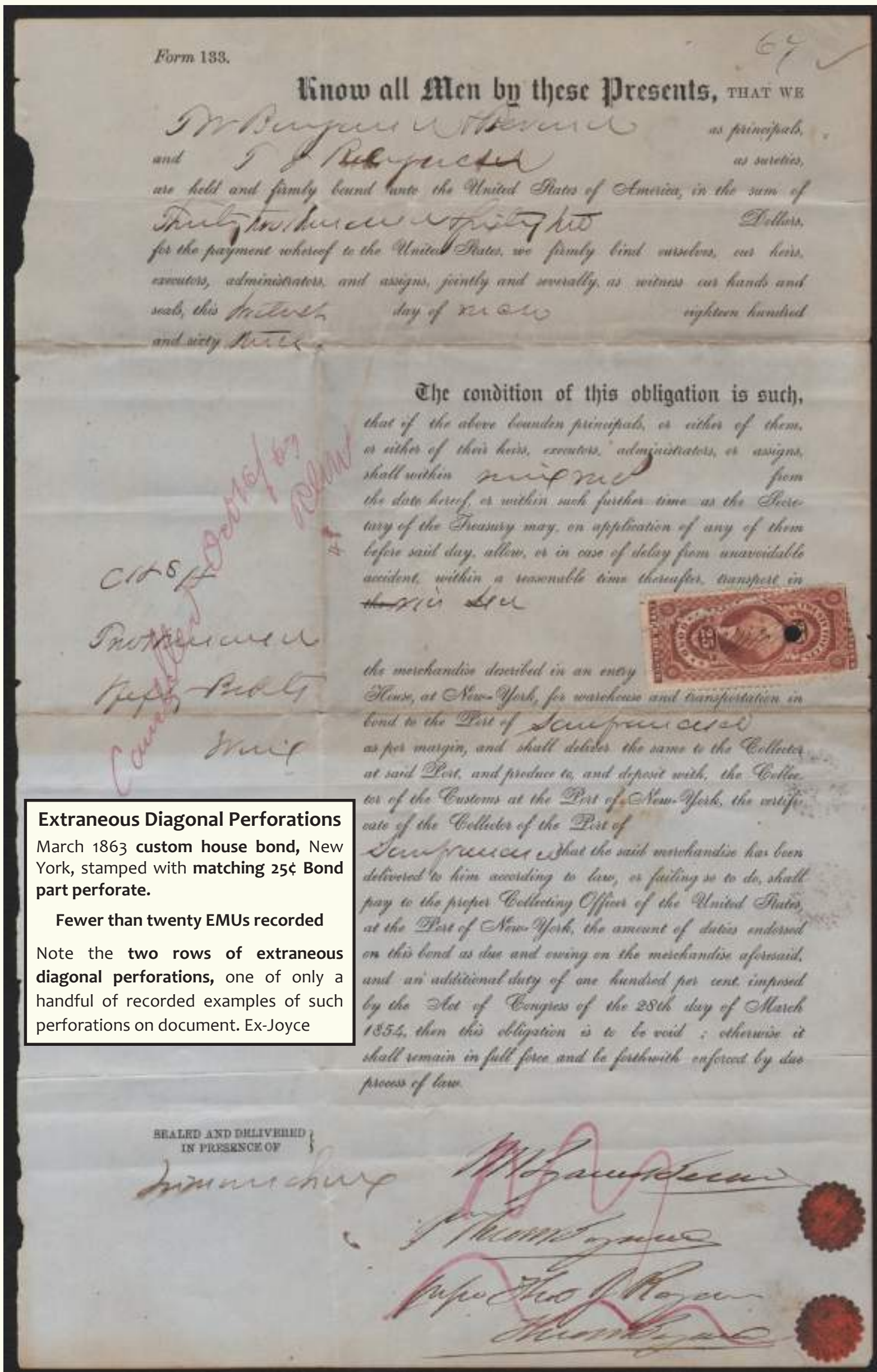
- Stamped first with 25¢ Certificate, mistakenly paying general Bond tax of 25¢,
- later with 20 stamps including imperforates, part perforates (note the rare 50¢ Passage Ticket) and perforated \$2 Mortgage, paying the correct \$50 tax.

Fewer than ten documents recorded showing all three perforation styles

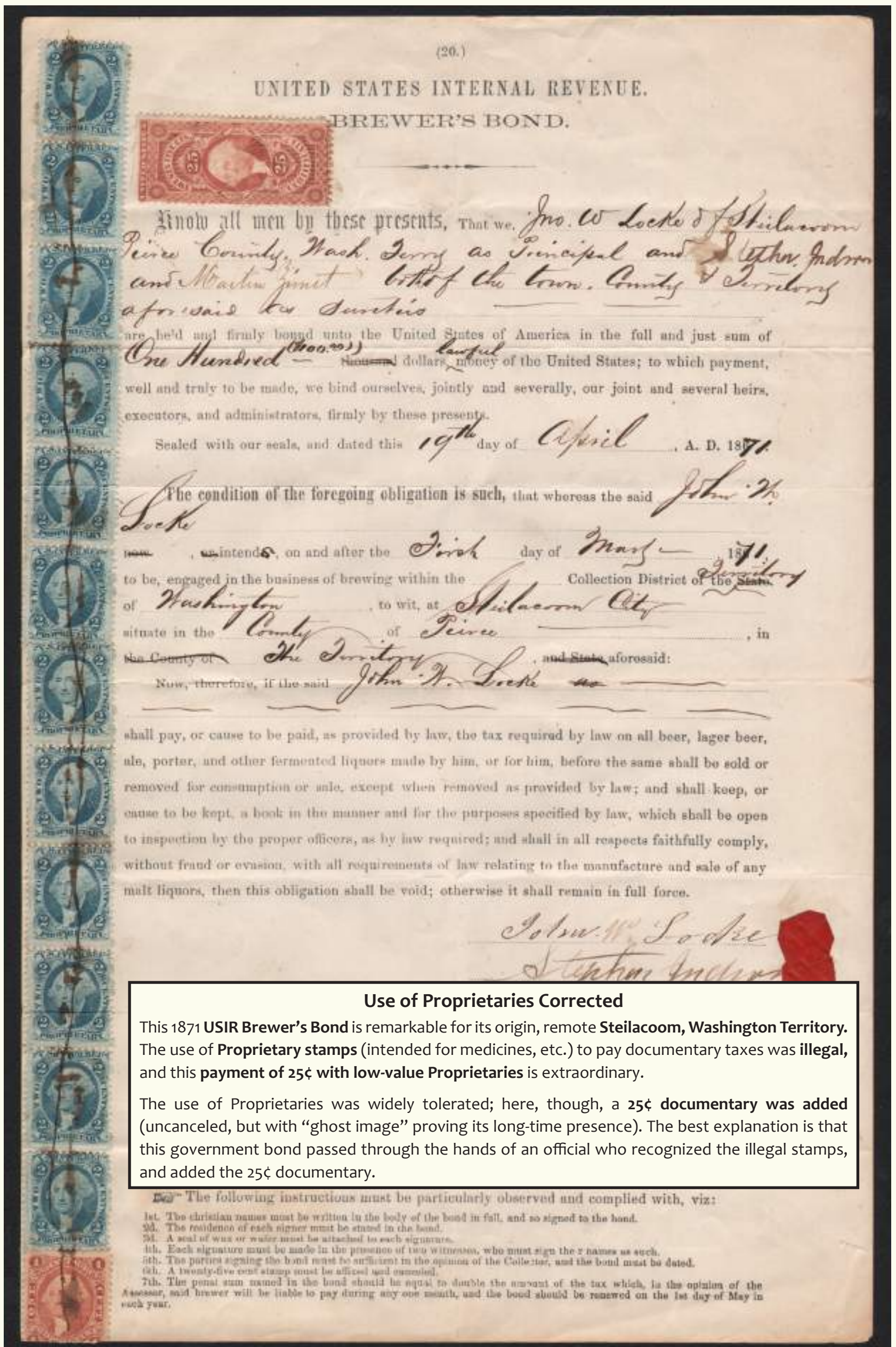
Anticipating the loss of the bulk of its shipping trade to the East upon completion of the transcontinental railroad, the PMSS in 1867 would launch a transpacific service to Japan and China, for which this lease was crucial.

6. BOND, GENERAL

1862. Bond, other than those required in legal proceedings or specified elsewhere in this schedule, .25



Extraneous Diagonal Perforations
 March 1863 custom house bond, New York, stamped with matching 25c Bond part perforate.
 Fewer than twenty EMUs recorded
 Note the two rows of extraneous diagonal perforations, one of only a handful of recorded examples of such perforations on document. Ex-Joyce



Use of Proprietaries Corrected
 This 1871 USIR Brewer's Bond is remarkable for its origin, remote *Steilacoom, Washington Territory*. The use of **Proprietary stamps** (intended for medicines, etc.) to pay documentary taxes was **illegal**, and this payment of 25c with low-value Proprietaries is extraordinary.
 The use of Proprietaries was widely tolerated; here, though, a 25c documentary was added (uncanceled, but with "ghost image" proving its long-time presence). The best explanation is that this government bond passed through the hands of an official who recognized the illegal stamps, and added the 25c documentary.



8. CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT
 1862. Amount to \$100, .02 Over \$100, .05



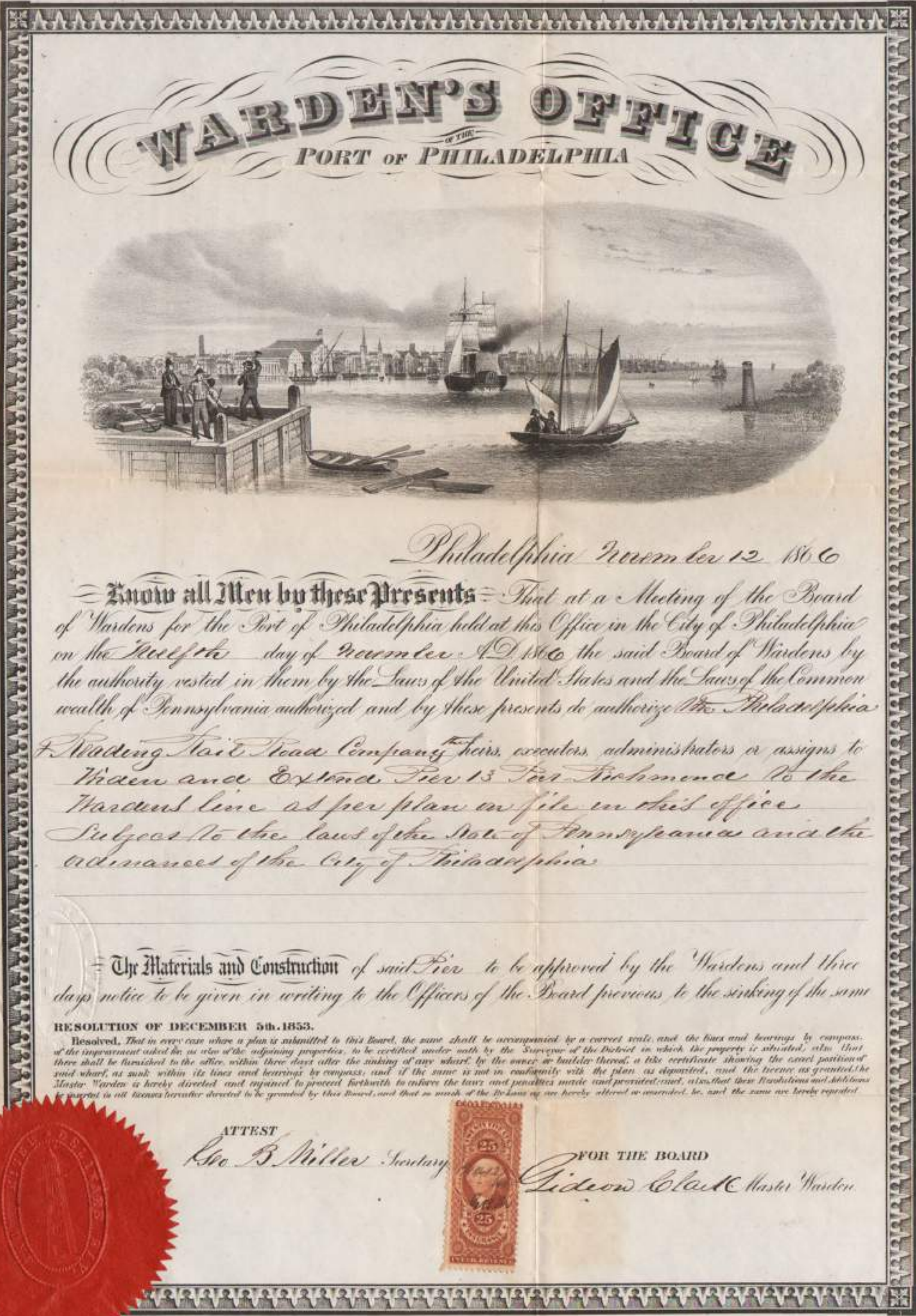
Montana Gold Dust
 Top, very early (serial "No 7") 1866 handwritten certificate of deposit, First National Bank of Helena, Montana Territory, for "two purses said to contain thirty one & one half Ozes & Five one half Dwt [pennyweights] Gold Dust"! Dust at about \$16 per ounce was an accepted medium of exchange in that newly prosperous mining camp.



Banknote-Style EMUs; Imprint plus Adhesive
 Certificates of deposit were often ornately engraved, banknote-style, to attract depositors.
 • January 1863 certificate, amount \$100, bearing matching 2c Certificate orange
 • February 1863 certificate, amount \$250, bearing matching 5c Certificate imperforate
 2c and 5c EMUs each recorded for only nine banks
 • 1872 certificate, amount \$200. Imprinted 2c (Scott RN-C26) with legend at bottom right "Good [i.e., sufficient] when the amount does not exceed \$100." For larger amounts the tax was 5c, paid here by addition of Second Issue 3c.
 Few imprint-adhesive combinations recorded
 Fewer than twenty documents recorded with Second Issue 3c

7. CERTIFICATE OF DAMAGE
 1862. Certificate of damage or other certificate issued by port warden or marine surveyor, .25

1866 port warden's certificate, Port of Philadelphia, authorizing Philadelphia & Reading Rail Road Co. to widen and extend a pier
 Fewer than 20 examples of Certificate of Damage tax recorded, only three in this spectacular format



9. CERTIFICATE OF PROFITS
 1862. Certificate of profits, or any certificate or memo concerning property or accumulations of any incorporated company:
 Amount \$10 to \$50, .10
 Over \$50, .25

Engraved EMUs
 Two 10¢ EMUs and two 25¢ EMUs recorded in this ornate style
 1863 certificates of profits, amounts \$50 and \$80, stamped with:
 matching 10¢ Certificate, matching 25¢ Certificate imperforate





Double EMU

Stock certificate dated December 18, 1862, stamped with matching 25¢ Certificate imperforate, extremely early usage
Appended power of attorney to sell the stock, January 1863, stamped with matching 25¢ Power of Attorney imperforate
Few combination EMUs of any kind recorded

The "Fly By Night"!

May 1863 stock certificate, Fly By Night Gold and Silver Mining Co., Carson City, Nevada Territory, stamped with matching 25¢ Certificate part perforate

Nevada Territorial mining ventures were often highly speculative, if not outright dishonest. Most "mines" were mere holes in the ground, but this was sufficient to file a claim, form a company, and issue stock, which was inevitably snapped up during the "silver fever" that swept Nevada and California in 1862-4.

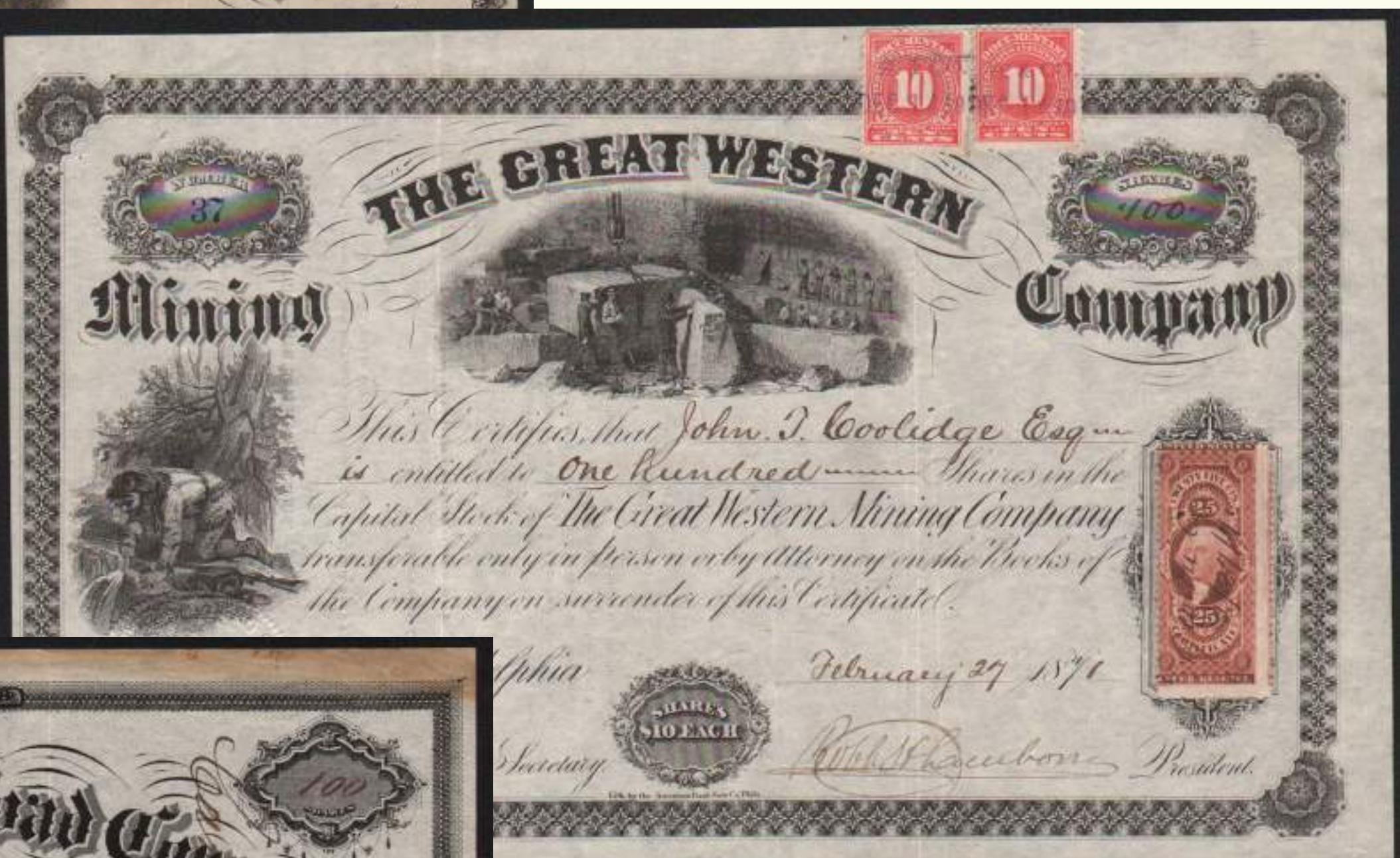
The cynical but brutally honest company name on this piece makes it the quintessential example of the genre. Two examples are known.



25¢ Second Issue Imperforate

Left, March 1872 Philadelphia certificate stamped with the mysterious 25¢ Second Issue imperforate, recorded on just three documents

Unlisted in Scott but well known to specialists



Civil War plus 1914 Taxes

Two Civil War-1914 combinations recorded

1871 certificate showing Civil War era 25¢ tax on stock certificates, 43 years later, 1914 stock transfer tax of 2¢ per \$100 paid by two 1914 10¢!

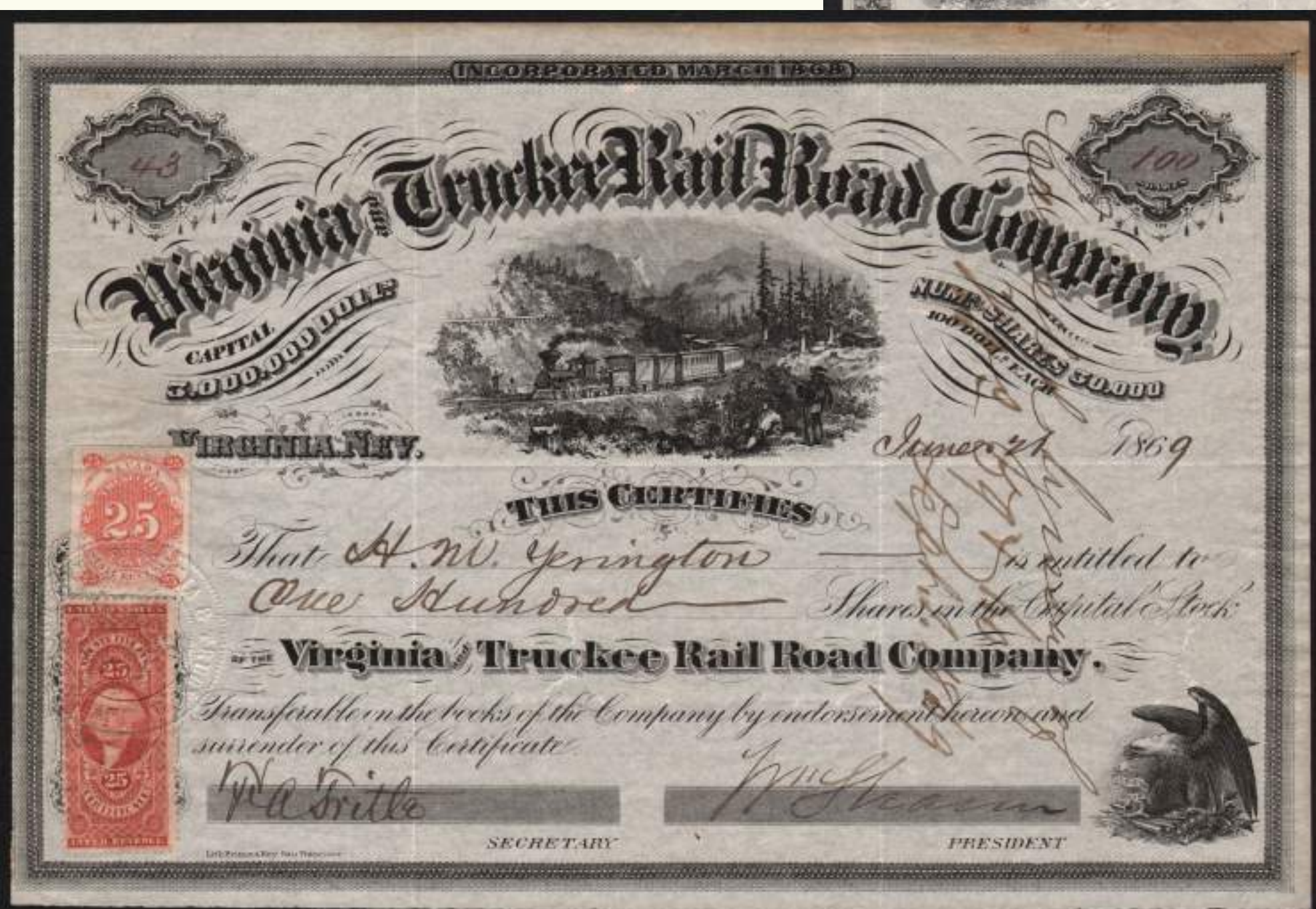
U.S. plus Nevada

Virginia & Truckee Rail Road, "Crookedest Line in the World"

1869 certificate, Virginia (City), Nevada, bearing U.S. 25¢ plus Nevada 25¢. The state tax mimicked that of the U.S.; examples are rarely seen. Signed as President by William Sharon, dynamic Agent of the Bank of California at Virginia City, "cock of the walk" on the Comstock Lode in the mid-1860s

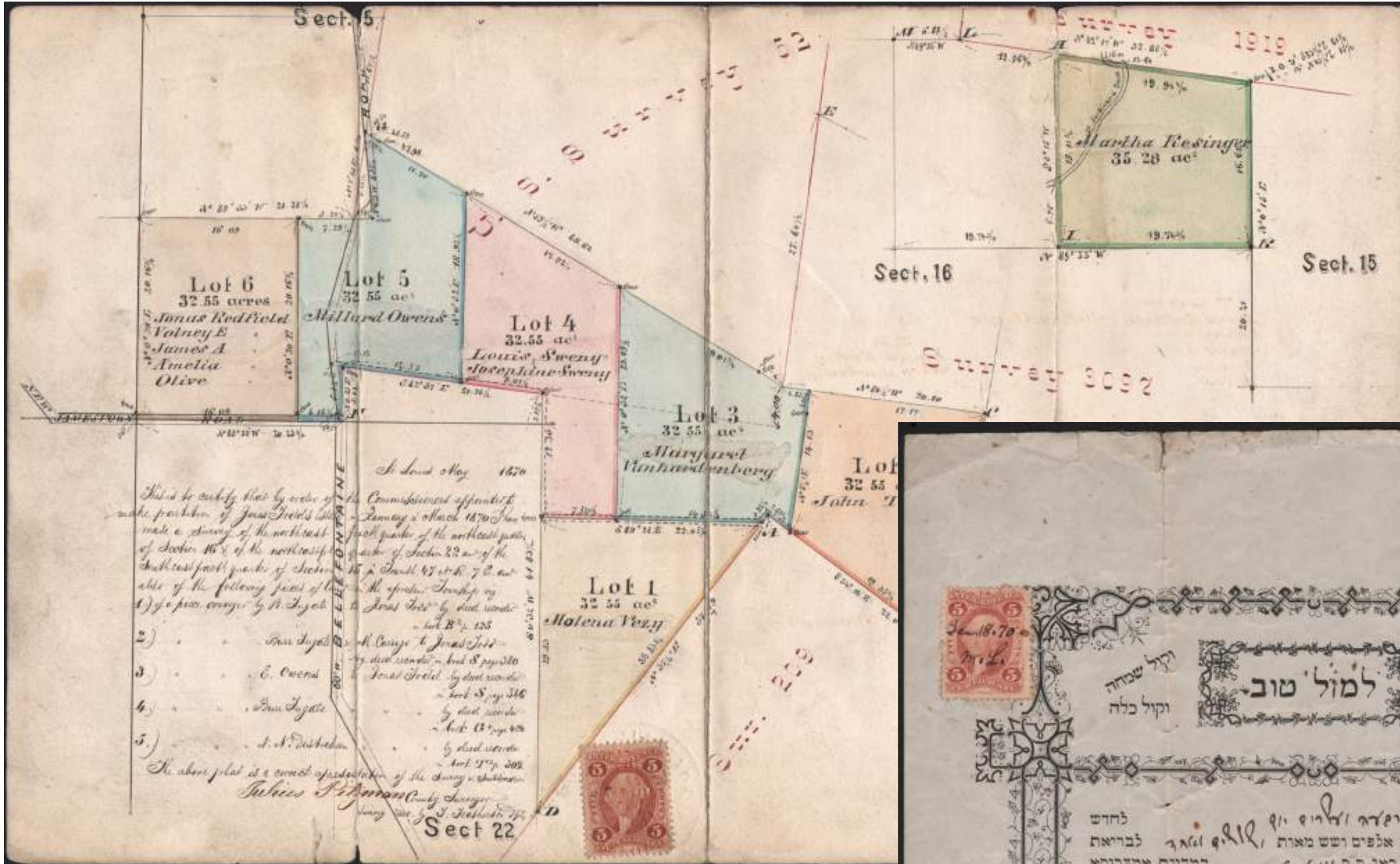
Most Comstock ore was crushed at mills on the Carson River, just ten miles distant but 1,600 feet lower in elevation. Sharon chafed at the exorbitant charges for transporting ore to the mills, and bringing back from the Carson the huge quantities of wood needed to timber the mines and fire their engines. His solution was to order construction of a railroad from Virginia City to the Carson, a task considered nearly impossible because of the topography. Yet between February and September 1869 the V&T was built, kept to a maximum grade of 2.2% by employing curvature equivalent to seventeen complete circles, through seven tunnels, in its thirteen and a half miles. It was a huge financial success; Sharon boasted in the mid-1870s that it was bringing him \$12,000 per day as half owner.

The road's popular sobriquet reflected the questionable financing methods employed by Sharon in its construction as much as its tortuous course.





Exempt Fireman's Certificate
One of the most spectacular philatelic items extant
July 1863 Exempt Fireman's certificate, San Francisco, taxed at the short-lived General Certificate 10¢ rate
By an 1853 California statute, **volunteers to unpaid fire companies**, having served **five years** and received a certificate to that effect, were granted status as **"exempt firemen,"** free from **poll-tax, road-tax, head-tax** of every description, **jury duty, and military duty**, except in case of war, invasion, or insurrection.



Certified Correct

Map of a portion of St. Louis, with detailed manuscript annotation by County Surveyor certifying the correctness of the map, dated May 1870 and stamped with 5¢ Inland Exchange tied by embossed seal

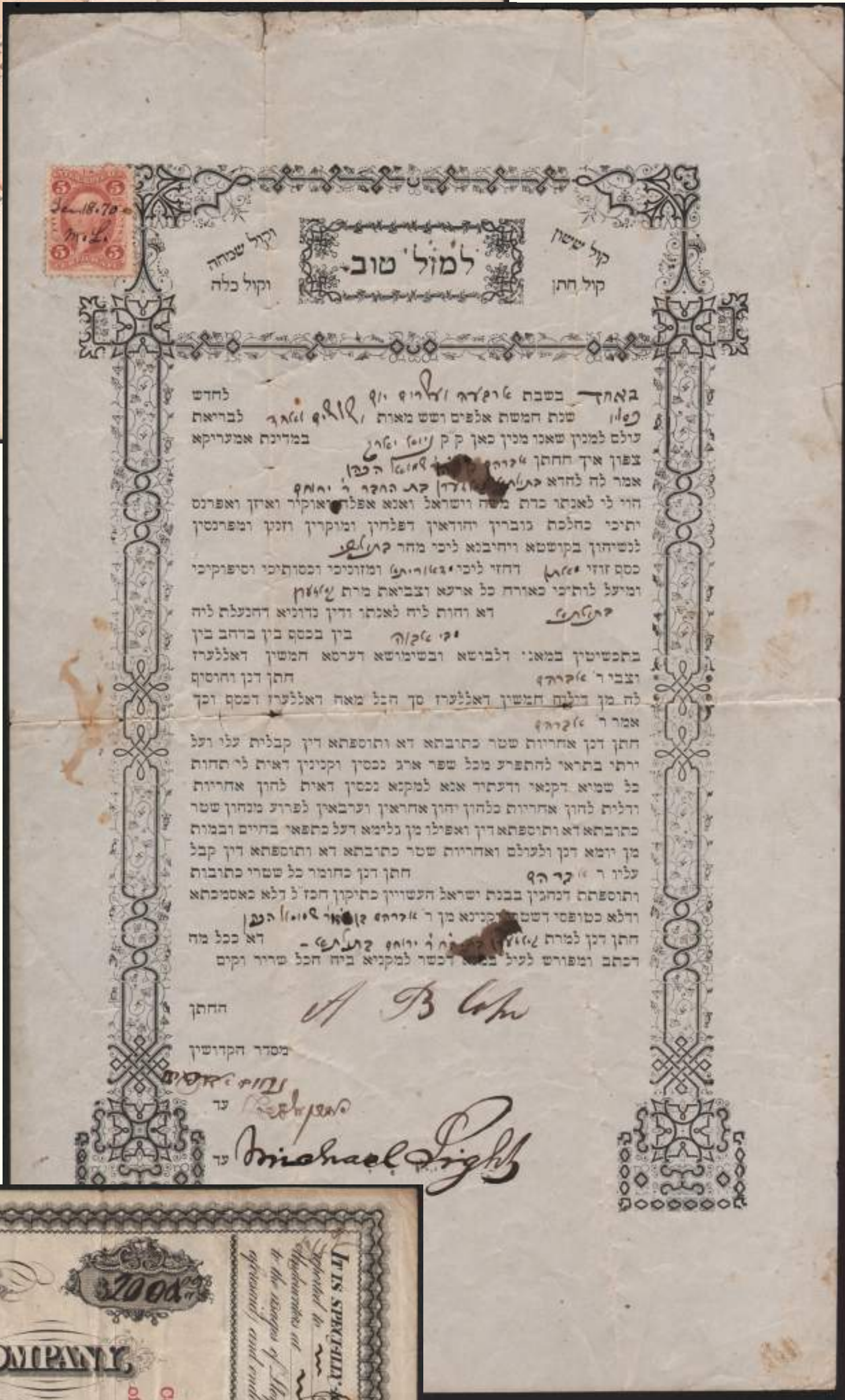
(Certificate, General)
1863 Certificate, not specified elsewhere, .05

1870 Ketubah

Below, the *ketubah* is a unilateral agreement drawn by witnesses in accordance with Jewish civil law, testifying that a husband guarantees to his wife that he will meet certain minimum human and financial conditions of marriage, "as Jewish husbands are wont to do," such as providing food, clothing, and conjugal rights, also to pay a certain sum in the event of divorce, and inheritance rights

This 1870 *ketubah* of A. B. Cohn, Brooklyn, N.Y., is written at top in Hebrew ("Mazel Tov" in ornamental box), below in Aramaic, the technical legal language of Talmudic law.

Taxed as a certified statement of witness Michael Light, who initialed the stamp "M. L."



Massachusetts Dog License

1864 dog license for "Trot," a black male "Cur," age six, stamped at general Certificate rate



U.S. plus Great Britain

Certificate of Insurance on Ill-Fated George Cairns
Fewer than twenty U.S.-G.B. combinations recorded
Sole recorded Certificate-Great Britain combination

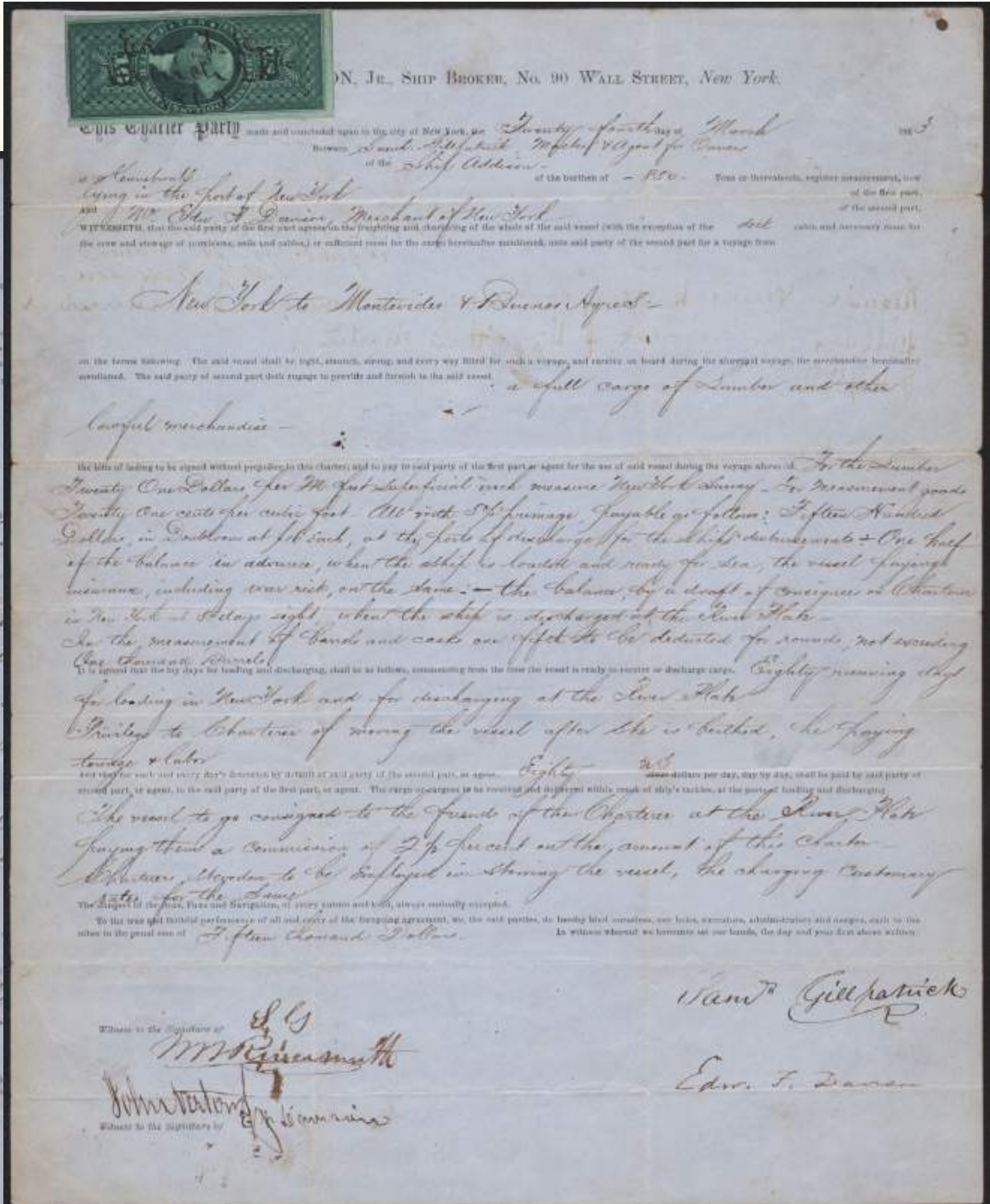
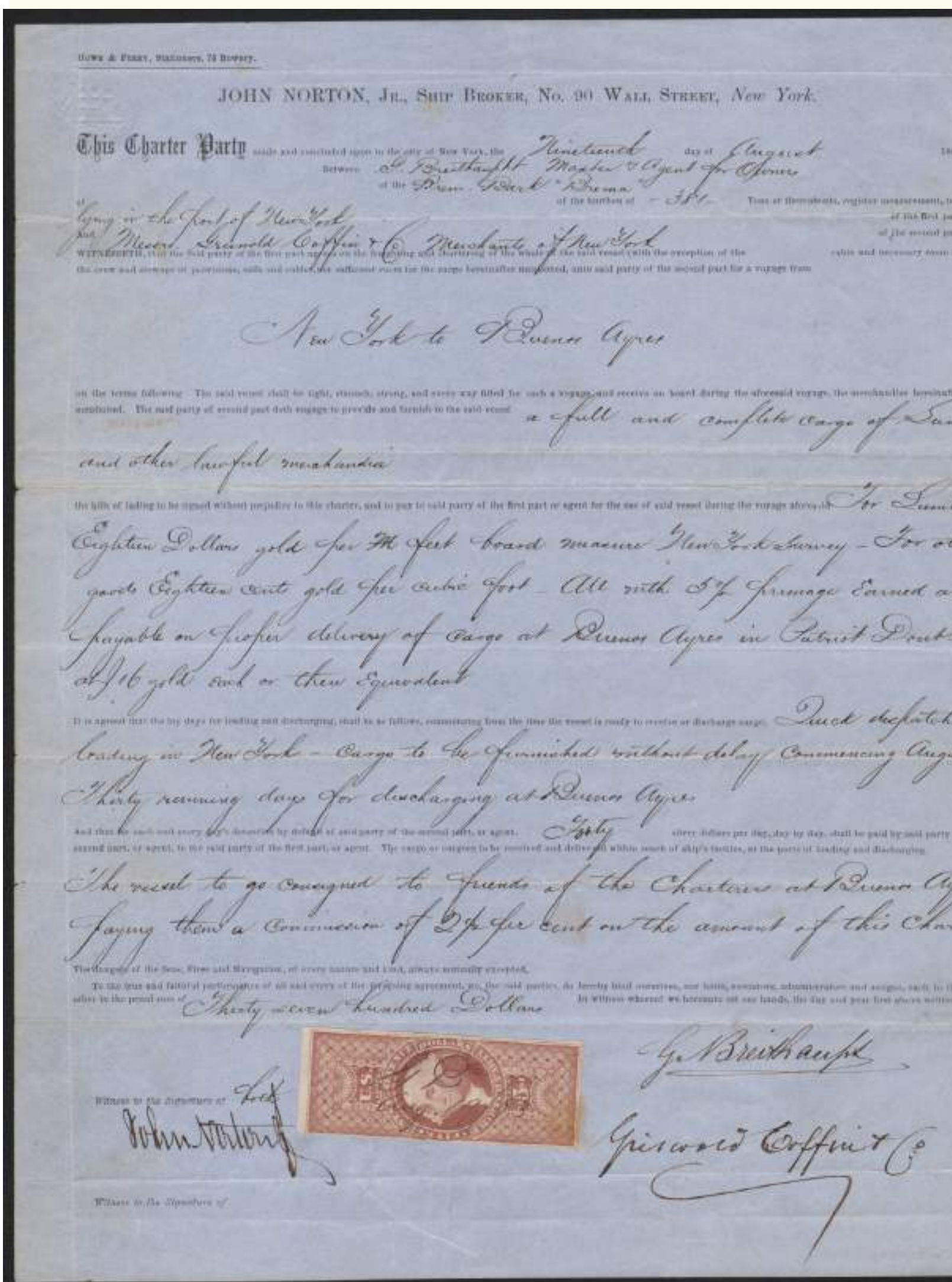
1872 certificate of insurance for \$2,000 advanced to captain against freight aboard S.S. *George Cairns*, which departed Montreal for Limerick September 4. She foundered off the coast of Nova Scotia the same day, a total loss with eight lives lost.

This certificate was generated in New York after the fact, on September 27, countersigned in Montreal, then transported to London where the claim was paid [notation at top left, "Due 18 Novr/72 £403.11/9 (equivalent to \$2,000 at \$4.956 per pound sterling) OCT. 10 1872"]

having first been duly stamped with Great Britain 1s & 3d revenues tied by POLICY OF INSURANCE blue oval cancels.

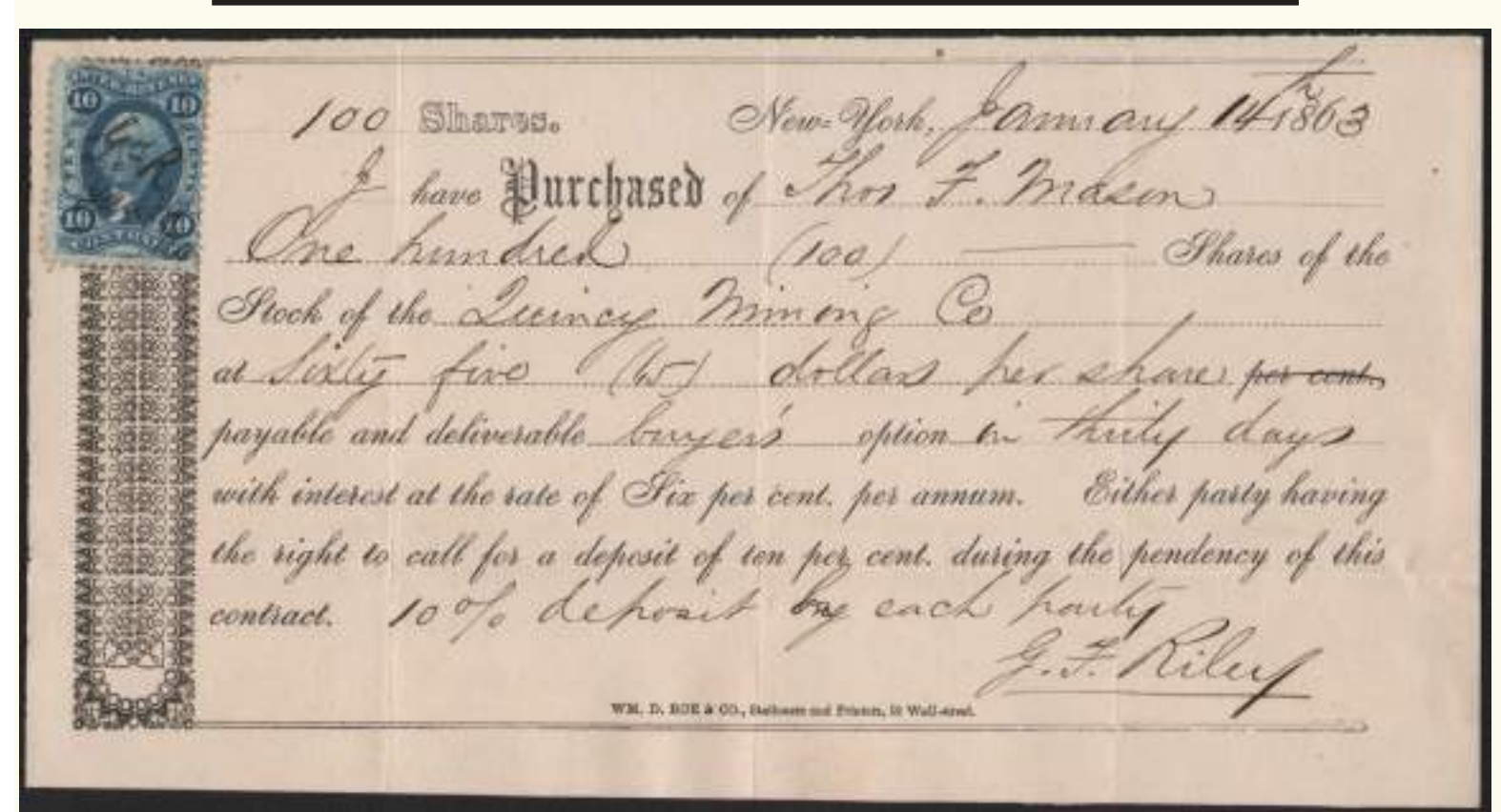
The 10c stamp presumably pays the Certificate 5c tax plus the Agreement 5c tax on the agreement printed vertically at right.

12. CHARTER PARTY
 1862. Contract for the charter of any ship:
 Registered tonnage up to 300 tons, 3.00
 Over 300 tons to 600 tons, 5.00
 Over 600 tons, 10.00



Sole Recorded Charter Party EMUs
 The extraordinary matched pair of 1863 charters of the bark Brema, 381 tons, New York to Buenos Ayres, and the Addison, 850 tons, New York to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, stamped with matching \$5 and \$10 Charter Party Imperforates
Only twelve stamped charter parties recorded, of which these are the only EMUs

13. CONTRACT
 1862. Broker's contract, note, or memorandum of sale of goods of any kind, .10



EMU and EKU
 January 14, 1863, broker's memo of stock purchase stamped with matching 10¢ Contract. Only about twenty EMUs have been recorded, of which this is the earliest.

(Contract)
 1866. Sale or contract for sale of stocks, bonds, bullion, notes, or other securities, by any broker, bank, or banker:
 For each \$100 or fraction thereof, .01



Improbable Combinations
 First Issue 25¢, 30¢ & 40¢
 First Issue 60¢ & 70¢



Gold Sale Memos; Seven-Color Combination
 Far left, 1869 memo for sale of \$202,312.50 in gold by New York brokers Trevor & Colgate, \$20.24 paid on reverse with five-color combination including \$1.90 Foreign Exchange
 Near left, 1868 memo for sale of \$134,375 in gold by New York brokers W. B. Sancton, \$13.42 paid on reverse with seven-color combination



\$1.90 Foreign Exchange recorded on fewer than ten documents



Second/Third Issue Rarities

- Clockwise from top left:
- **2nd Issue 1¢ & 50¢ (x8)**, the latter recorded on only eleven documents, on memo for sale of \$40,013 in gold
 - **2nd Issue 70¢, 3¢ & 1¢**. Nine and eleven documents recorded with 70¢ and 1¢, fewer than twenty with the 3¢. Unique in combination. Ex-Joyce
 - **2nd Issue 6¢ & 1¢**. Five documents bearing the 6¢ recorded, eleven with the 1¢. The combination is unique.
 - **2nd Issue 60¢ & 4¢**. Eight documents with the 60¢ recorded, nine with the 4¢. Another unique combination. Ex-Tolman
 - Two **1st/2nd/3rd Issue combinations**. Fewer than twenty are on record. One here doubly significant, including 2nd Issue 1¢.
 - **Third Issue 1¢** on broker's memo of sale of \$50,561 in notes. Recorded on just four documents. Ex-Joyce

After simplification of the tax rates in 1864, there was little use for denominations like 1¢, 3¢, 4¢, 6¢, 60¢ or 70¢. Their inclusion in the short-lived Second and Third Issues resulted in a series of major rarities.

By 1870 the government had become increasingly concerned with loss of revenue through counterfeiting and washing and re-use of stamps. In response it devised the bicolored Second Issues, with central vignette in fugitive, soluble ink. These were first issued September 1871, the documentaries all blue and black.

This color scheme created complaints, and the Third Issues followed quickly thereafter, with frames in various colors.

Upon repeal of documentary taxes effective October 1872, save the 2¢ levy on bank checks, the various Issues had been issued for as little as two months to a maximum of thirteen months.

Brokers' memos for sales of securities, taxed at 1¢ per \$100, are one of only two document types on which the odd-value 2nd and 3rd Issues are found with any regularity. (Foreign exchange, taxed after 1864 at 2¢ per \$100, is the other.)

14. CONVEYANCE

1862. Deed or other conveyance of land, tenements, or other realty:

Value over \$100 to \$500,	.50	Over \$5,000 to \$10,000,	10.00
Over \$500 to \$1,000,	1.00	Over \$10,000 to \$20,000,	20.00
Over \$1,000 to \$2,500,	2.00	Over \$20,000, for each additional	
Over \$2,500 to \$5,000,	5.00	\$10,000 or fraction,	20.00

to the said Harry and Samuel B. Chau, their heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns, the premises described in the Mortgage deed above referred to, and all my right, title and interest therein, and the debt secured thereby. To Have and to Hold the same, to them the said Harry and Samuel B. Chau, their heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns forever, in as ample manner as I the said A. B. Dike might hold and enjoy, by virtue of said Mortgage deed, and not otherwise.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of March A.D. 1863

Signed Sealed & Delivered
In presence of
R. B. Hammond

A. B. Dike



State of Rhode Island,
Providence

In the City of Providence
this thirtieth day of March A.D. 1863, then
personally appeared the above named A.
B. Dike and acknowledged the above instrument
by him signed to be his free & voluntary act
and deed.

Before me
R. B. Hammond
Public Notary



\$5/\$10/\$20 Combination EMU

Only five EMUs of any type recorded bearing matching stamps in three or more denominations (See Express and Inland Exchange for three others)

Above, April 1863 deed, amount \$76,666.66, correctly taxed at \$140 by matching imperforate \$20 Conveyance, \$10 Conveyance (five pairs), and \$5 Conveyance strip of four. Ex-Turner

Fewer than ten EMUs recorded for \$40+ rate

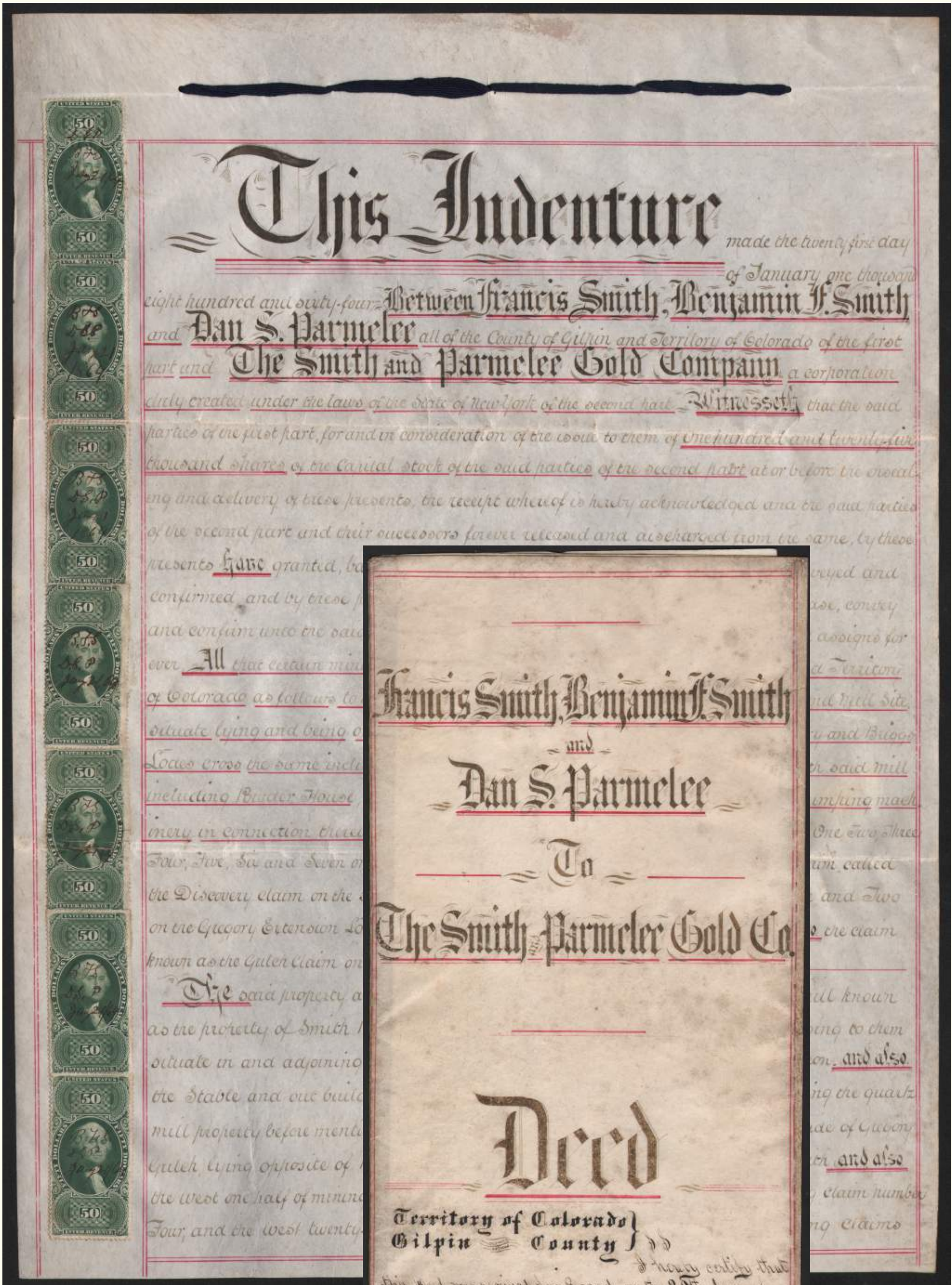
\$20 Conveyance Block

Sole recorded \$20 Conveyance imperforate block on document

Left, March 1863 conveyance of property for \$64,000, correctly taxed at \$120 with matching \$20 Conveyance imperforate block of four & pair

Another choice EMU for the open-ended \$40+ rate, which proceeded in steps of \$20, and one of only a handful with tax paid exclusively with multiple copies of the \$20 stamp.

(Conveyance, Mortgage)
 1863. The tax on a deed or mortgage was limited to \$1,000.
 This limit was rescinded in 1864, having been in effect eighteen months.



The \$1,000 Limit
Sole recorded example of the \$1,000 limit
 January 1864 deed to the Smith and Parmelee Gold Company, Colorado Territory,
 \$1,000 tax paid by \$50 USIR (x10) and \$25 Mortgage (x20)
 This limit would have applied only to conveyances of property valued in excess of \$510,000, and mortgages of more than \$2,000,000. Incidentally, even with the limit in place, this is **one of the largest recorded stamp taxes** on any surviving document of the Civil War era.
 Not surprisingly, the Smith and Parmelee was a well-known Colorado gold mine. The deed jacket was inscribed in **golden ink!**

Francis Smith, Benjamin F. Smith
 and
 Dan S. Parmelee
 To
 The Smith and Parmelee Gold Co.
 Territory of Colorado
 Gilpin County

Deed

Territory of Colorado
 Gilpin County

I hereby certify that
 this deed was received for record on the 20th day of
 February A.D. 1864 at 10 O'Clock and 40 minutes A.M.
 and duly recorded in Book Five of said Laws Page 282
 By J. H. Smith Recorder
 J. H. Smith Recorder

Filed 4/50

(Conveyance)
1864. For each \$500 or fraction thereof, .50

Seal of said Corporation to be hereunto affixed this twenty fifth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four Copy of vote appended hereto
Signed Sealed and Delivered
in presence of
D.H. Ingraham
James H. Hall President
John W. Hall Treasurer



"The Blue Boys"
\$15 Mortgage in dark blue and milky blue
1867 deed, one of two recorded usages of \$15 Mortgage milky blue. Its use with the normal dark blue, especially with no other stamps to detract from their visual impact, is nothing less than a statistical miracle.
Apart from the ultramarine group, which resulted from a deliberate change in ink formulation, the \$15 Mortgage milky blue is the only Scott-listed shade of any First Issue.
This juxtaposition shows why: its size and rarity make the \$15 an attention-grabber even in its usual color; the striking difference of the milky blue from the dark blue makes it extraordinarily distinctive and memorable.

Before me
James H. Ingraham
Justice of the Peace
Whereas the Boston Manufacturing Company is indebted to John W. Hall



The "Small Rug"
Second Issue \$200 "Small Persian Rug" recorded on five documents
First page of December 1871 deed to property valued at \$255,000, bearing Second Issue \$200 & \$10 pair plus Third Issue \$10 pair & single and \$5. Ex-Lipson

(This Indenture)
made the ninth day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy one between George S. Ingraham Referee in the action hereinafter mentioned of the first part and Suther C. Clark of the City of New York of the second part.
Whereas at a Special Term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York held at the City of New York on the tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy one, it was, among other things, ordered, adjudged and decreed, by the said Court, in a certain action then pending in the said Court between Suther C. Clark and John J. Case Trustees &c, plaintiffs and the Clifton Iron Company and others are defendants that all the land and property described in the



successors and against all and every person and the same or any part thereof, by, from or under the
In Witness Whereof the said Tre P
Pennsylvania Canal Company have caused
affixia and duly attested. Dated the

Sealed & Delivered
in presence of
[U.S. Internal Revenue Stamps of the value of Seventy hundred and fifty Dollars being first affixed hereto]
Arman Lombard
M. J. Howard
and also, in presence of the undersigned,
Canal Committee of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, who concurs in the foregoing Conveyance.



J. Edgar Thomson
President



J. Edgar Thomson
President

"The Pretty Puzzle"
Final page of 1867 deed conveying some 175 miles of the Pennsylvania Canal, from the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. to the newly-formed Pennsylvania Canal Co. for \$2,750,000, bearing three copies each of First Issue \$200 and \$50
Paid as 55,000 shares of stock in the Canal Co., par value \$50. Herein lies a puzzle. The appropriate tax for property valued at \$2.75 million would have been \$2,750, not the \$750 paid here. Where is the "missing" \$2,000?
No stamps are missing. At left of the seals is written "U.S. Internal Revenue stamps of the value of Seven hundred and Fifty dollars being first affixed hereto." (Before "Seven" a word was scuffed out, lined through in red to show the correction was authentic, the deleted word almost certainly "Twenty.") At right of the larger seal is embossed "STAMP DUTY PAID/COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE," appropriately signed. These verify that \$750 was the correct tax, probably based on an estimated value of \$750,000 for the property itself.

Received, at the date of the foregoing Indenture, from the within named The Pennsylvania Canal Company, Certificates for Fifty thousand [55000] shares of the full paid Capital stock of said Company - each share of the par value of Fifty [50] Dollars, and in all amounting to the sum of Two million seven hundred and fifty thousand [2,750,000] Dollars, being the full consideration in said Indenture mentioned.

Witnesses.
Arman Lombard
M. J. Howard



Charles A. Smith
Treasurer of Penn R.R. Co.

U.S. plus Nevada \$10 & \$20

Left, 1871 deed to the Mexican Mill, Carson River, Nevada, amount \$130,000, bearing \$50 USIR (x2), \$15 Mortgage (x2), plus Nevada \$20 (x6) & \$10. Six documents recorded with the Nevada \$20, seven with the \$10; no other bears more than two of the \$20.

From the Union Mill and Mining Co., notorious holding company of the Bank of California, to financial titan Alvinza Hayward (namesake of Hayward, California). From the mid-1860s to the early 1870s the "Bank Ring" had maintained a virtual stranglehold on mining, milling, and shipping of the fabled Comstock Lode.

This deed illustrates the first relaxation of that stranglehold. John P. Jones, trusted superintendent of the Bank-controlled Crown Point mine, discerned that it was verging on bonanza, and enlisted Hayward to finance a quiet, treacherous takeover. When the Crown Point produced some \$30 million, the Jones-Hayward combine, the Nevada Mill and Mining Co., became a Comstock power. With this deed, they acquired the Mexican Mill to crush Crown Point ore.

The "heart piece" of the "Newlands find," the personal archive of Nevada senator Francis Newlands, which reached philatelic hands in the 1980s. Newlands had been son-in-law and estate executor of William Sharon, notorious Agent of the Bank of California at Virginia City and "cock of the walk" on the Comstock during its early glory days. Sharon's papers included numerous insider transactions involving important Comstock mills, of which this is the most historically and philatelicly important, and visually spectacular.



\$200 & \$50 Imperforates; \$300 Nevada Tax
 Three examples of \$200 First Issue imperforate recorded on document
 Latest recorded usage of imperforate stamps of the Civil War era

Right, 1871 deed to famed Raymond and Ely Mine in Pioche, Nevada, for \$300,000, bearing First Issue \$200 imperforate, \$50 imperforate (x2), and an array of Nevada documentaries

This very late use of imperforate stamps is extraordinary even in the far West, where imperforates appear regularly through the mid-1860s, and occasionally thereafter.

The deed was executed in San Francisco, the U.S. stamps affixed there; then taken to remote Lincoln County, Nevada to be recorded. Evidently no \$20 or \$10 stamps were on hand, and only twenty of the \$5, for the deed bears 100 \$1 stamps and 197 50c, (including two panes of 50, three additional stamps lost over the years) to pay the state tax of \$300, stamps covering virtually all available space on the second and third pages of the deed, just as they do here.

Nevada owed its existence to its prodigious production of Comstock Lode silver. During the early 1870s, the Ely Mining District in Lincoln County was second only to the Comstock in production, and the Raymond and Ely mine was its star performer.

Pioche, the town that sprang up there, 400 miles from the settled western portions of the state, 250 miles from the nearest railroad, was essentially lawless during the late 1860s and early '70s, reputedly the "wildest town in the West" during these years. "Reliable legend" has it that by the time of the first death there by natural causes, some six dozen had died by violence.

15. ENTRY OF GOODS

1862. Entry of goods at any custom-house, for consumption or warehousing:
 Value to \$100. .25
 Over \$100 to \$500, .50
 Over \$500, 1.00
 Entry for withdrawal from bonded warehouse, .50

Manifest and Entry, Made this 8th day of May
 of Merchandise imported by Thomas Hale
Canada, in New York Bunde

DESCRIPTION.	VALUE.	Rate.
255 Pounds Old Lead	\$ 10 00	1st per Pound

DISTRICT OF OSWEGATCHIE, N.Y.
 I, Thomas Hale a resident of Ogdensburg, N.Y.
 do solemnly swear that, according to my best knowledge and belief, the preceding Manifest and Entry contains a full, just and true account of the quantities and values of all the Merchandise brought or imported by me, from Canada; that all articles which by the laws of the United States are reported or entered by me for the payment of duties are therein mentioned; and that nothing has been suppressed or concealed whereby to avoid payment of duties imposed by said laws.—So help me God.
 Sworn before me, this 8 day of May 1862
A. Chismore Just.

25¢ EMU
 May 1863 Manifest and Entry form Oswegatchie, New York, for cargo of lead from Canada valued at \$10, properly taxed at 25¢ with matching 25¢ Entry of Goods part perforate
 Fewer than ten EMUs recorded

H. H. Duncraft & Company, Bookbinders and Stationers, San Francisco, Cal.

ENTRY OF MERCH
 whereof Nicholas

MARKS. NOS. PKGS.

District and Port of San Francisco, Cal.

Consignee, Importer or Agent's Oath.
 I, Wm Ivanoff Director of Russ Am Co do solemnly and truly swear that Invoice and Bill of Lading now produced by me to the Collector of San Francisco, are the true and only Invoice and Bill of Lading by me received, of all Goods, Wares and Merchandise imported in the Port Wenshikoff whereof Nicholas Kashevaroff is Master from Victoria B.C. for account of any person whomsoever, for whom I am authorized to enter the same; that the said Invoice and Bill of Lading are in the state in which they were actually received by me, and that I do not know or believe in the existence of any other Invoice or Bill of Lading of the said Goods, Wares and Merchandise; that the Entry now delivered to the Collector, contains a just and true account of the said Goods, Wares and Merchandise, according to the said Invoice and Bill of Lading; that nothing has been, on my part, nor to my knowledge, on the part of any other person, concealed or suppressed, whereby the United States may be defrauded of any part of the duty lawfully due on the said Goods, Wares and Merchandise; that the said Invoice, and the declaration thereon, are in all respects true, and were made by the person by whom the same purport to have been made; and that, at any time hereafter, I discover any error in said Invoice, or in the account now rendered of the said Goods, Wares and Merchandise, or receive any other Invoice of the same, I will immediately make the same known to the Collector of the District, and I do further solemnly and truly swear, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, The Russian American Company are the owners of the Goods, Wares and Merchandise, mentioned in the Invoice and Bill of Lading now produced by me exhibits the actual cost, or fair market value, at Victoria B.C. of the said Goods, Wares and Merchandise, all charges thereon, and no other or different discount, bounty drawback, but such as has been actually allowed on the same.

Sworn to this Thirtieth day of March 1868,
 before me Wm. Wm. Dodge Collector.

District of Alaska!
Five usages of Civil War era revenues in Alaska recorded
 March 1868 entry of merchandise form for use in San Francisco, pressed into service at Sitka, Alaska, for cargo of coal from British Columbia valued at \$1,235. U.S. revenue stamps evidently did not reach Sitka for more than a year after this document was executed; this 50¢ pair is tied by manuscript cancel "for WLD May 1st 1869," the initials evidently those of Wm. Dodge, Collector of Customs at Sitka, and by oval handstamps reading "OFFICE OF ... CUSTOMS May 1 1869."

This piece has a decidedly Russian flavor. The coal was imported on the bark "Wenshikoff" of the Russian American Company, with Master Kashevaroff, as attested by the Company's Director, William Ivanoff. All of Russian Alaska had been the private fiefdom of the Russian American Company, which ruled and administered it under a rental agreement with the Zar. This document shows that the Company continued its commercial operations, at least, after the sale of its domain to the United States.

16. EXPRESS
 1862. Express company receipt:
 Charge up to .25, .01
 Over .25 to 1.00, .02
 Over 1.00, .05

The effective life of the Express tax was only about four months: stamps were not generally available until December 1862, and effective April 1, 1863, the stamp tax was replaced by a 2% levy on gross receipts. The express companies, vexed by the inconvenience and delays caused by the stamp tax, had lobbied lawmakers hard against it; when they spoke, Congress listened!

Adams Express Company
 EXPRESS FORWARDS
 Received of J. M. Luke one Package sealed and said to contain Two Hundred Dollars
 Addressed to Luke Nova York

Harnden's Express
 Office, 401 Pennsylvania St., Washington, D.C. 20 1862
 To HARNDEN EXPRESS, Dr.
 For Freight on One Corpse from Wash \$
 Vi. Washington me \$ 32.00
 For Cash advanced on same at \$ 32.00

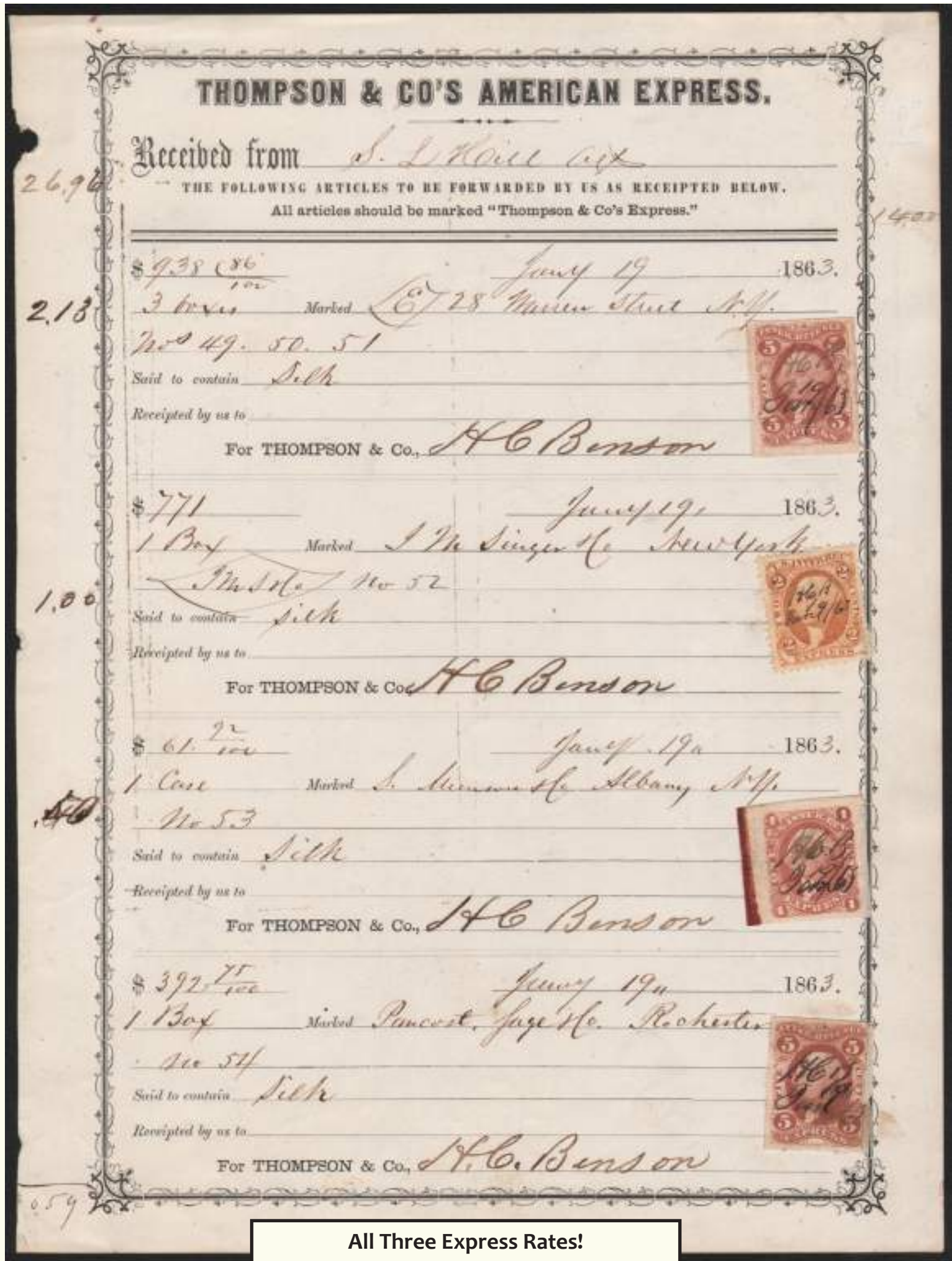
Occupied Confederacy
 The piece de resistance of the Occupied Confederacy
 Adams Express Co., Memphis; one of 12 recorded Express uses from Occupied Confederacy

Harnden's Express
 Office of
 Received from One Corpse
 Marked Jam. T. Putnam & Co
14 No. 7 Mass
 For the Proprietors.

Western Express Company
 MONEY RECEIPT
 Received of John H. Knepp Four Packages sealed and said to contain Fort Dollars
 Addressed to Ben Hugh Gibson
M. Pleasant
Henry Co Georgia

Howard & Co., Express Forwarders
 East Penn Square, Reading, Pa., and 607 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
 Received from Union Bank
 one Sealed Package said to contain
Seven Dollars
 Consigned to Seban & Pugh Bank
 For the Proprietors, Geo. W. Smith

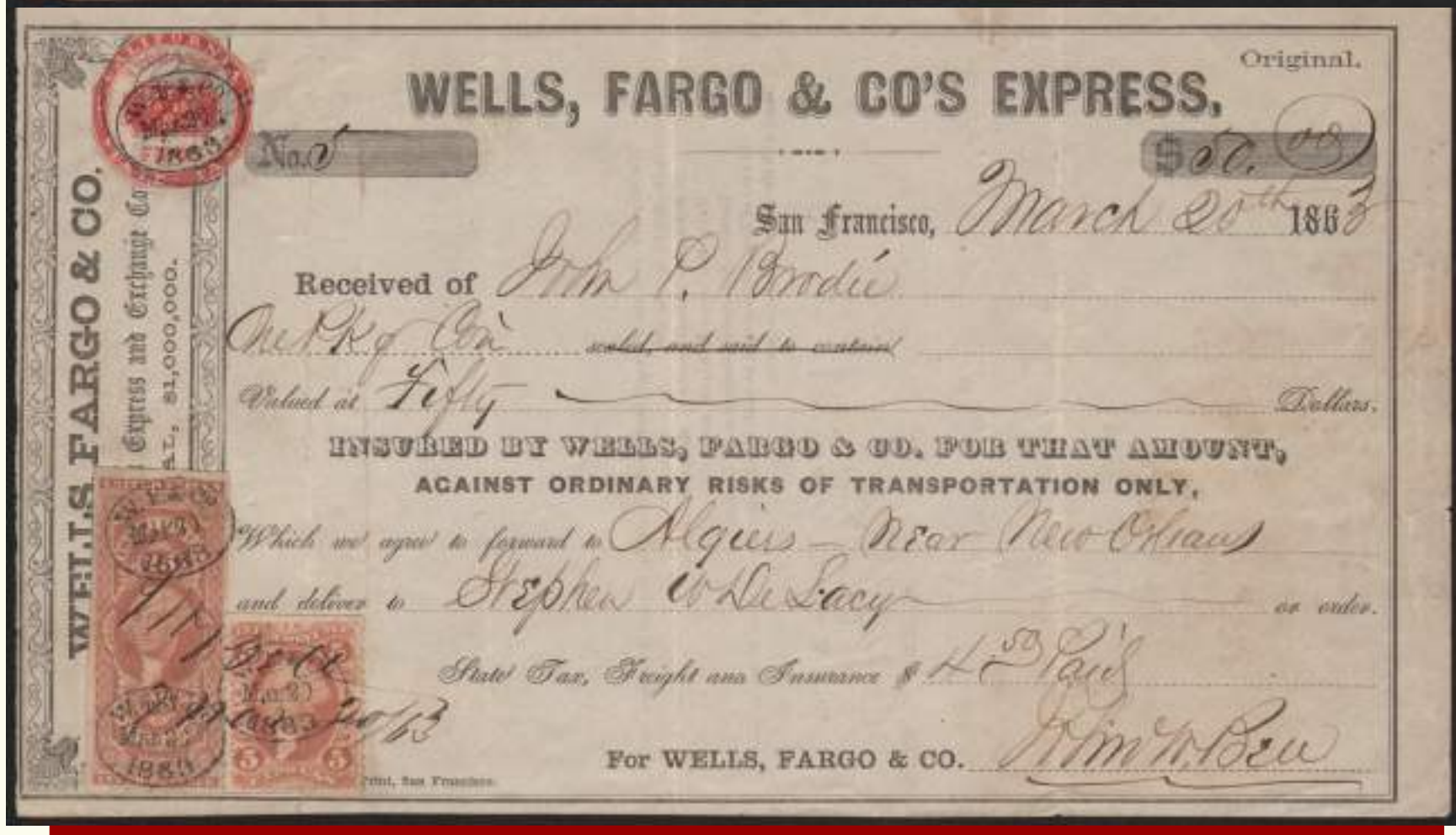
"One Corpse"; Unique Three-Color Combination
 Above, American Express Co., 1¢ Express part perforate top margin strip of five
 Top right, Harnden Express, "one corpse"
 Middle right, spectacular Harnden's Express form for soldiers' packages, December 9, 1862, earliest recorded use of 5¢ Express, first delivered November 20, 1862
 Bottom right, Howard & Co., Express Forwarders, sole recorded three-color Express combination
 Only five EMUs of any type recorded bearing matching stamps in three or more denominations
 (See Conveyance and Inland Exchange for three others)



All Three Express Rates!
Thompson & Co.'s American Express, ex-Turner



Conjunctive Use
United States Express Co. plus American Express Co.
Note reference to stamp tax on American Express Co. label



U.S. plus California Triple Combination, Quadruply Unique
Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express shipment, insured to Algiers, Louisiana, in the occupied Confederacy, showing three taxes: U.S. Express (5¢) and Insurance (25¢), plus sole recorded example of California Insurance 4¢ rate
Three unique combinations: Express-Insurance, Express-California and Express-Insurance-California
California Insurance tax paid with an Exchange stamp! As with bills of exchange, these receipts were made in sets of two, each requiring a stamp. For 8¢ one obtained 8¢ First and Second Exchange stamps, each representing 4¢ tax; the First was affixed here to the Original, the Second presumably to the Duplicate, neatly paying the 4¢ tax on both.



10¢, 20¢ EMUs
Two 10¢ EMUs recorded
One 20¢ EMU recorded

Any EMU is a high-level rarity. Only 25 with 1863 dates have been recorded.

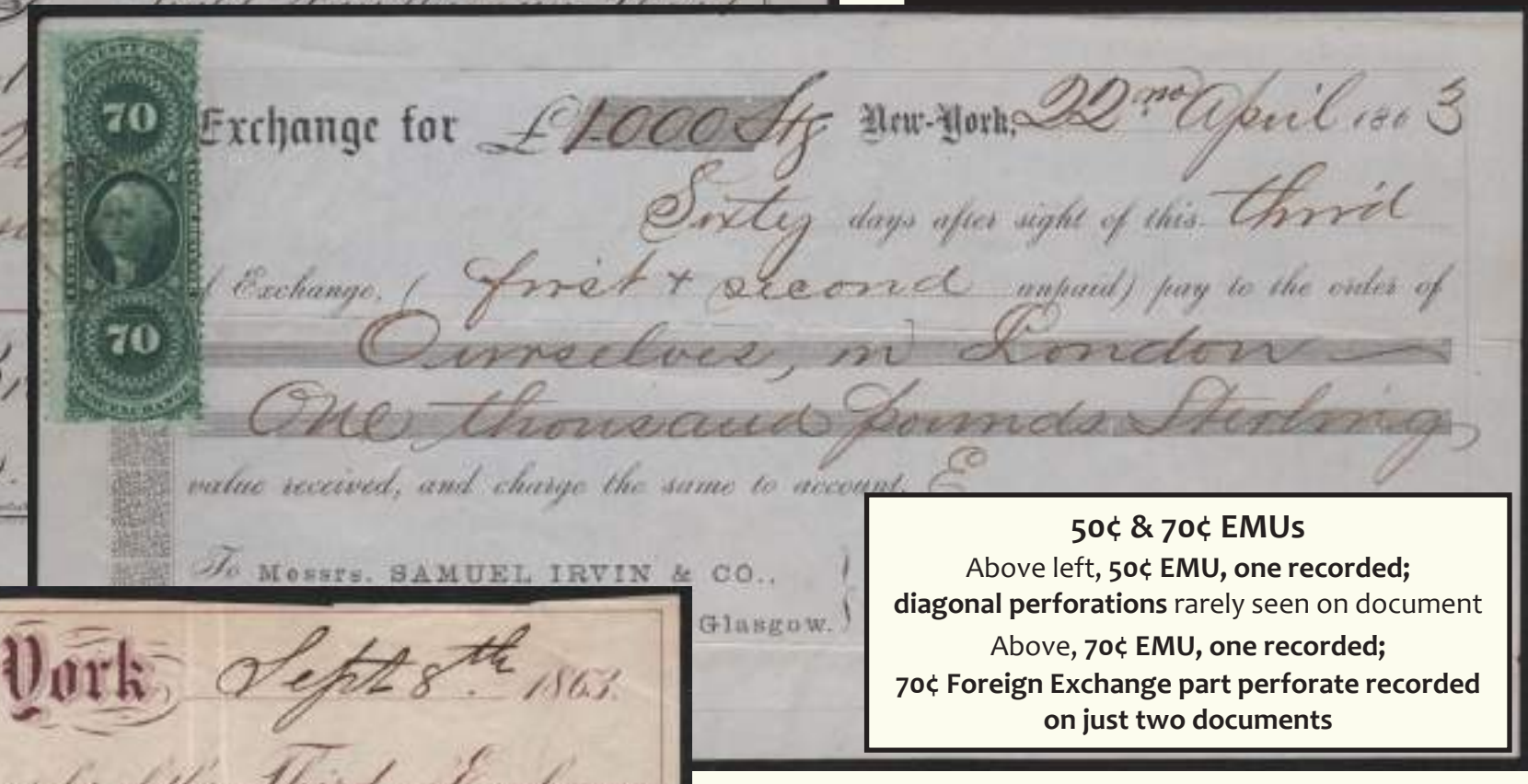
17. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Bill of exchange drawn in but payable out of U.S., in a set of three or more, for each bill:

Amount up to the equivalent of \$150 U.S.	.03
Over \$150 to \$250	.05
Over \$250 to \$500	.10
Over \$500 to \$1,000	.15
Over \$1,000 to \$1,500	.20
Over \$1,500 to \$2,500	.30
Over \$2,500 to \$3,500	.50
Over \$3,500 to \$5,000	.70
Over \$5,000 to \$7,500	1.00
Over \$7,500, each additional \$2,500	.30



\$1.30 & \$1.60 Foreign Exchange Imperforates
\$1.30 unique on document
Three \$1.60 recorded on document;
unique use on foreign bill
Both ex-Cunliffe



50¢ & 70¢ EMUs
Above left, 50¢ EMU, one recorded;
diagonal perforations rarely seen on document
Above, 70¢ EMU, one recorded;
70¢ Foreign Exchange part perforate recorded on just two documents



\$1 & 30¢ EKUs
February 2, 1863, prior to delivery of \$1.60 stamp in April 1863
Five \$1.30+ rate EMUs recorded

\$1.90 Matching Usage
Two \$1.90 Foreign Exchange recorded on foreign bills



(Foreign Exchange)
 1864. For each \$100 or fraction thereof, .02
(The Great Simplification. Effective August 1, 1864, the tax rates were radically simplified, none more than for Foreign Exchange: the 1862 table of ten rates was replaced by the blanket rate 2¢ per \$100. Similarly extensive changes were made for Conveyance, Inland Exchange and Probate of Will. The new tax on foreign bills made for a delightful variety of stampings.)

U.S. plus California
 Left, 1866 third of exchange, U.S. 40¢ part perforte (x2) plus California Third Exchange \$6 & \$2

California bills were nearly all domestic, made in sets of two. Only about a dozen foreign bills bearing Thirds have been recorded. Use of "unfinished" U.S. stamps as late as 1866 would have been extraordinary anywhere but in the far West; a supply sent to San Francisco in early 1863 took years to deplete.



Unsevered Second and Third; \$1.30 & \$1.90 Foreign Exchange

Above left, typically only the First was sent to its destination, the Second and Third kept in reserve in case the first was lost in transit. Nevertheless, unsevered pairs are seldom seen.
 Above middle and right, \$1.30 and \$1.90 Foreign Exchange each recorded on fewer than ten documents



U.S. plus France
 Above First of exchange, France Effets de Commerce 7fr affixed in Havre
 Surviving Firsts, carried abroad, typically with a pleasing array of markings, are orders of magnitude scarcer than Seconds or Thirds, which typically remained in reserve in company archives.

Second Issue Rarities

Above, from left:
 2nd Issue 3¢ recorded on fewer than 20 documents, the pair unique on document
 2nd Issue 4¢ recorded on fewer than ten documents, 2nd Issue 6¢ on just five

The stamps shown here include some of the rarest on document. After August 1864 there was little use for denominations like 3¢, 4¢, 6¢, 30¢, 40¢, 60¢, 70¢ or \$1.30. Their inclusion in the short-lived Second and Third Issues resulted in many major rarities. The Foreign Exchange 1864 rate of 2¢ per \$100 and the Contract 1866 rate of 1¢ per \$100, were the only likely sources of documents bearing these "abandoned" denominations. Directly above, from left:

Second Issue Rarities

2nd Issue 4¢, 60¢ & 70¢ each recorded on fewer than ten documents
 2nd Issue \$1.30 recorded on only two documents
 (Combinations: 60¢ & 4¢ plus 3rd 30¢, unique; 70¢ & 4¢, two recorded)



Third Issue Rarities

3rd Issue 4¢ recorded on fewer than ten documents; the pair unique on document
 3rd Issue 6¢, 60¢ & 70¢ each recorded on fewer than ten documents
 3rd Issue 30¢ & 40¢ each recorded on fewer than 20 documents
 (Combinations: 60¢ & 4¢ and 70¢ & 6¢, two recorded; 40¢ & 4¢, three recorded)



Cuba plus U.S.
From Havana for \$25,000 gold with Cuba imprinted stamp. Ex-Joyce

Foreign Exchange, Incoming
Bills of exchange drawn in a foreign country but payable in the U.S. were taxed at the same rates as inland bills, the tax to be paid before payment or acceptance.

1864. Payable otherwise than at sight, for each \$100 or fraction thereof, .05



Nuevitas, Cuba, \$1.30 Foreign Exchange
\$1.30 Foreign Exchange recorded on fewer than ten documents
Highlight of the "Knowlton Find" of incoming bills drawn on sugar importer Danford Knowlton



Double Crossing of the Atlantic
From Guatemala City payable in New York, where it was stamped on acceptance. Negotiated twice in Gand, Belgium (note blue handstamp of Bank of Flanders), crossed the Atlantic twice! Two stamped bills recorded from Guatemala. Ex-Turner



"The Man Who Invented Baseball"
Drawn in Hawaii by master of the whaling bark Massachusetts, on outfitters Swift and Allen of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Bill of Alexander Cartwright, "founder of modern baseball," who had emigrated from New York, signed three times by him. Ex-Lipson.



Triple-Nation Combination
From Manganui, New Zealand, by master of whaling bark Louisa, on whaling factors Swift and Allen of New Bedford, Massachusetts, bearing New Zealand embossed stamp, adhesives of Great Britain and U.S. Ex-Cunliffe.



18. GAUGER'S RETURN
1864. Quantity up to 500 gallons gross, .10
Over 500 gallons, .25
Tax rescinded August 1, 1866

Canada plus U.S.
Time drafts drawn in Montreal and Peterborough, Canada West, with Canada bill stamps of First Issue (middle), Second Issue (bottom) and Third Issue (top) affixed on execution, and U.S. stamps upon acceptance
First Issues in use only about a year in 1864-5; only three combinations with U.S. recorded

Sole Recorded Gauger's Return
Of the 31 major types of documents taxed, Gauger's Return is the only one for which just a single example has been recorded. A gauger was licensed to measure liquid volume. Here L. D. Mudge, Weigher and Gauger, attested in November 1864 that 25 barrels of whiskey had net contents 1,009 gallons. Evidently gauging accounted for relatively little of Mudge's business; the words "Weighed for" printed on the form have been changed by hand to "Gauged for." The return is attached to a receipt for sale of the whiskey, the receipt tax paid with 2¢ Express blue. Ex-Turner



19. INLAND EXCHANGE

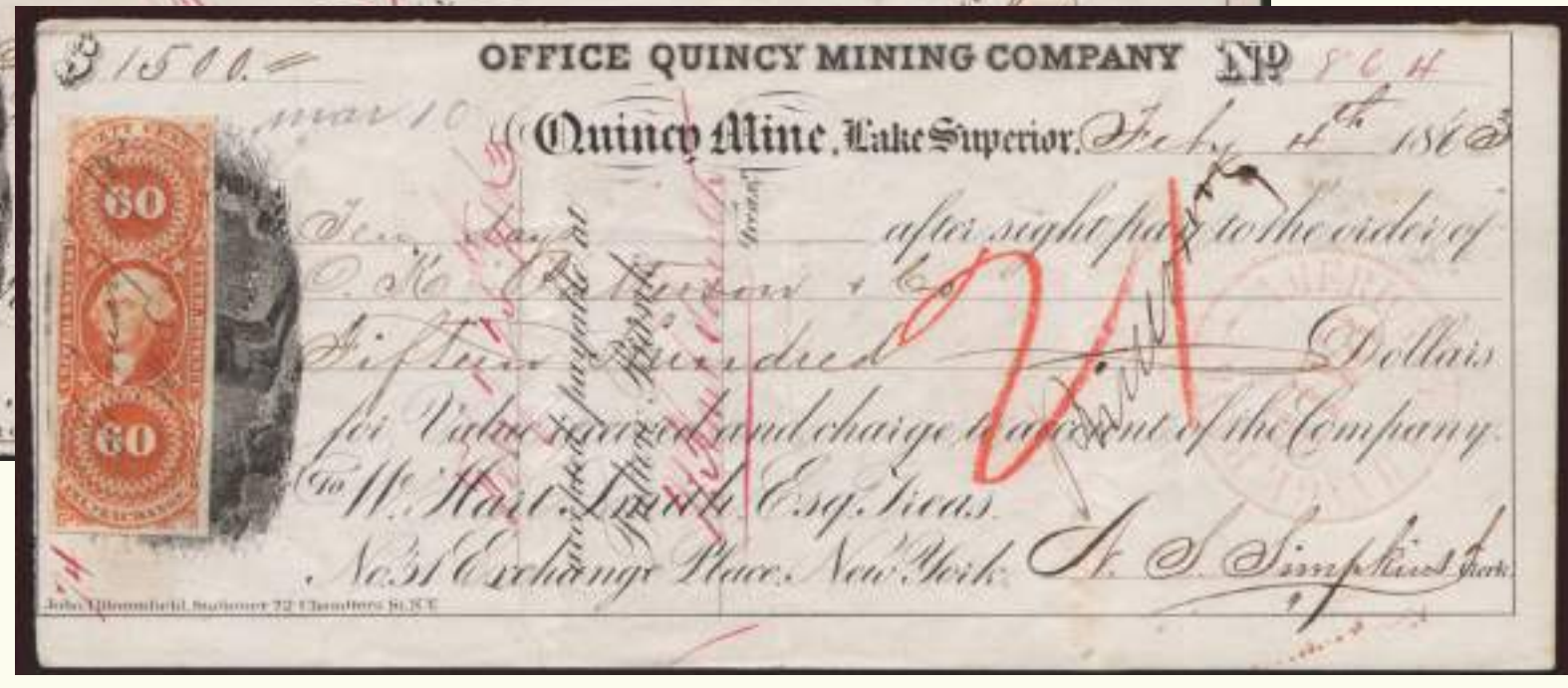
1862. Bill of exchange drawn and payable in the U.S., draft or order payable other than at sight, or any promissory note:

Amount over \$20 up to \$100,	.05
Over \$100 to \$200,	.10
Over \$200 to \$350,	.15
Over \$350 to \$500,	.20
Over \$500 to \$750,	.30
Over \$750 to \$1,000,	.40
Over \$1,000 to \$1,500,	.60
Over \$1,500 to \$2,500,	1.00
Over \$2,500 to \$5,000,	1.50
Over \$5,000, for each additional \$2,500 or fraction,	1.00

These rates were in effect only about **five months**, of which **stamps** were generally available only during the **last three**. Examples of the **higher rates** range from the rare (40c and 60c, fewer than twenty recorded) to the **ultra-rare** (\$2.50+, four known).

Spectacular run of early 1863 time drafts of the Quincy Mining Co., a copper mining concern on Michigan's remote Upper Peninsula, showing the first seven of the ten 1862 Inland Exchange rates, each paid by the appropriate matching Inland Exchange stamp, including two imperforates and two part perforates.

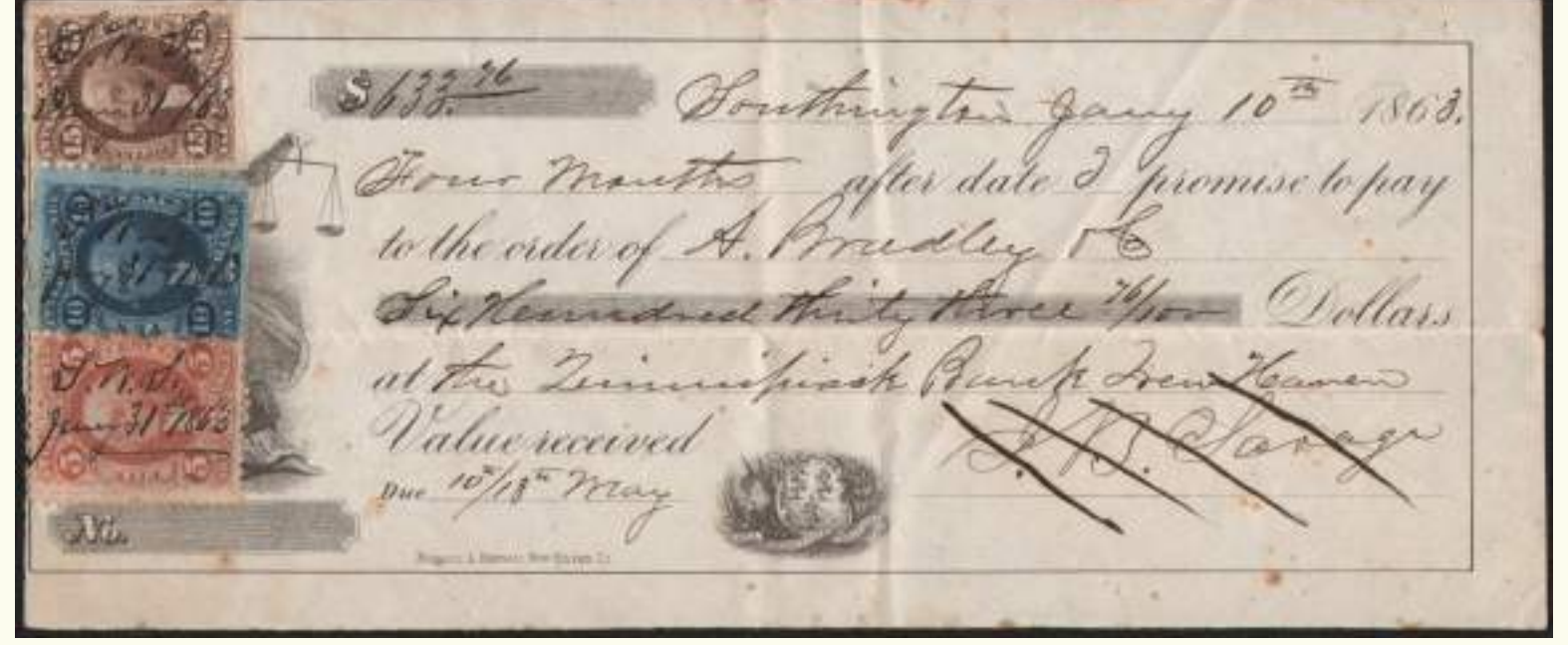
This run was part of a hoard of Quincy Mining Co. paper that surfaced in the late 1970s, rescued on its way to a New Jersey landfill by a sharp-eyed refuse hauler. Chartered in 1848, the Quincy proved remarkably long-lived, earning the sobriquet "Old Reliable," and remaining productive for nearly a century. In 1920 it installed the largest hoisting engine ever built, and shortly thereafter its shaft reached the vertical depth of 6,400 feet, second only to that of the South African diamond mines at Kimberley.



Inland Exchange \$1 and \$1.50 EKUs

1862 notes stamped with matching \$1 and \$1.50 Inland Exchange imperforates, the earliest recorded usages of these stamps

When the notes were executed, November 25 and November 27, 1862, respectively, neither stamp had been issued, but the \$1.50 appeared on November 26 and the \$1 followed on December 2. As with all First Issues, these were delivered by printers Butler and Carpenter of Philadelphia to the government stamp agent attached to their office. James A. Aull & Co., the maker of these notes, was also located in Philadelphia, and by December 5 the appropriate stamps had been obtained, affixed, and canceled. This was only ten days after issuance of the \$1.50 stamp, and a scant three days after issuance of the \$1.



EMU with Imperforate, Part Perforate and Fully Perforated Stamps

January 1863 promissory note for \$633, the Inland Exchange 30c rate paid by matching Inland Exchange 15c imperforate, 10c part perforate, and 5c fully perforated. During the period of early matching use, if the single stamp of appropriate denomination was not on hand, it was necessary to use a combination of smaller values.

One occasionally sees two stamps used in this way, but very rarely three or more: this is one of just five recorded examples (see CONVEYANCE and EXPRESS for others), and the **only one showing all three perforation styles**.



Ten Stamps, the Minimum Possible!

Philadelphia commercial draft for \$6,000 dated November 15, 1862, \$2.50 tax paid by matching Inland Exchange 30c (x8, including block of five) & 5c (x2)

With the exception of bank checks, only a precious few uses of First Issues during October 1862 have been recorded, and very few during November, this being one of the earliest. Payment of the \$2.50 tax in this fashion may seem unusual, but is entirely predictable given the early date: before November 15 the only Inland Exchange values that had been issued were these two, the 30c and 5c.



\$2.50+ Rate EMU

Philadelphia commercial draft for \$25,000 dated December 12, 1862, correctly taxed at \$9.50 with matching Inland Exchange \$1.50 imperforate (x6, including strip of four), 30c & 10c pair

This piece and its companion at left are two of the four recorded EMUs of the Inland Exchange 1862 open-ended rate of \$2.50 and above. Both are ex-Joyce.

Only five EMUs of any type recorded bearing matching stamps in three or more denominations

(See Conveyance and Express for two others)



Sale of Slaves

April 1863 \$2,000 promissory note for "a lot of negroes," made at Waddy/Peytona, Kentucky, Inland Exchange 1862 \$1 rate paid by matching Inland Exchange 60c and 40c part perforates

Generally speaking, U.S. tax stamps constitute an imprimatur signifying support of the Union effort in a war to eliminate slavery. Their use on the record of a sale of slaves is at first blush seemingly contradictory, then ultimately bitterly ironic. It was possible because slavery was legal in Kentucky (and other Union border states). Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863 had affected only areas still under rebel control.

The Inland Exchange rates had been changed March 3, 1863, effective immediately, but news of this took weeks to months to be disseminated, as this note illustrates: by the new 1863 rates the tax was only 60c.



1¢ Playing Cards part perforate
 \$2,713, 30 days, tax $14 \times 2¢ = 28¢$, paid by imperforate, part perforate, and fully perforated stamps; fewer than twenty such combinations recorded

1¢ Playing Cards part perforate recorded on four documents
 Only $14 \times 1¢ = 14¢$ was necessary. For times of exactly 30, 60, 90 days or four months, the tax table was ambiguous. Payment at the higher rate, as here, was extraordinary.

(Inland Exchange)	
1863. Amount over \$20, for each \$200 or fraction:	
Payable within 30 days,	.01
Payable in 30 days to 60 days,	.02
Payable in 60 days to 90 days,	.03
Payable in 90 days to four months,	.04
Payable in four months to six months,	.06
Payable in over six months,	.10
Three days grace was allowed in all cases.	

Effective March 3, 1863, the Inland Exchange tax depended not only on the amount payable, but also the time until payment. This two-tiered scheme was vexing to users, but had delightful results for latter-day fiscal historians. The tax could literally be any possible amount (although in practice, amounts over a few dollars are rarely encountered), with an attendant array of unusual and colorful stamp usages. Examples from each of the six time brackets are shown.

"Making Do" (I)

Above, \$10,000, 60 days, tax $50 \times 2¢ = \$1.00$
 Right, \$2,500, three months, tax $13 \times 3¢ = 39¢$

The new rates paid by Inland Exchange stamps ordered to pay the now-obsolete 1862 rates, with help from Bank Check imperforate strip of five



4¢ Playing Cards Pair, Handstamp Cancel

Left, \$300, four months, tax $2 \times 4¢ = 8¢$. **4¢ Playing Cards** recorded on fewer than ten documents, only two showing multiples
 Middle, \$6,500, six months, tax $33 \times 6¢ = \$1.98$. **Five-color combination** on reverse, extraordinary for Inland Exchange
 \$601, six months, tax $4 \times 6¢ = 24¢$. Sole recorded **4¢ Playing Cards** on document with **handstamp cancel**, ex-Joyce
 Payment of documentary taxes with **Playing Cards stamps** nominally illegal but generally tolerated



4¢ Inland Exchange Matching Usage

Top, \$100, four months, tax 4¢. A true inland bill of exchange, made in duplicate, very rarely seen. The 4¢ Inland Exchange was issued to facilitate payment of the 1863 rates, particularly the 4¢ rate.

2¢ Bank Check Orange First Printing (x10)

Bottom, May 1863 \$600 demand note with curious 20¢ payment by ten 2¢ Bank Check orange First Printing. This stamp was printed for only a brief period in mid-October 1862 before its color change to blue. Virtually all were used singly to pay the check tax.

Sole recorded document bearing more than two copies.

(Inland Exchange)	
1864. For each \$100 or fraction,	.05



Stamped at 1863 & 1864 Rates

August 2, 1864, draft for \$1,500 in 20 days, 8¢ paid at 1863 rates. These had been superseded one day earlier by the rate of 5¢ per \$100, which called for 75¢ tax. On acceptance on August 18, the requisite additional 67¢ in stamps was affixed.

"Making Do" (II)

The 4¢ & 6¢ Inland Exchange, created to facilitate payment of the 1863 rates, were not well suited to the new rate of 5¢ per \$100. Here multiple copies help pay \$1.30 and 50¢, respectively.



The Ultramarine Experiment

To prevent washing of cancels, in 1869-70 the color of five stamps was briefly changed from blue to ultramarine.

Above, improbable juxtaposition of 10¢ Contract ultramarine with normal blue
 Above left, 50¢ Conveyance ultramarine & 10¢ Contract in the richer "ultramarine blue" subshade

Sole recorded combination of ultramarine and ultramarine blue
 NORTH LOUISIANA & TEXAS R.R. / MONROE, LA. cancel, the discovery copy

\$1.30 & \$1.60 Combination

Left, \$1.30, \$1.60 and \$1.90 Foreign Exchange each recorded on fewer than twenty documents. Use of the \$1.30 & \$1.60 together is completely unexpected.



CB&Q Find

In the early 1990s notes and drafts surfaced from the archives of the **Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co.**, that were quite literally fabulous — the stuff of which fables are made! Included was an array of 1871–2 notes for amounts from \$50,000 to \$400,000, requiring \$25 to \$200 tax. Apart from this find, only three notes or drafts are known with stamps of \$25 or higher. The eight notes at left represent the heart of that find. Besides the two individually captioned pieces, note:

Top, **Second Issue \$5 strip of five**, third-largest multiple extant, **unique on document**;

Left, **\$25 Mortgage** in both known shades, **orange vermillion and scarlet vermilion**, a unique combination;

Bottom, **Second Issue \$20, \$25 and \$50**, all recorded on fewer than ten documents.



\$200 Tax, \$15 Mortgage Ultramarine
 \$400,000 note with \$200 tax paid by all four Class 10 First Issue denominations:
 \$15, \$20 (x3), \$25 & \$50 (x2), highlighted by the \$15 Mortgage ultramarine
 \$15 Mortgage ultramarine recorded on four documents



Second Issue \$1.90
 2nd Issue \$1.90 recorded on two documents

First/Second/Third Issue Combination
 Middle, generated during a brief window in 1872, **fewer than 20 recorded**
 Right, **Third Issue \$5 (x3)** with “scarifying” cancels to prevent reuse



\$20 Vermilion & Black Color Error
 Even in its normal orange & black, the **Third Issue \$20** is a high-level rarity on document, with fewer than ten recorded. The **\$20 vermilion & black color error** is at another level:
 the pair unique on document;
 one of two known pairs, the co-largest recorded multiple;
 the stamp recorded on just two documents



U.S. plus Canada
 \$500 note made and payable in Detroit, endorsed and accepted for payment at The Quebec Bank, St. Catharines, Ontario, stamped there with **Canada Third Bill 3¢ (x5)** paying rate of 3¢ per \$100



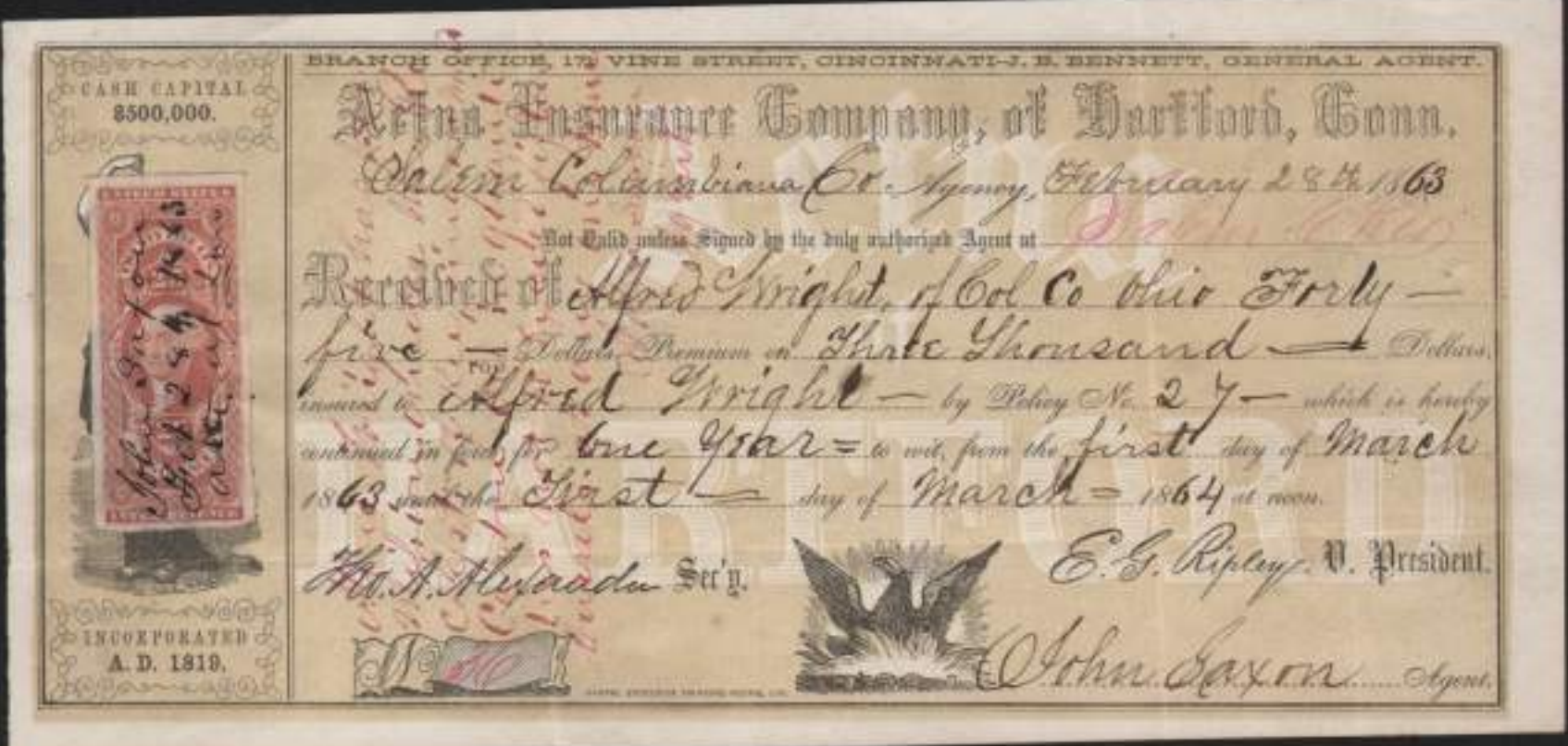
U.S. plus Ontario
 1867 note made and payable in Chicago, filed November 1869 in an action in the Upper Canada Court of Common Pleas, stamped there with **Ontario Common Fund (“C.F.”) 10¢**
 Sole recorded U.S.-Ontario combination



One, Two, Three, Four! Pressaging the End of Stamp Taxes
 First Issue 5¢, Second Issue 10¢, Third Issue 2¢ & 5¢, Proprietary (“Fourth Issue”) 1¢
 Only recorded combination of all four
 \$1.90 tax paid by 45 stamps (13 on front) on note for \$3,716.24 made **September 19, 1872**
 Documentary taxes (except the 2¢ Bank Check levy) were set to **expire October 1, 1872**; as that date approached, stamp stocks were not replenished and users “made do” with what was on hand.

20. INSURANCE
 1862. Insurance on property of any description, .25

Perforated Precedes Imperforate
 The 25¢ Insurance was one of relatively few stamps **first issued perforated, later imperforate**:
 Right, policy renewal dated **November 10, 1862**, stamped with **matching 25¢ Insurance perforated**, an extraordinarily early usage;
 Below, renewal dated **February 1863** stamped with **matching 25¢ Insurance imperforate**



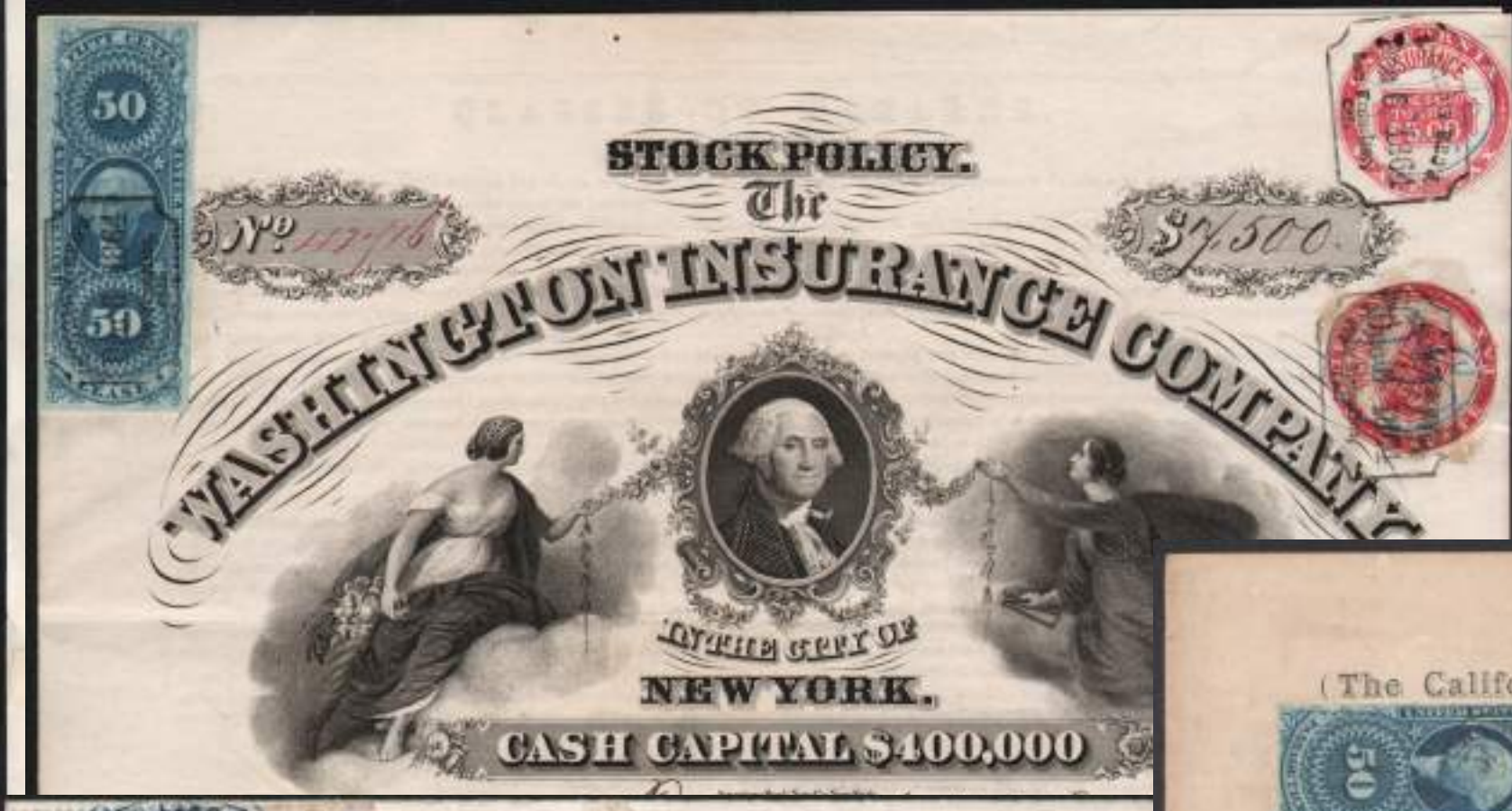
(Insurance)	
1863. Premium up to \$10, .10	
1864. Over \$10 to \$50, .25	
1864. Over \$50, .50	

California, Nevada Oregon
 Each had state stamp taxes on insurance. Combinations with U.S. stamps are scarce (California, 109 recorded) to rare (Nevada, nine recorded) to ultra-rare (Oregon, five recorded).

Below, 1871 policy taxed by U.S. at 50¢ but by Oregon at \$1

Five U.S.-Oregon combinations recorded
 Five examples of Oregon \$1 rate recorded

1871 policy taxed by U.S. at 10¢ but by California at \$1, featuring vignette of Fort Point, site of present-day Golden Gate bridge
 Below, policy taxed by U.S. at 50¢ but by California at \$5

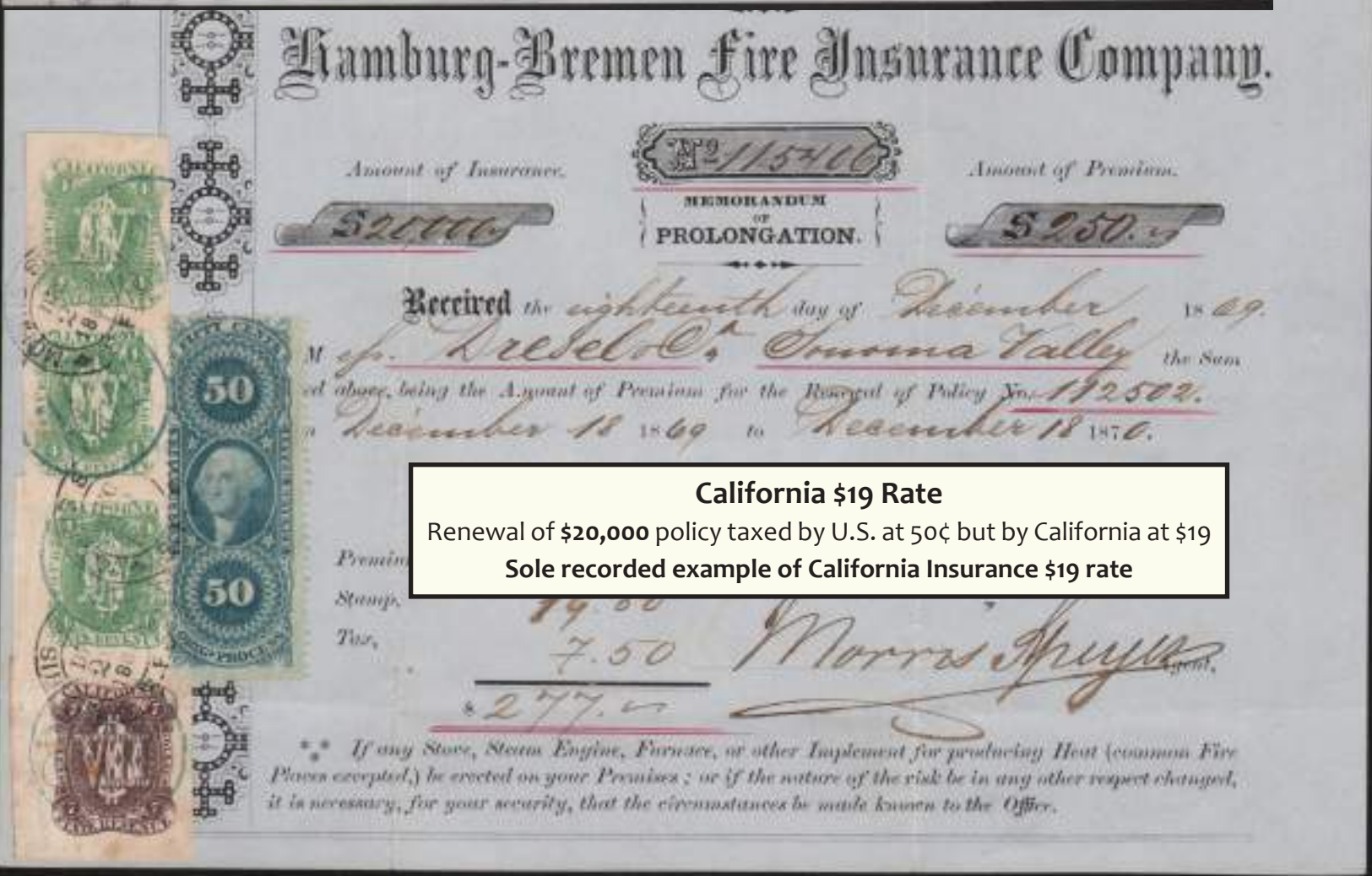


U.S. plus Nevada

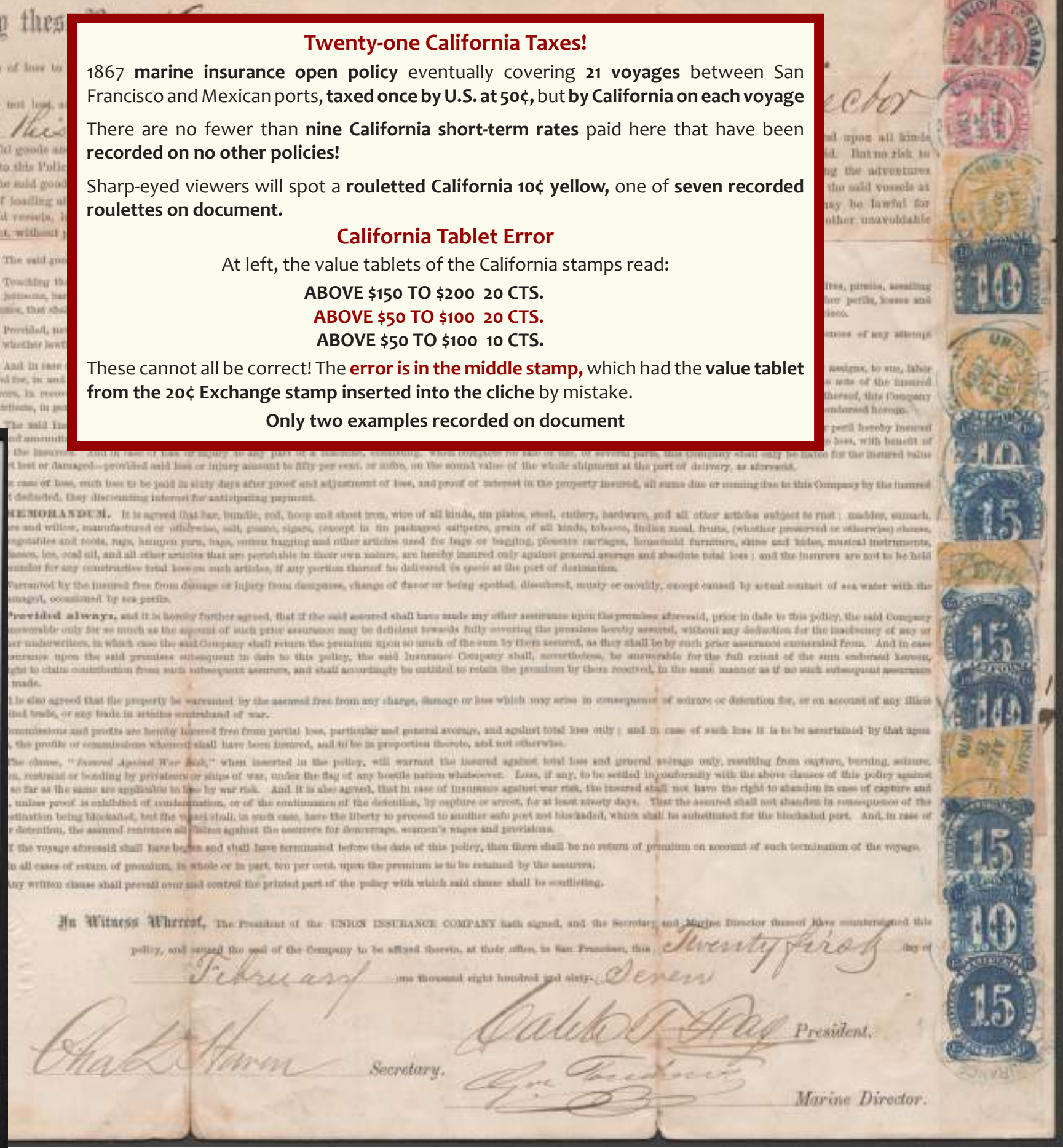
- Two 10¢ combinations recorded
- Five 25¢ combinations recorded
 Nevada 25¢ scarlet vermilion roulette 10, fewer than twenty recorded on document
- Three 50¢ combinations recorded
 Nevada 50¢ blackish purple roulette 10, sole recorded example



Twenty-one California Taxes!
 1867 marine insurance open policy eventually covering 21 voyages between San Francisco and Mexican ports, taxed once by U.S. at 50¢, but by California on each voyage
 There are no fewer than nine California short-term rates paid here that have been recorded on no other policies!
 Sharp-eyed viewers will spot a rouletted California 10¢ yellow, one of seven recorded roulettes on document.
California Tablet Error
 At left, the value tablets of the California stamps read:
 ABOVE \$150 TO \$200 20 CTS.
 ABOVE \$50 TO \$100 20 CTS.
 ABOVE \$50 TO \$100 10 CTS.
 These cannot all be correct! The error is in the middle stamp, which had the value tablet from the 20¢ Exchange stamp inserted into the cliché by mistake.
 Only two examples recorded on document



California \$19 Rate
 Renewal of \$20,000 policy taxed by U.S. at 50¢ but by California at \$19
 Sole recorded example of California Insurance \$19 rate



MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.
OF THE
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Amount \$
Premium \$

THIS POLICY OF ASSURANCE

Witnesseth *Wm. P. ...*

For consideration of the sum of *Fourteen* Dollars

Life of *...*

and of the *...*

to be paid at or before noon on or before *...*

during the continuance of this Policy of *...*

of *...* in the County of *...*

said *...*

DOLLARS, for the term of *...*

And the said Company do hereby assure the said sum assured, to the said assured interest, (if assigned or held as security,) year's premium, if any, being first deducted before the death of the said *...* heirs at law of the said *...*

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby assured upon these express conditions, that this Company, previously obtained and extended limits of the British Provinces of the visit those parts of the United States which remember, those parts which lie south of the miles of the Mississippi or Missouri River shall enter upon a voyage on the high seas, upon service on any Sea, Sound, Inlet, Bays, Rations or mining, or in any military or naval service, or in any way which may operate as to impair his health, or induce the consequence of a duel; or of any injury in the United States, or of the said Provinces, this Policy shall be null, void and of no effect.

And it is also understood and agreed that if the said *...* then, and in such case, this Policy shall be null and void, on or before the days hereinafter mentioned, or any part thereof; and this Policy shall be null and void, if the said *...* And it is further agreed by the within assured, that he shall be bound to pay to the said Company, and that if any of the conditions hereinbefore mentioned shall be violated, this Policy shall be null and void, and the said Company shall be discharged of all liability thereunder.

In Witness Whereof, the said **MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY** has caused this contract, this *...*

23. LOTTERY TICKET
1863. For each \$1 or fraction purchase price, .50
Effective May 1, 1863, rescinded August 1, 1864

24. MEASURER'S RETURN
1864. Quantity up to 1,000 bushels, .10
Over 1,000 bushels, .25
Rescinded August 1, 1866

Lottery Ticket and Measurer's Return are the only major types of taxed documents with no surviving examples recorded.

22. LIFE INSURANCE
1862. Policy amount up to \$1,000, .25
Over \$1,000 to \$5,000, .50
Over \$5,000, 1.00

Life policies are scarce. Even for the 50¢ rate, the commonest, fewer than 50 examples have been recorded.

As a class, Life Insurance is very much scarcer than Insurance, which covered all forms of property insurance. For every example of the former, there are probably fifty of the latter.

Life insurance was a fledgling industry during the Civil War era, and the percentage of the population covered was much smaller than it is today.

No. *10,207*

The Manhattan Life Insurance Co.
OF NEW-YORK.

ANNUAL PREMIUM, \$*108.75*

This Policy of Insurance Witnesseth, That THE MANHATTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, in consideration of the sum of *One Hundred & Eight* Dollars and *Twenty Five* Cents, to them in hand paid by *Mrs Abby S. Hall* and of the sum of *...* Dollars and *...* Cents, to be paid on or before the *...* day of *...*

SUM INSURED, \$*2,500*

... Dollars and *...* Cents, for the term of *...* years, from the *...* day of *...* 18*63*.

And the said Company do hereby promise to, and agree with, the said assured, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, well and truly to pay the said sum insured to the said assured, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, sixty days after due notice and proof of the death of the said assured, during the continuance and before the termination of this Policy.

And it is also agreed that if the said assured shall die in any of the following cases, to-wit: in any military or naval service, or in any way which may operate as to impair his health, or induce the consequence of a duel; or of any injury in the United States, or of the said Provinces, this Policy shall be null, void and of no effect.

And it is further agreed by the within assured, that he shall be bound to pay to the said Company, and that if any of the conditions hereinbefore mentioned shall be violated, this Policy shall be null and void, and the said Company shall be discharged of all liability thereunder.

In Witness Whereof, the said **THE MANHATTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY** has caused this contract, this *...*

NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.
Company's Building, No. 29 State Street.

WILLARD PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT.
DIRECTORS: WILLARD PHILLIPS, CHARLES P. CURTIS, THOMAS A. DEXTER, M. P. WILDER, SEWELL TAPPAN, CHARLES HUBBARD, WM. B. REYNOLDS, GEO. H. FOLGER, FRANCIS C. LOWELL, JAMES S. AMORY, HOMER BARTLETT.

No. *12,355*

Policy on the Life of *David S. Goodwillie*

AMOUNT INSURED, \$*5,000* ANNUAL PREMIUM, \$*11.00*

This Policy of Insurance Witnesseth, That the NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, in consideration of the Premium of *One* hundred and *ten* dollars and *ten* cents to them paid in the manner provided in the Rules of this Company, by *David S. Goodwillie* of *...* in the County of *...* in the State of *...* being the assured in this Policy, and of a like sum to be paid to them by said assured, on or before the *...* day of *...* in every year during the continuance of this Policy, do insure the life of *David S. Goodwillie* in the amount of *Five* thousand dollars, for the term of *...* years, from *...* at noon.

And the said Company do hereby promise to, and agree with, the said assured, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, well and truly to pay the said sum insured to the said assured, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, sixty days after due notice and proof of the death of the said assured, during the continuance and before the termination of this Policy.

and also at each quinquennial distribution of the surplus of premiums, in case of this Policy not then having terminated, to reimburse to the said assured a due proportion of such surplus on an annual payment of *One hundred and ten* dollars.

In case of the death of the person, whose life is hereby insured, shall be caused by risks consequent upon the engagement and employment of said person in a Coal-mine, Powder-manufactory, Railroad-train, or Steamboat, as Fireman or Engineer in a Steam-mill or Steam-factory, as an Express-carrier, or in Lake or River or other inland navigation, said Company shall not be liable to pay the loss unless liberty shall have been given to engage in any such employment, which liberty, if applied for, shall be given for a fair additional premium.

Said insured life has liberty to go (and the risk is to continue) on any passage by water coastwise, as a passenger, along the coast of the United States, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia, between any ports and places not north of Halifax in the mouth of the river Mississippi, with liberty to touch at any intermediate ports, and in Cuba; as a passenger (and the risk is to continue) between Europe and any of the Atlantic ports of the United States, the Mississippi, and to touch at the usual ports. Said insured life also has liberty, occasionally, to go by boat or vessel, on the sea-coast, or on any river, lake, or pond, for health, recreation, or sporting; and the said insured life shall die on a voyage or passage upon the high seas, except as permitted herein, hereupon be void, and such loss not recoverable. Said insured life also has liberty to travel on the inland travel, by the usual modes of conveyance.

Said insured life also has liberty to reside and travel indefinitely in Europe, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; and northward of the forty-eighth degree of North latitude.

Said insured life also has liberty, if the said person whose life is hereby insured, with the consent of said Company previously given in writing, pass beyond the limits of the United States, or to reside, voluntarily go to remain and shall remain, or shall, without such consent, voluntarily and for an irremediable necessity remain over one month, between the first of June and last of October, south of the southern boundary of Virginia, or shall, without such consent, voluntarily be and remain over one month of the year west of the Rocky Mountains; or shall, without such consent, enter into any military or militia not in actual service excepted,) this Policy shall thereupon be void. And in case he shall die by the consequence of a duel, or by the hands of justice, or in the violation of, or attempt to violate, or in disobedience or of attempting to violate, the laws of the United States or of any state, country, or place, this Policy and said Company shall not be liable for the loss.

CONDITION OF THIS POLICY, that if the statements made by, or on the part, procurement, or behalf, of the said assured, to said Company, as the basis of, or in the negotiations for, this contract, shall be untrue, then this Policy shall be null and void.

Any premium, or any premium note given therefor, or any part of either, shall not be paid to said Company, on account of the payment of the same, this Policy shall thereupon be forfeited and be null and void.

This Policy becoming null and void, the holder of the same will not be entitled to a return of any part of the premium. And in case of the termination of this Policy, by forfeiture or otherwise, prior to the time for the quinquennial distribution of surplus, the holder thereof is not entitled to participate in such distribution.

And any sums that shall become due thereon from said Company, for loss, or for distribution, or for interest, are pledged and hypothecated to said Company, and they have a lien thereon, to secure the payment of the same, and of any note or security therefor given or to be given, and of any such premium, or such note or security or any part of either, when due, all of which shall be forfeited to said Company, and the Policy shall be void; but this pledge and hypothecation shall not affect the conditions and provisions respecting the forfeiture of this Policy.

The said assured shall have a right to set off any demand they shall have against said assured, his assigns or representatives, incidentally to, or in connection with, this insurance, against any claim for which this Company shall be liable.

This Policy shall be void unless assented to in writing by said Company. The Policy does not take effect until the premium is settled for, according to the rules of the Company.

Whereof, The said NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY have, by their President, *Willard Phillips* and Secretary, *Bay S. Stearns* signed this Contract, at Boston, on this *...* day of *...* 18*62*.

Willard Phillips PRESIDENT.
Bay S. Stearns SECRETARY.

Company are authorized to receive premiums when due, but not to make, alter, or discharge contracts, or waive forfeitures.)

Life Insurance EMUs
Above, August 1863 life policy, amount \$1,000, stamped with the rare matching 25¢ Life Insurance part perforate
Sole recorded 25¢ EMU

Middle, April 1863 life policy, amount \$2,500, stamped with matching 50¢ Life Insurance part perforate, ex-Turner
Two 50¢ EMUs recorded

Bottom, December 1862 life policy, amount \$5,000, stamped with matching 25¢ Life Insurance imperforate pairs (x2), stamps canceled December 13
Sole recorded \$1 EMU

Sole recorded Life Insurance EMU (obligatory matching use) from period prior to December 25, 1862



For VALUE RECEIVED I hereby assign all my right, title, and interest in this Policy to *Jessie McGowan* as collateral security for the amount of his demands subsisting against me at my decease as creditor; surplus, if any, for the benefit of my estate.

Amata Goodwillie
Bay S. Stearns
J. M. Stearns

12,355

OUTWARD FOREIGN MANIFEST... WHOLE CARGO.

Held at Ketcher's Navigation Room, 63 North Water Street.

Report and Manifest of the Cargo laden at the Port of

New Bedford

on board the

Ship Wm Thompson

J. C. Smith

Master, bound for

North Pacific Ocean

MARKS.	NUMBERS.	PACKAGES, OR ARTICLES IN BULK, To be arranged alphabetically, and each kind to be separately inserted, and distinctly described.	CONTENTS OR QUANTITIES, In gallons, pounds, yards, pieces, &c., to be inserted in figures.	VALUE AT THE PORT OF EXPORTATION.					
				Value of Domestic Produce or Manufactures.		Value of Foreign Produce or Manufactures.		TOTAL AMOUNT.	
				DOLLARS.	CENTS.	DOLLARS.	CENTS.	DOLLARS.	CENTS.
		<i>Casks Shirts Provisions and other articles necessary for the prosecution of a Whaling Voyage.</i>							
		<i>(20) Twenty Cases Manufactured Black & White Lumber containing Eight Boxes or Caddies in a Case. J. W. Merrill Inspector Collection District No. Massachusetts.</i>							
		<i>April 1864</i>							
									<i>3012 pounds.</i>

Whaleship Burned by the Shenandoah
 June 1864 outward manifest of New Bedford whaler **William Thompson**, bound for "North Pacific Ocean." She would never return. On **June 22, 1865**, some two months after Appomattox, the **William Thompson** would be captured and burned in the Bering Sea by the infamous Confederate raider **Shenandoah**.

Eleven examples of \$3 rate recorded, just five with the matching \$3 Manifest

On the 22nd of June, early that morning two ships were reported by the lookouts, two prize crews were readied, ["Shenandoah" Captain James] Waddell intent in capturing them both simultaneously. One was hampered by having a whale lashed to her side, it was the 495 ton "William Thompson" ...

On returning to the "William Thompson," her master Francis Smith insisted the war was all over, but Waddell took this news as the Captain merely trying to save his ship, and torched the ship anyway, unsure as to the real status of his Southern States. (<http://ahoy.tk-jk.net/MaraudersCivilWar/CSSShenandoah.html>)

24. MANIFEST
 1862. Manifest for custom-house entry or clearance of cargo of any ship, for any foreign port except those in British North America:
 Registered tonnage up to 300 tons, 1.00
 Over 300 to 600 tons, 3.00
 Over 600 tons, 5.00

21. LEASE
 1862. Lease of any land or tenement:
 Period up to three years, .50
 Over three years, 1.00

(Lease)
 1864. Yearly rent up to \$300, .50
 Over \$300, for each additional \$200 or fraction, .50

(Lease)
 1865. Assignment or transfer of lease: Taxed at the same rate as the original instrument, plus the tax on a conveyance of property of equal value.

Memorandum of Lease and Contract made this 10th day of Jan A.D. 1863. Between the East Mahanoy Railroad Company of the One Part and the Little Schuylkill Navigation Railroad and Coal Company of the other part -

Whereas the said Companies had created by and they exist under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and their respective Railroads connect with each other and the said parties of the first part have heretofore agreed to make and the said parties of the second part have agreed to take a lease of the Railroad of said party of the first part, as the same is now made, and may hereafter be extended made and finished upon the terms hereinafter mentioned -

Now this Agreement Witnesseth

1. That in consideration of the premises and of the covenants and agreements of the said parties of the second part hereinafter mentioned and of

Lease plus Agreement EMU Combination
 January 1863 lease and contract stamped with matching \$1 Lease imperforate and matching 5c Agreement (x5, one on each page).
 Its principal provision was a **99 year lease** of the East Mahanoy Railroad by the connecting Little Schuylkill Navigation Railroad Co., but there were **six other numbered provisions**, necessitating the Agreement tax. Then as now, leases for more than three years were relatively uncommon.
 Only a handful of combinations of EMUs of any types recorded
 Only three \$1 Lease EMUs recorded

before me personally name Jacob Weidenfeld to me known, and known to me to be the same person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged before me that he executed the same

Walter F. Jones
 Commissioner of Deeds
 N. Y. C.

Register's Office City
 County of New York

I hereby record the foregoing instrument in the office of the City County of New York in Case page 311 at 12 o'clock

In witness whereof
 at my hand & office
 13th day of October

12
 Oct 23 1866

Jacob Weidenfeld
 TO
 Georgina E. Beers

Dated October 19th 1866

Assignment OF LEASE.

Crosby Osburn & Jones
 Attys &c
 25 Pine St. N.Y.

Assignment of Lease Compound Rate
 1866 assignment of a lease in exchange for \$45,000. This necessitated a tax of \$45, as on a conveyance for a similar sum; plus \$3.50, as on the original lease.
 Four examples recorded of this unusual compound rate

This Indenture,

MADE the first day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, between the ST. CROIX and LAKE SUPERIOR RAILROAD COMPANY, of the first part, and WILLIAM H. SWIFT, SAMUEL J. TILDEN, and ANDREW H. GREEN, of the city and State of New York, of the second part.

WHEREAS, the said party of the first part is a corporation duly formed and organized under an Act of the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin, entitled an "Act to incorporate the St. Croix and Lake Superior Railroad Company," approved February 24th, 1854, and the several acts amendatory thereof.

AND WHEREAS, as such corporation, the said party of the first part is authorized and legally empowered to construct, equip, maintain, and operate the principal line of railroad hereinafter described, together with the branch thereof hereinafter mentioned, and in its corporate capacity to borrow any sum or sums of money, at any rate of interest which may be agreed upon between the said company and any party of whom such money may be obtained, and to make, execute, and deliver such bonds, mortgages, and other papers and securities, as may be deemed expedient by said corporation, in consideration of any such loan, or in discharge of any liabilities that it may incur in the construction, repair, equipment, or running of said road.

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance of the powers and authorities in it duly vested, the said St. Croix and Lake Superior Railroad Company has resolved to issue and negotiate a series of six thousand five hundred bonds, of two hundred pounds sterling each, numbered respectively from 1 to 6,500 inclusively, and to amount in the aggregate to one million and three hundred thousand pounds sterling; which said bonds are to be all equally secured by these presents, and are to be of like tenor and in the form following:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
STATE OF WISCONSIN.

First Mortgage Sinking Fund Land Grant Bond,

No. ST. CROIX AND LAKE SUPERIOR RAILROAD COMPANY. £200.

Know all men by these presents, that the St. Croix and Lake Superior Railroad Company is indebted to William H. Swift, Samuel J. Tilden and Andrew H. Green, or bearer, in the sum of two hundred pounds sterling, which the said Company promises to pay to the said William H. Swift, Samuel J. Tilden and Andrew H. Green, or to the bearer hereof, on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand and nine hundred, at the City Bank in the city of London, England, with interest thereon at the rate of seven per centum per annum, free of all United States internal revenue tax, payable semi-annually, on the first days of January and July in each year, at the said City Bank in London, upon presentation and surrender of the annexed coupons as they severally become due, and in case of default in the payment of any half yearly instalment of interest which shall have become payable and shall have been demanded, and the continuance of such default for the period of three months after the maturity of such instalment, the principal of this bond shall become due in the manner and with the effect provided in the deed of trust or mortgage securing the payment of the same hereinafter mentioned.

This bond is one of a series of six thousand five hundred bonds of two hundred pounds sterling each, of like tenor and date, numbered respectively from 1 to 6,500, inclusively, and amounting in the aggregate to one million and three hundred thousand pounds sterling, and the payment of each and all of which is equally secured by a deed of trust or mortgage, bearing date on the first day of February, A. D. 1866, duly executed and delivered by the said St. Croix and Lake Superior Railroad Company to the said William H. Swift, Samuel J. Tilden and Andrew H. Green, trustees, conveying the railroad of the said Company, as the same shall hereafter be constructed, and the equipments, appurtenances, property, franchises and things in the said deed of trust or mortgage mentioned and described, and conveying also all the right, title and interest which the said Company now has or may hereafter acquire by reason of the construction of said railroad or any part thereof to such lands as have been or hereafter may be granted by



Largest Recorded Stamp Tax of the Civil War Era

1866 mortgage of St. Croix and Lake Superior Railroad Co. bearing First Issue \$200 (x28), \$50 (x13), \$20 Conveyance pair, and \$2 Mortgage.

The mortgage supported an issue of 6,500 £200 bonds, totaling £1,300,000, which at \$4.84 per pound sterling was equivalent to \$6,292,000. The Mortgage rate of 50¢ per \$500 thus called for a tax of \$6,292, which is precisely what was paid. This is by far the largest tax paid on any surviving document of the Civil War era.

A signatory was Samuel J. Tilden, later Governor of New York and Democratic candidate for President in 1876. Tilden won the popular vote handily and was one electoral vote short of victory, with the results from Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina in dispute. An Electoral Commission awarded all disputed votes to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, giving him a one-vote victory.

The outrage of southern Democrats threatened to re-ignite civil war, and was quieted only by the Compromise of 1877, by which Tilden and the Democrats acquiesced to the inauguration of Hayes in return for removal of the troops from the South. This effectively ended Radical Reconstruction, and with it a military saga begun 15 years earlier with the firing on Fort Sumter.



the second part and the survivors and survivor of them, and the executors, administrators, and assigns of such survivor, that whenever, and as often as the said party of the first part, its successors or assigns shall hereafter acquire any lands, or any equipment, or any other property or things of whatever name or nature, for use in connection with the railroad from Hudson to Superior aforesaid, or the said Branch thereof, or shall acquire any lands from the Government of the United States, or from the State of Wisconsin, by reason of the construction of the said railroads, or of either or any part of either thereof, or of any other railroad which the said company is authorized by law to construct, or shall acquire any other property, rights, franchises or things whatsoever, the said party of the first part, its successors and assigns, shall and will acquire, possess and hold the same, and every part and parcel thereof upon and subject to the trusts of this indenture, until conveyance thereof, in pursuance of the covenant next hereinafter contained, shall be duly made and delivered to the said parties of the second part, or the survivors or survivor of them, or their or his successors or successor in the trust by these presents created.

And the said party of the first part, for itself, its successors and assigns, in consideration of the premises, and of one dollar to it duly paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby covenants and agrees to and with the said parties of the second part, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the executors, administrators and assigns of such survivor, that the said party of the first part its successors and assigns, shall and will, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, and as often as thereunto requested by the trustees under this indenture, execute, deliver and acknowledge all such further deeds, conveyances and assurances in the law for the better assuring unto the said parties of the second part, the survivors and survivor of them, and their and his successors in said trust, upon the trusts herein expressed, the railroads, equipments, appurtenances, franchises, property and things heretofore mentioned,—including all lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by act of Congress to the State of Wisconsin, and to which the said company is or may hereafter by reason of the construction of said railroads, or of either or any part of either thereof, or for any reason, become entitled, or which the said company, its successors or assigns, may in any manner acquire, and also all other property, rights, franchises and things whatsoever which may hereafter be acquired by the said party of the first part, its successors or assigns,—as by the said trustees, or their counsel learned in the law, shall be reasonably advised, devised, or required.

In witness whereof the said party of the first part has caused its corporate seal to be hereto affixed, and the same to be attested by the signatures of its president and treasurer, and the said parties of the second part have hereunto set their hands and seals to evidence their acceptance of the trust hereby created, the day and year first above written.

Henry M. Alexander
President

Eudora Patton
Treasurer

William H. Swift
Samuel J. Tilden
Andrew H. Green

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
Charles Nettleton
John Rankin Jr.



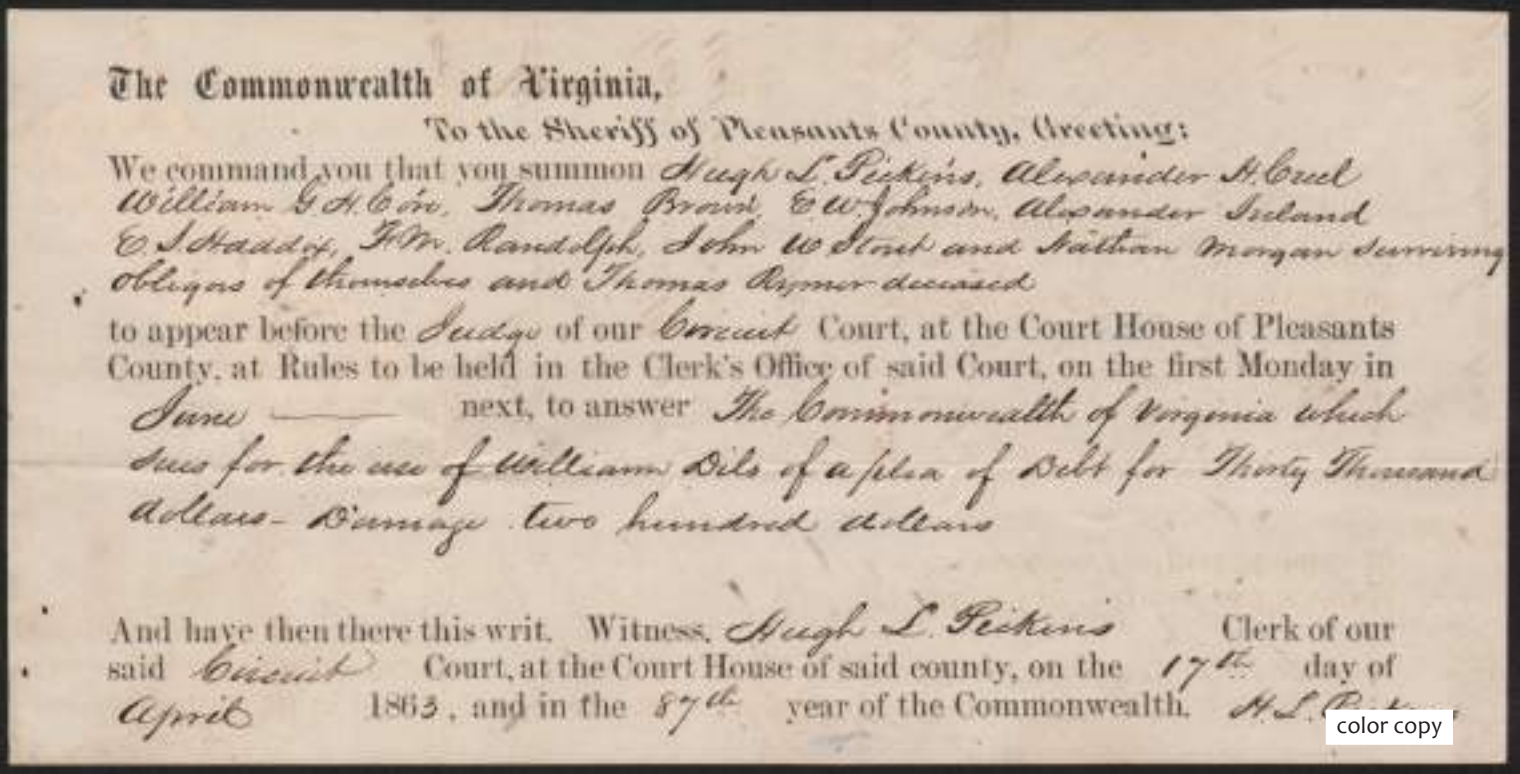
Sole Recorded "Persian Rug" on Document
 Final page of **Morris and Essex Rail Road Co. \$5,000,000 mortgage**, bearing **Second Issue \$500 "Persian Rug"** and 25¢. The latter evidently paid five times the **Agreement 5¢ tax**, assessed on each of the five double-sided pages comprising the document.
 The Boston Revenue Book gives the date of **first delivery** of the \$500 as **October 3, 1871**. The cancel here is dated **October 2**, evidently backdated to the mortgage date. Note the **proof-like vivid colors, extraordinarily sharp impression, and freshness**. Of the surviving "Rugs," only this one has **"the bloom of a stamp that has never known water."**
 This mortgage originally bore ten copies of the \$500, and came onto the philatelic market intact. It was offered at auction in 1949, where the stamps went their separate ways, the last left on its page, no doubt because of the striking and colorful surroundings the page provided.

27. ORIGINAL PROCESS
 1862. Writ or other original process whereby any suit is commenced in a court of record, .50



28. PASSAGE TICKET
 1862. Passage ticket for a voyage from the U.S. to any foreign port except those in British North America:
 Price up to \$30, .50
 Over \$30, 1.00

Passage Ticket is among the rarest major types of stamped documents, with only **eleven examples recorded** to date. Normally tickets were surrendered to the purser of the vessel, presumably to prevent re-use, and systematically destroyed.



Occupied Confederacy EMU

April 1863 summons, **Union-occupied Pleasants County, Virginia**, stamped on reverse with matching **50¢ Original Process imperforate** canceled **May 30, 1863**.
 In **October 1862** the federal government incorporated **37 Virginia counties** into a **U.S. Internal Revenue collection district**, and commenced collecting all federal taxes. On **June 20, 1863**, these and 16 adjoining counties would be formed into the new state of **West Virginia**.



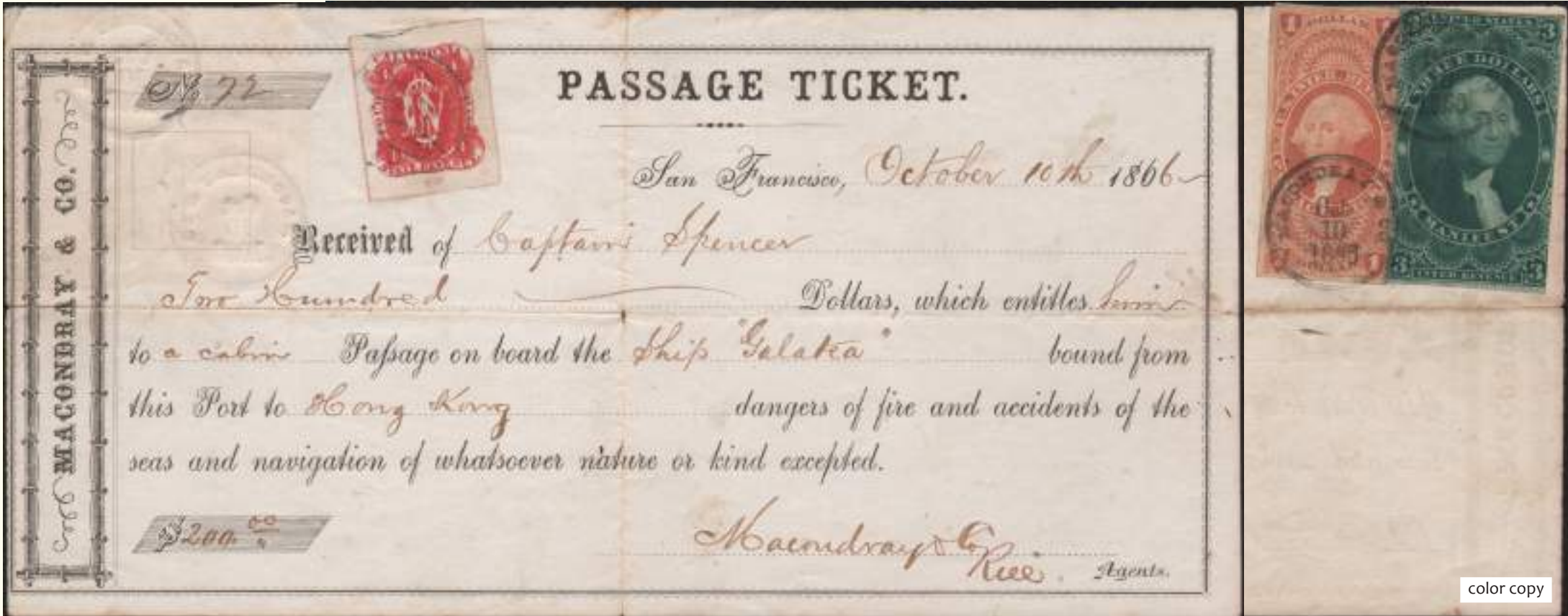
Sole Recorded Example of 1862 Rates

February 1863 receipt/ticket for cabin passage on steamship *Melita*, New York to Havana, price \$60, stamped with **\$1 Inland Exchange imperforate**. At bottom, "This receipt to be surrendered to the Purser when called for."
 (After August 1, 1864, the tax on a \$60 ticket would have been \$2.)

(Passage Ticket)
 1864. Price up to \$35, .50
 Over \$35, for each \$50 or fraction, 1.00

U.S. plus California

1866 ticket of **Macondray & Co.** for passage from **San Francisco to Hong Kong** on the *Galatea*, price \$200, correctly taxed at \$4 paid by \$3 **Manifest** & \$1 **Passage Ticket imperforates**.
 California \$4 red pays state tax for second class passage.
Sole recorded ticket bearing U.S. and California stamps



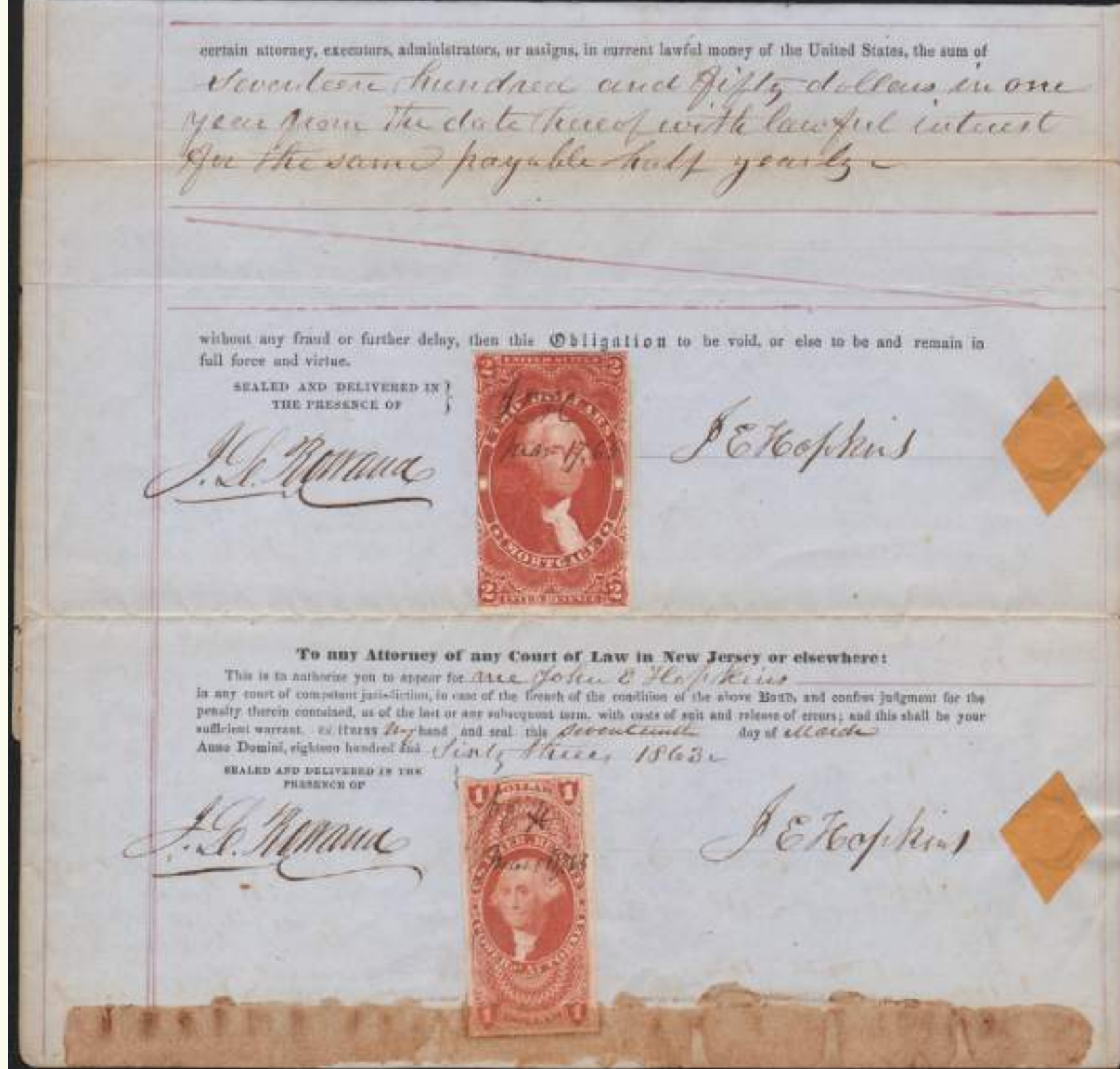
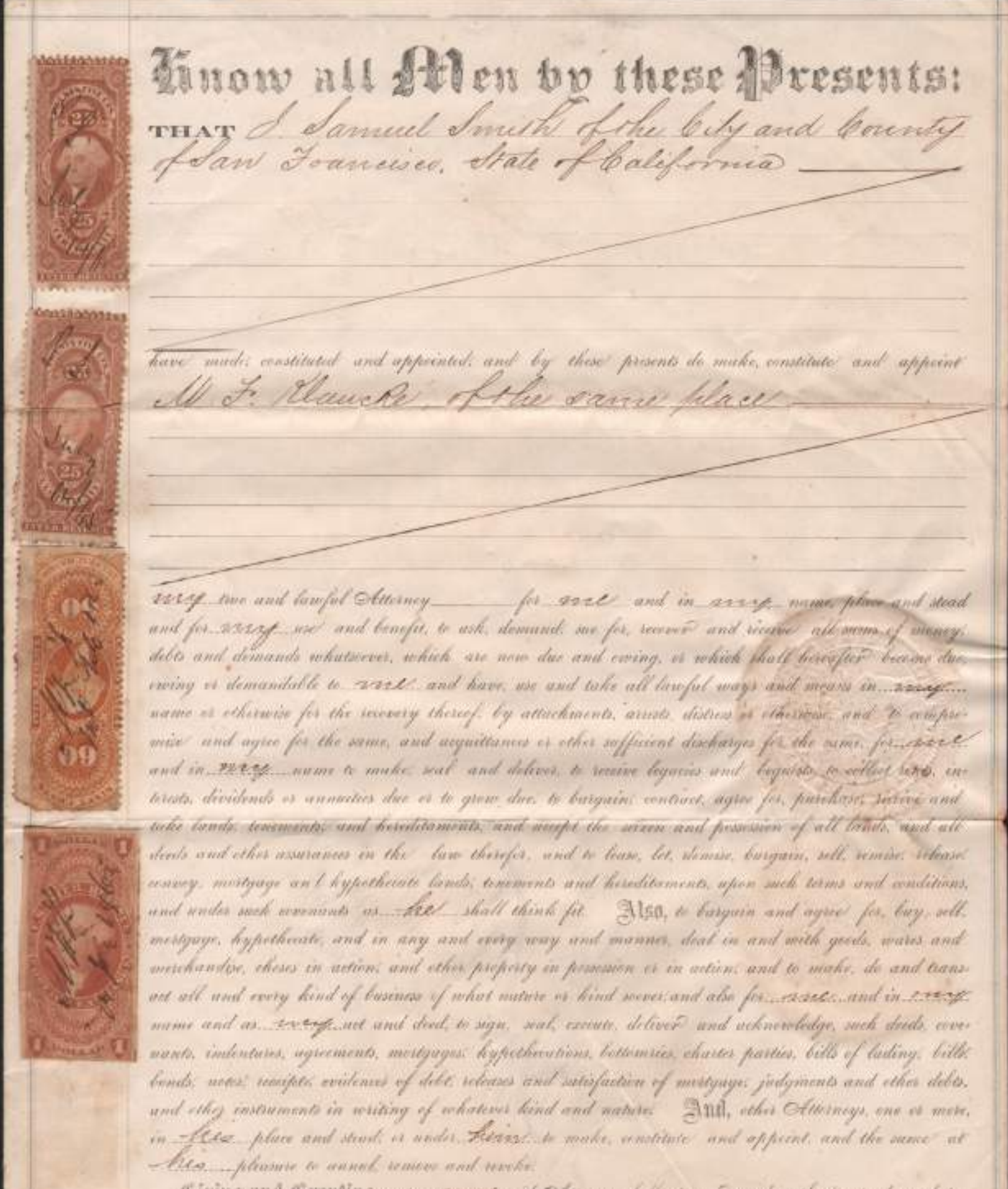
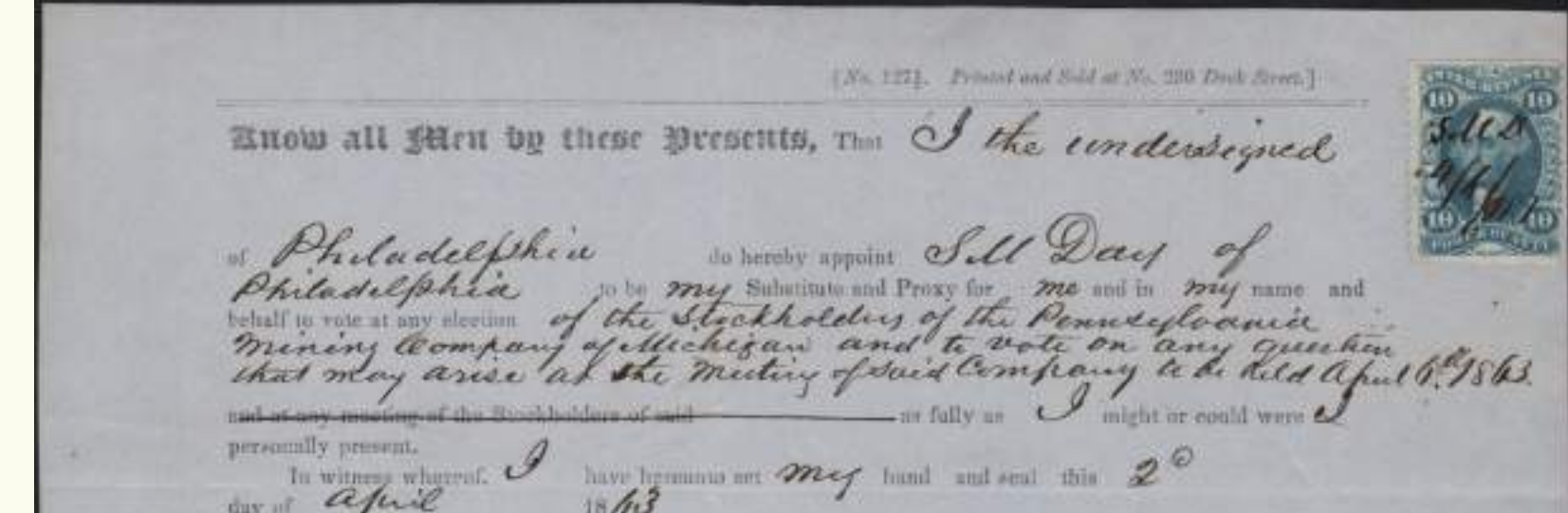
color copy



Unsurpassed Rarity and Beauty
 1867 ticket for first class passage of "Misses Seymour, Norcross, & Wharfield" in "Berths No. 45, 46, & Sofa II" on steamship Pennsylvania, New York to Liverpool, price \$270, correctly taxed at \$6. Ex-Lipson.
 Arguably the finest combination of beauty and rarity in the entire field of civil war era fiscal history

POWER OF ATTORNEY (1862/1864)

29. REAL ESTATE. To sell, rent, or lease real estate,	1.00	32. VOTING. To vote in election of officers of any incorporated company,	.10
30. RENT. To receive or collect rent,	.25	33. GENERAL. Power of attorney, other than above	1.00
31. STOCK. To sell or transfer stock, bonds, or scrip, or to collect interest or dividends thereon,	.25	1864: power of attorney, general, reduced to	.50



"Grand Slam" of All Five Power of Attorney Taxes?
 1865 San Francisco form conferring the power of attorney to collect rents, one of two recorded examples of the Power of Attorney, Rent 25¢ tax.
 Also conferred: the power to collect interest or dividends; to lease or sell lands; and numerous other powers, subject to the Stock Transfer, Real Estate, and General Power of Attorney taxes, of 25¢, \$1, and 50¢.
 A Voting proxy is not specifically mentioned, but its 10¢ tax was evidently paid, as \$2.10 in stamps were affixed, precisely the total of all five Power of Attorney taxes. The voting power was probably considered to have been included under the broad closing proviso to "perform all and every act and thing . . . whatsoever."
 Stamps affixed in two stages:
 • The two 25¢ are initialed "S. S.," presumably Samuel Smith, who executed the power and evidently believed the general Power of Attorney tax of 50¢ to be sufficient.
 • The 60¢ and \$1 are initialed "M F K," presumably M. F. Klauke, the appointed attorney, who must have realized more tax was due.
 Note the late Western use of "unfinished" part perforate 60¢ and imperforate \$1.

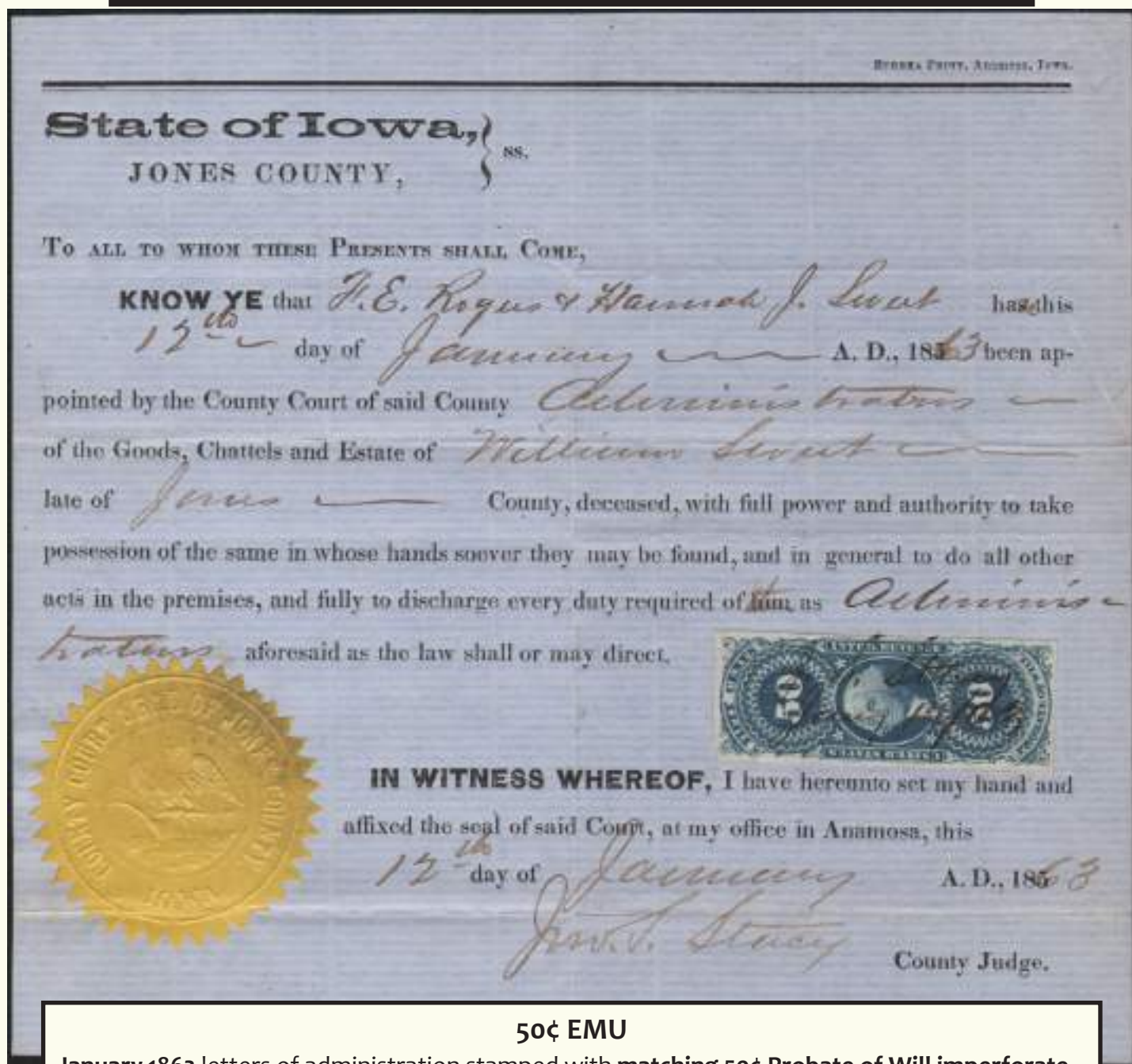
Sole Recorded U.S.-Brunswick Combination
 Above right, 1871 power of attorney, Brunswick, to party in New Orleans, to sell stock in Louisiana State Bank at New Orleans
 • Brunswick Notary tax paid by 1871 Notarial Acts 2½ gr
 • U.S. Power of Attorney for Stock Transfer 25¢ tax paid in New Orleans

Voting Proxy EMU
 Above top, April 1863 proxy to vote at stockholders' meeting stamped with matching 10¢ Power of Attorney part perforate
 Fewer than twenty EMUs recorded

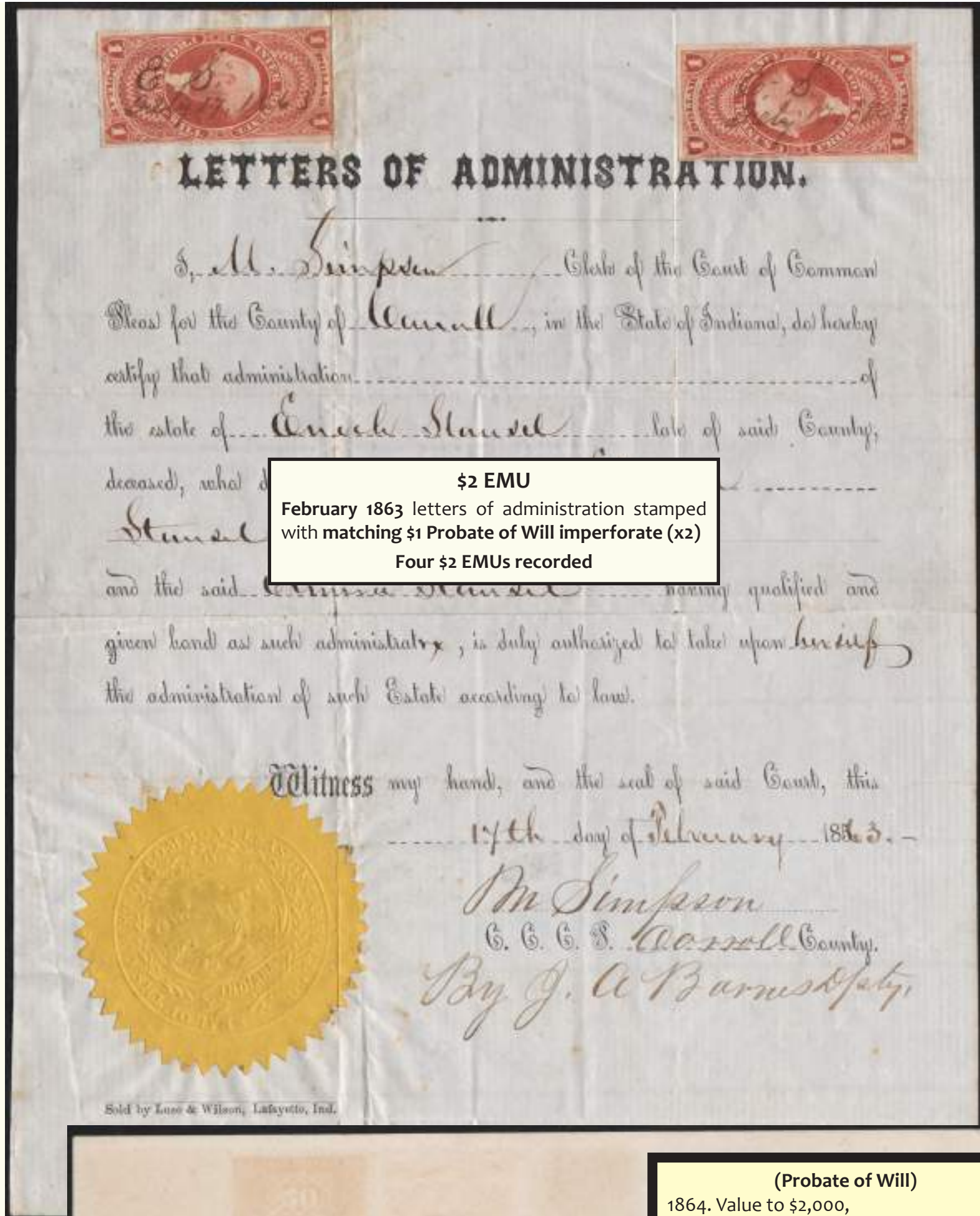
Mortgage plus Power of Attorney EMU Combination
 Above bottom, March 1863 mortgage for \$1,750 stamped with matching \$2 Mortgage imperforate. Appended warrant of attorney stamped with matching \$1 Power of Attorney imperforate, paying general Power of Attorney rate.
 Three EMUs recorded for general Power of Attorney rate, nine for Mortgage \$2 rate
Only a handful of combinations of EMUs of any types have been recorded.
 This one is the more extraordinary because the individual usages are so rare in their own right.

34. PROBATE OF WILL

1862. Probate of will, or letters of administration:		
Value of estate up to \$2,500, .50	Over \$50,000 to \$100,000,	10.00
Over \$2,500 to \$5,000, 1.00	Over \$100,000, for each	
Over \$5,000 to \$20,000, 2.00	additional \$50,000 or fraction,	10.00
Over \$20,000 to \$50,000, 5.00		



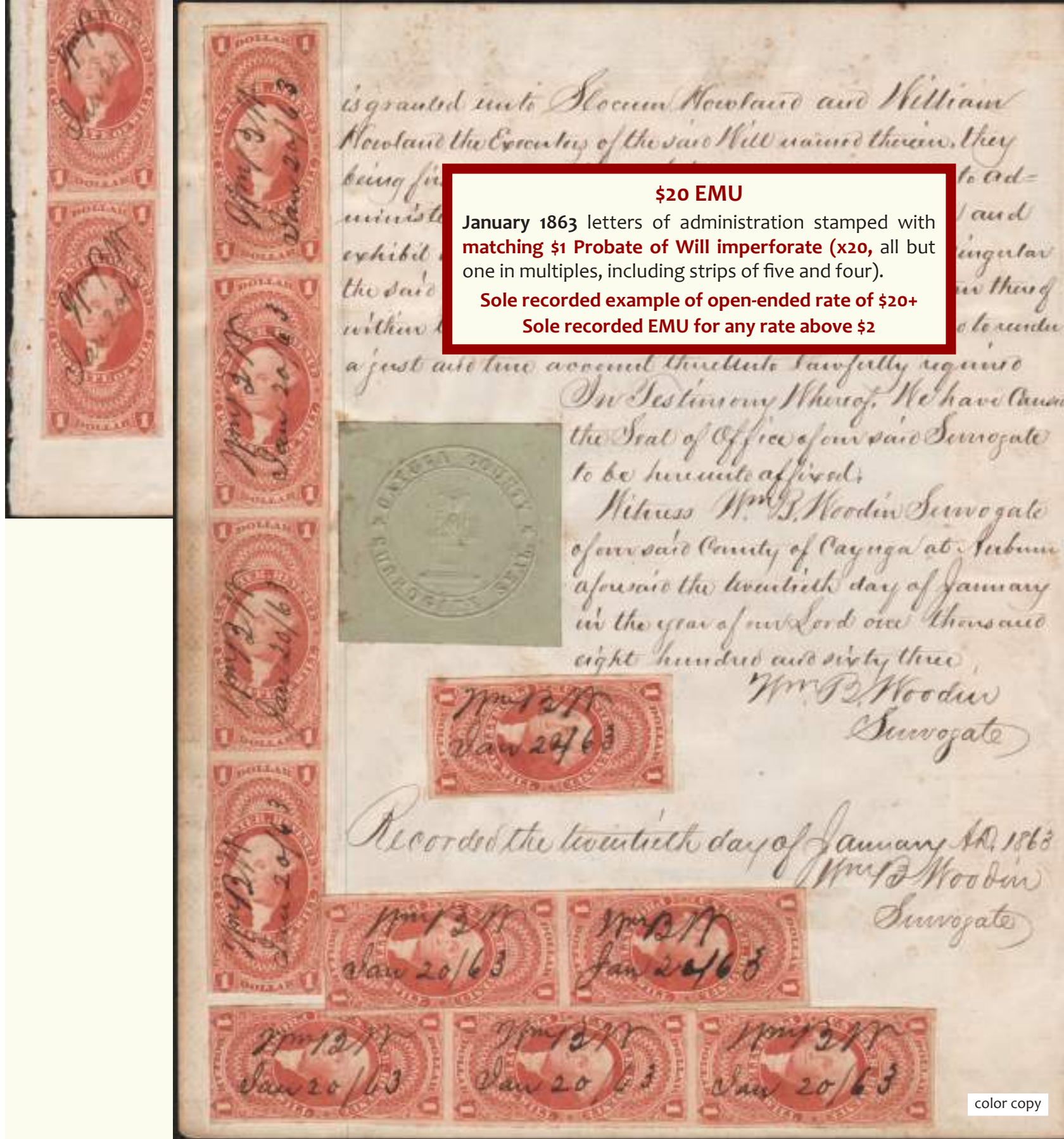
50¢ EMU
January 1863 letters of administration stamped with matching 50¢ Probate of Will imperforate
Fewer than twenty 50¢ EMUs recorded



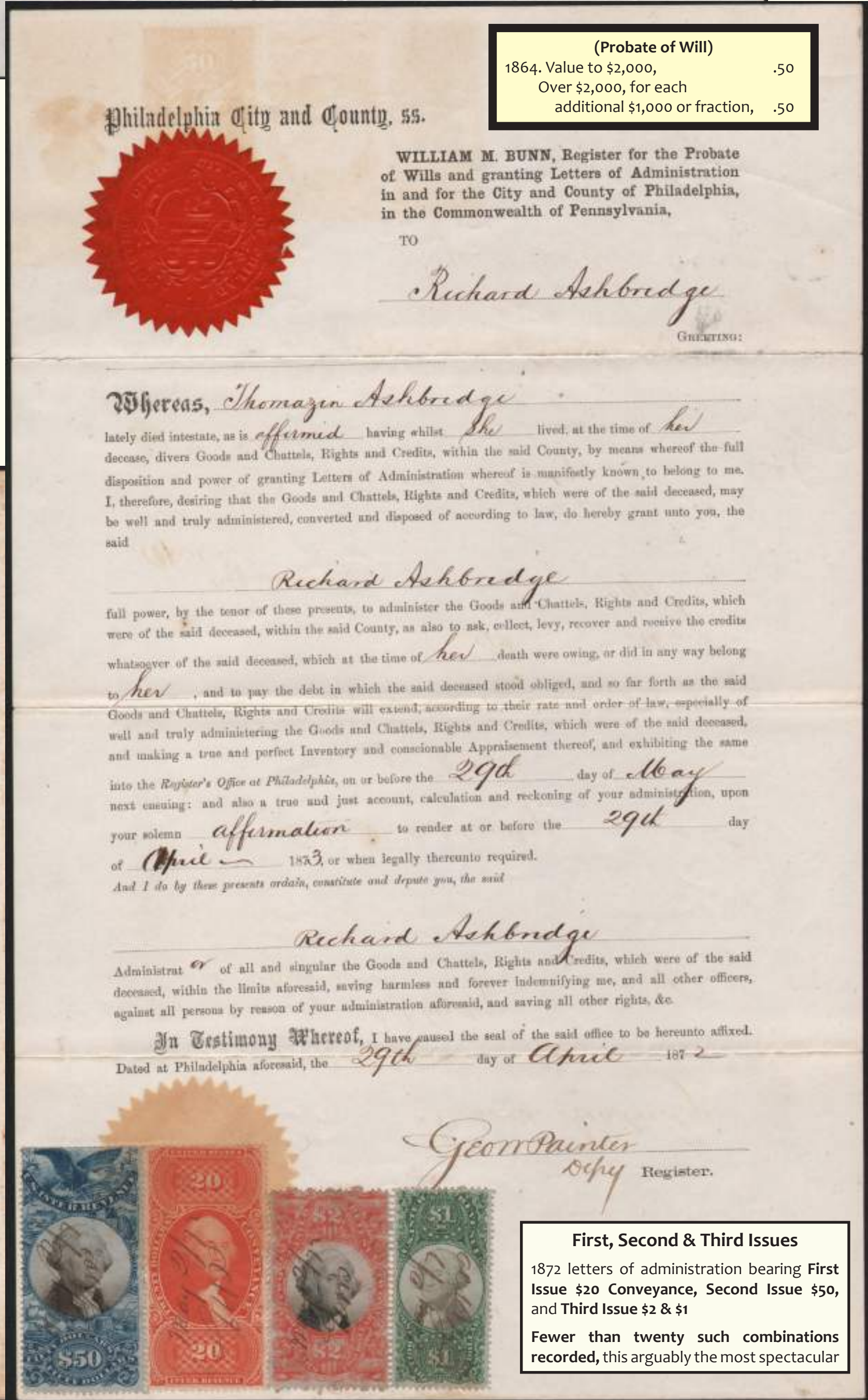
\$2 EMU
February 1863 letters of administration stamped with matching \$1 Probate of Will imperforate (x2)
Four \$2 EMUs recorded



\$20 EMU
January 1863 letters of administration stamped with matching \$1 Probate of Will imperforate (x20, all but one in multiples, including strips of five and four).
Sole recorded example of open-ended rate of \$20+
Sole recorded EMU for any rate above \$2

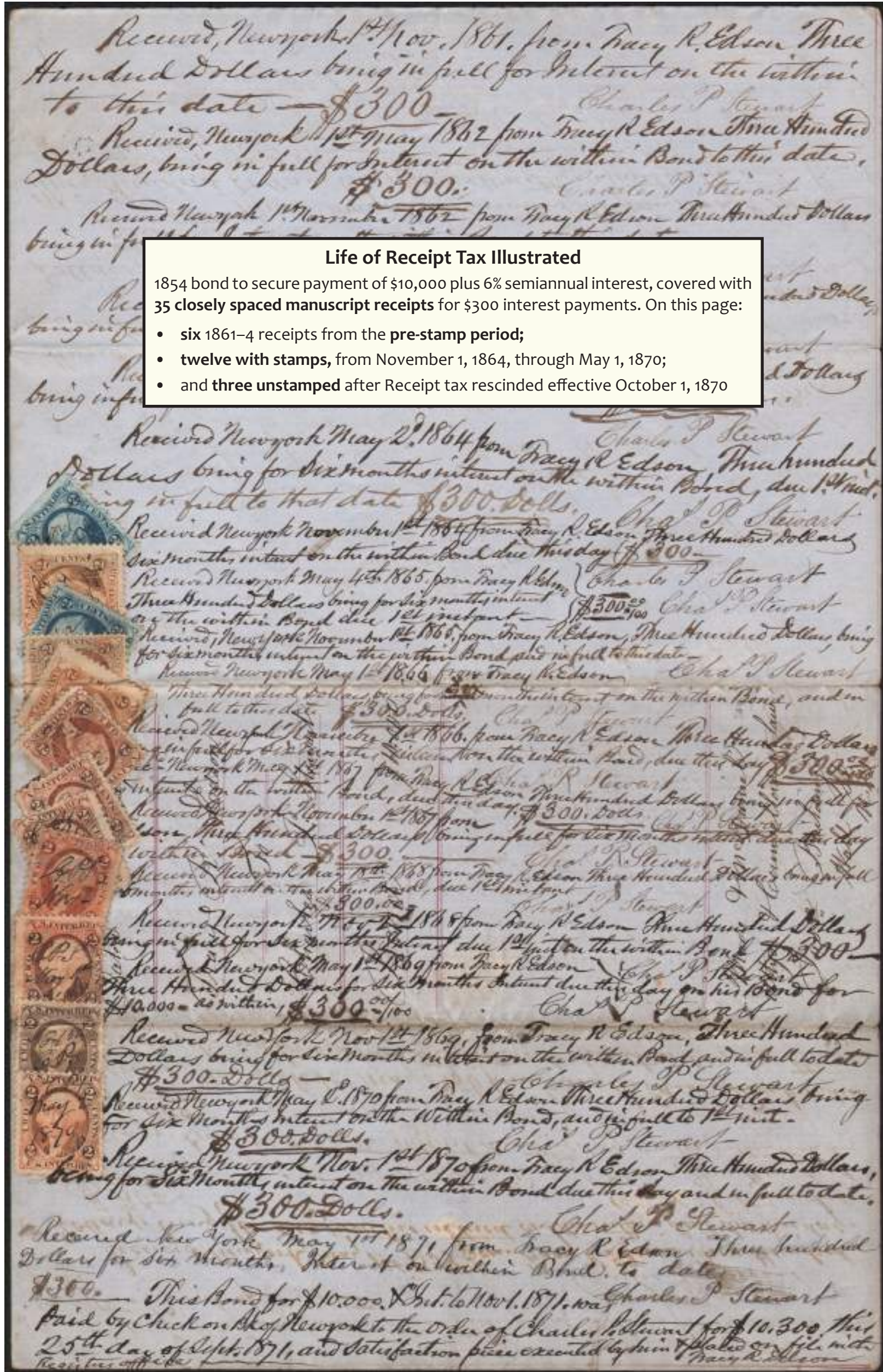


color copy



(Probate of Will)
1864. Value to \$2,000, .50
Over \$2,000, for each additional \$1,000 or fraction, .50

First, Second & Third Issues
1872 letters of administration bearing First Issue \$20 Conveyance, Second Issue \$50, and Third Issue \$2 & \$1
Fewer than twenty such combinations recorded, this arguably the most spectacular



Life of Receipt Tax Illustrated

1854 bond to secure payment of \$10,000 plus 6% semiannual interest, covered with 35 closely spaced manuscript receipts for \$300 interest payments. On this page:

- six 1861-4 receipts from the pre-stamp period;
- twelve with stamps, from November 1, 1864, through May 1, 1870;
- and three unstamped after Receipt tax rescinded effective October 1, 1870

36. RECEIPT
 1864. Receipt for payment of any sum of money, or for payment of any debt due, exceeding \$20, except for satisfaction of mortgage or court decree; or receipt for delivery of any property, .02
 Rescinded October 1, 1870



2¢ Bank Check on Green Paper
 Recorded on fewer than ten documents. Ex-Turner

37. TELEGRAPH
 1862. Charge for the first ten words up to .20, .01
 Over .20, .03
 Tax rescinded August 1, 1864



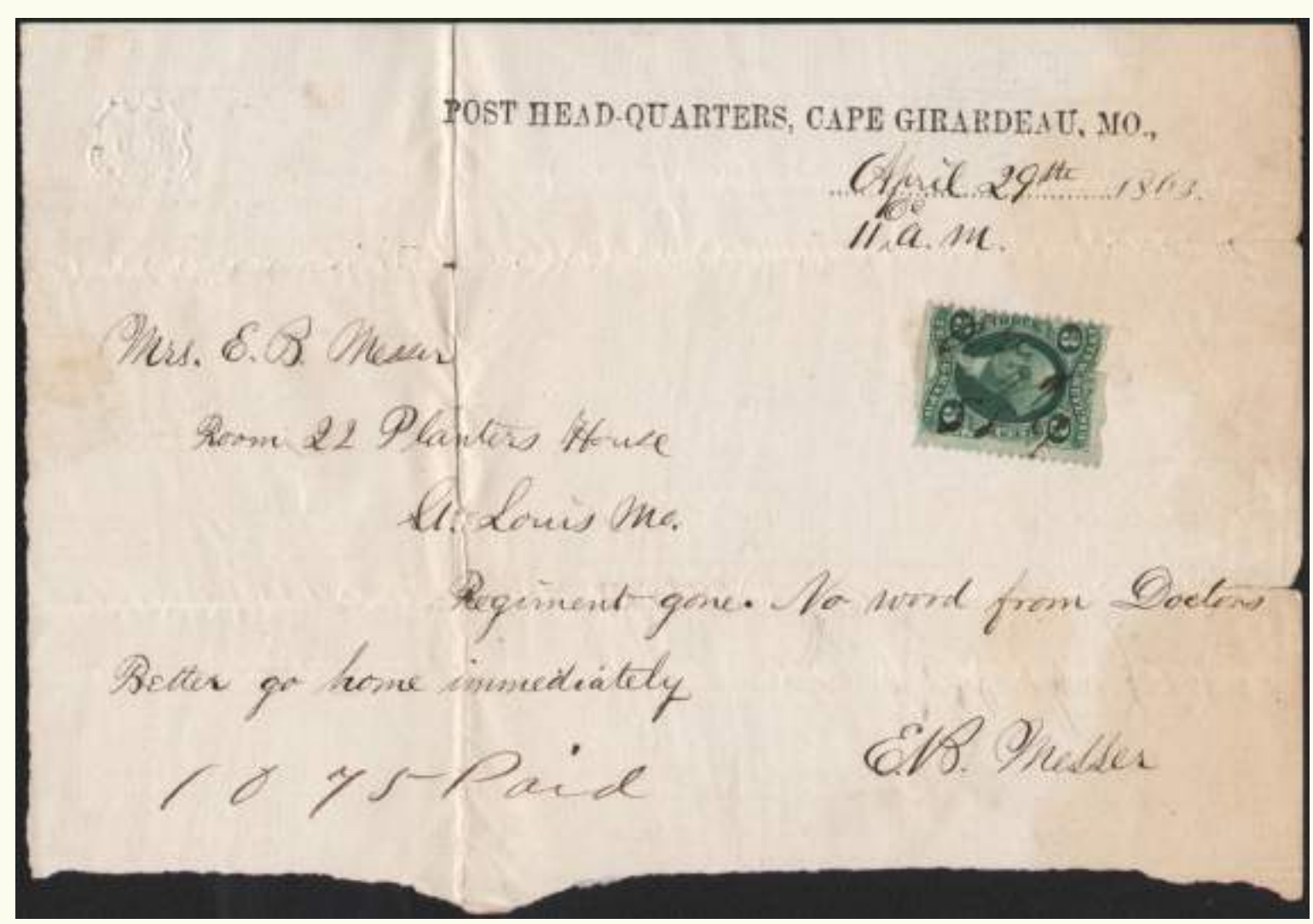
Telegraph 1¢ Rate

June 1863 telegraph despatch form from the "Millbury find" stamped with matching 1¢ Telegraph, the message to be sent to Milford, Massachusetts, a distance of about 15 miles. The notation "4 Coll 16" indicates a message of four words sent collect for 16 cents, which presumably included the stamp tax.

Eight examples of 1¢ rate recorded

Contemporary telegraph rate tables reveal few cases in which a message could be sent for 20 cents or less, all when the distance covered was only about 10-20 miles. One can thus expect a priori that examples of the 1¢ rate should be relatively rare, and this is borne out by observation.

The Telegraph tax was paid on the form presented or generated at the office of origin, before transmission. Theoretically, no examples should exist today: these office copies were meant to be retained briefly, then systematically destroyed. For many years only a handful of examples were known to collectors. Then in 1985 a find was made of nearly a hundred stamped messages from the American Telegraph Co. office at Millbury, Massachusetts. The non-Millbury messages remain one of the rarest usages of the 1862 schedule. Two are shown here.



Civilian Use of Military Telegraph

April 1863 despatch sent from telegraph office at Post Headquarters, Cape Girardeau, to St. Louis, with charge "10 [words] 75 Paid" and matching 3¢ Telegraph part perforate. Military use would have been exempt from telegraph fees and stamp tax. Ex-Wilson Born

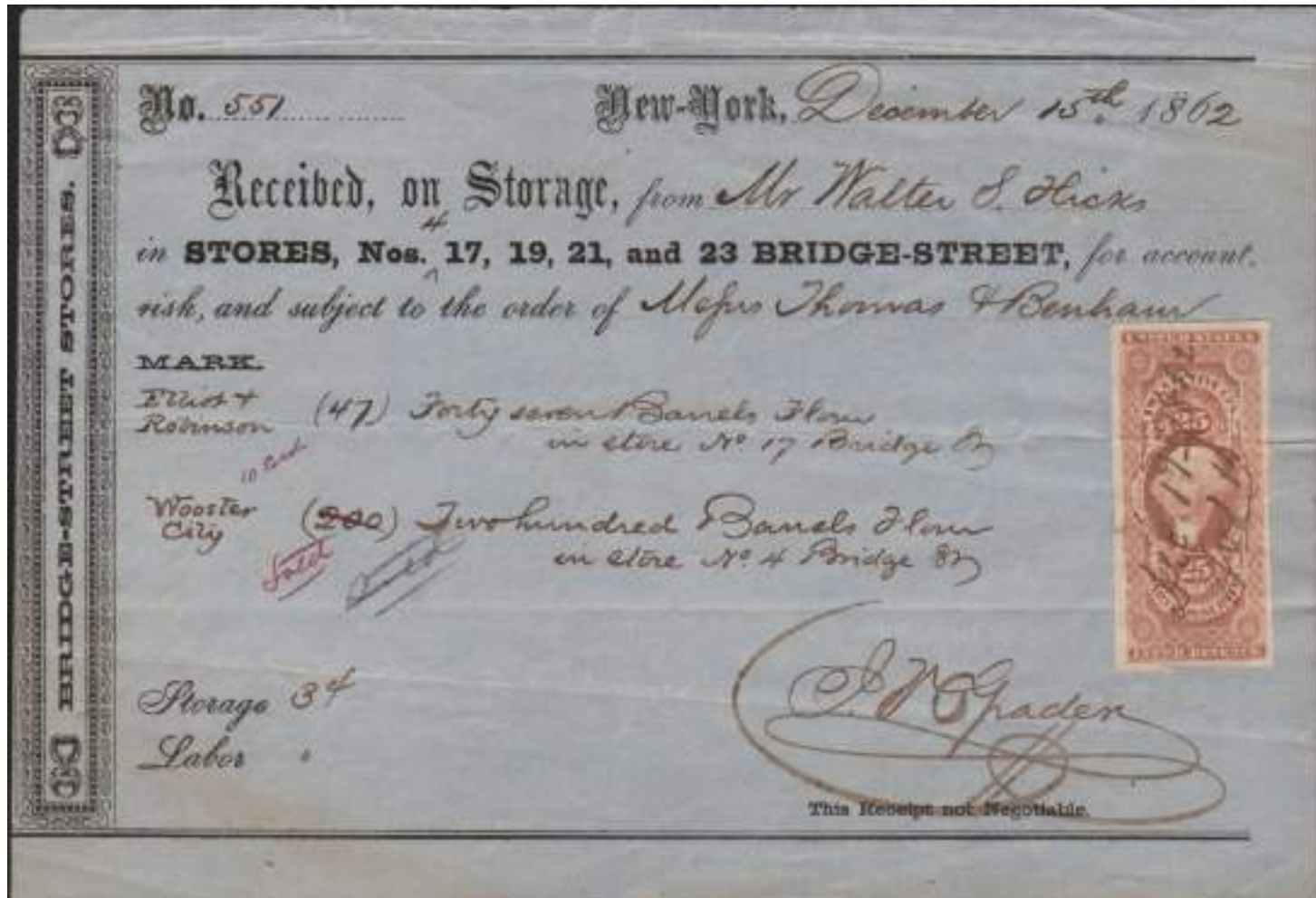


Unique Double Rate

Message dated December 27 (presumably 1862), to Cincinnati, "Don't ship whiskey last ordered blockade forbids it," with two copies of matching 3¢ Telegraph imperforate.

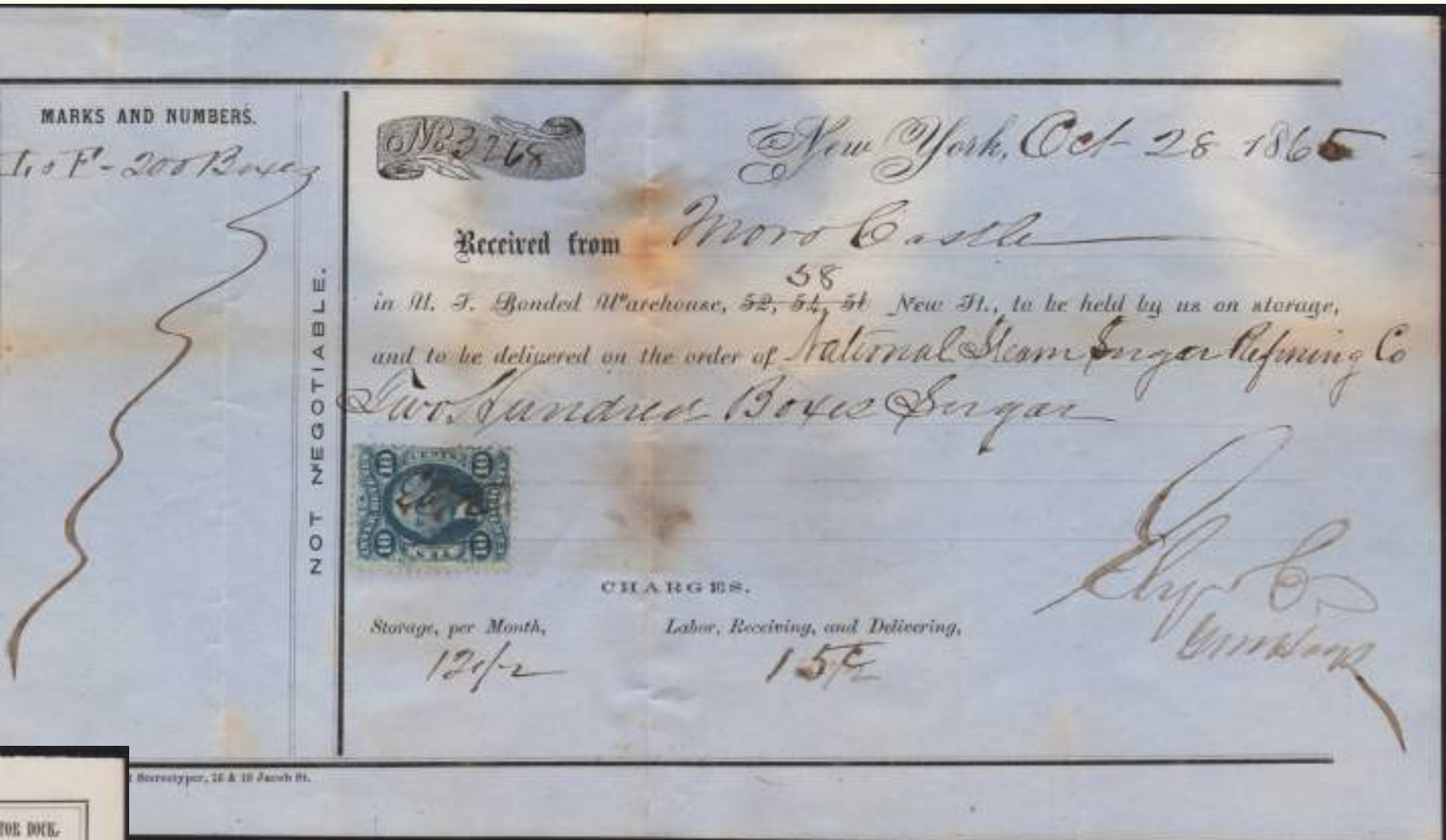
Sole recorded double-rate Telegraph usage

Probably the message was sent twice, which would explain the two stamps. The one at lower right is canceled "JHR 27," presumably affixed on the 27th. The other cancel is different, with numeral "29" suggesting it was applied two days later. The notation "30+60 pd" suggests two payments. A fascinating piece full of character and mystery.

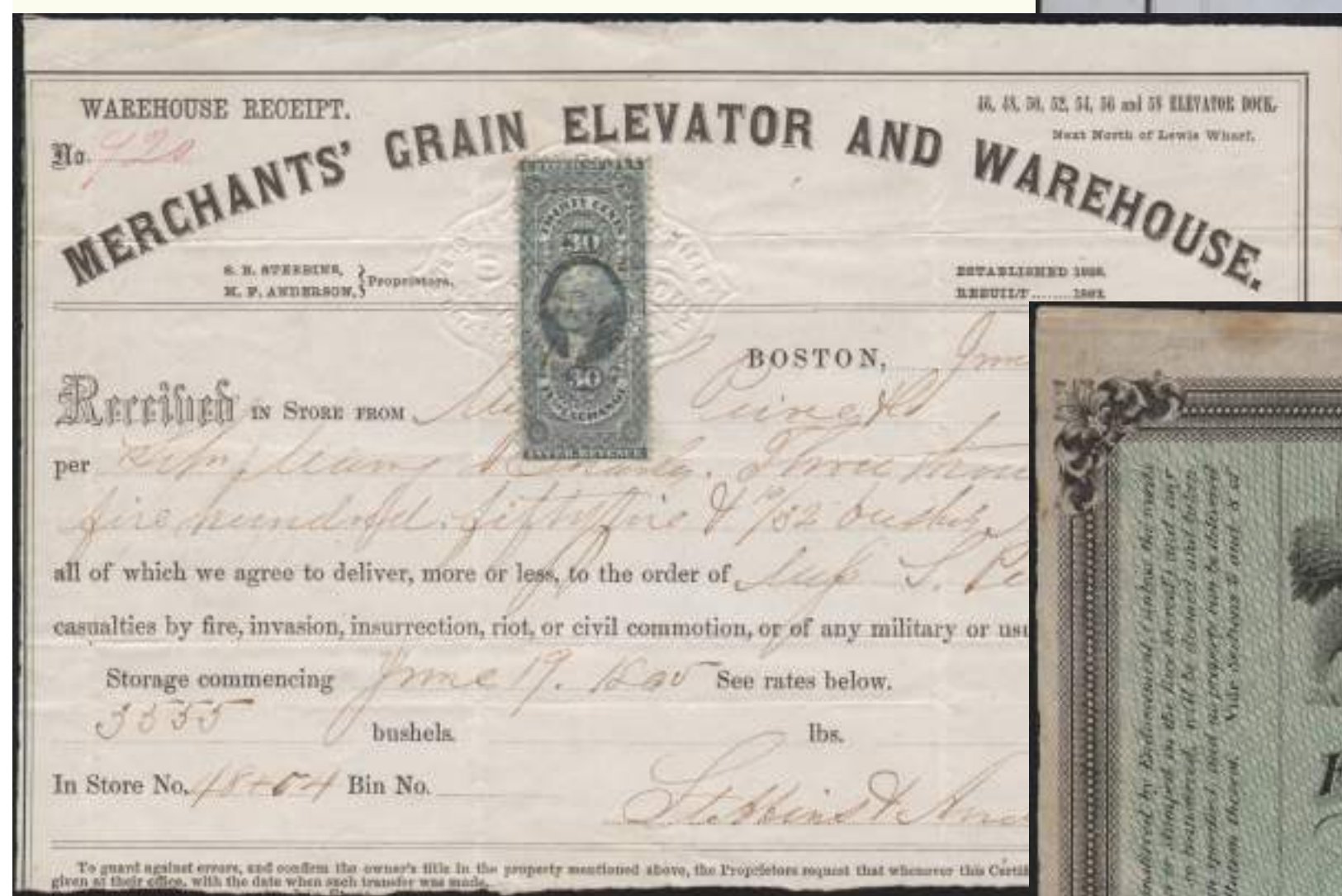


38. WAREHOUSE RECEIPT
 1862. Warehouse receipt for any property held in storage in any warehouse or yard, .25

(Warehouse Receipt)	
1864. Value of goods up to \$500,	.10
Over \$500 to \$1,000,	.20
Each additional \$1,000 or fraction,	.10
Value not ascertained,	.25
Tax rescinded August 1, 1866	



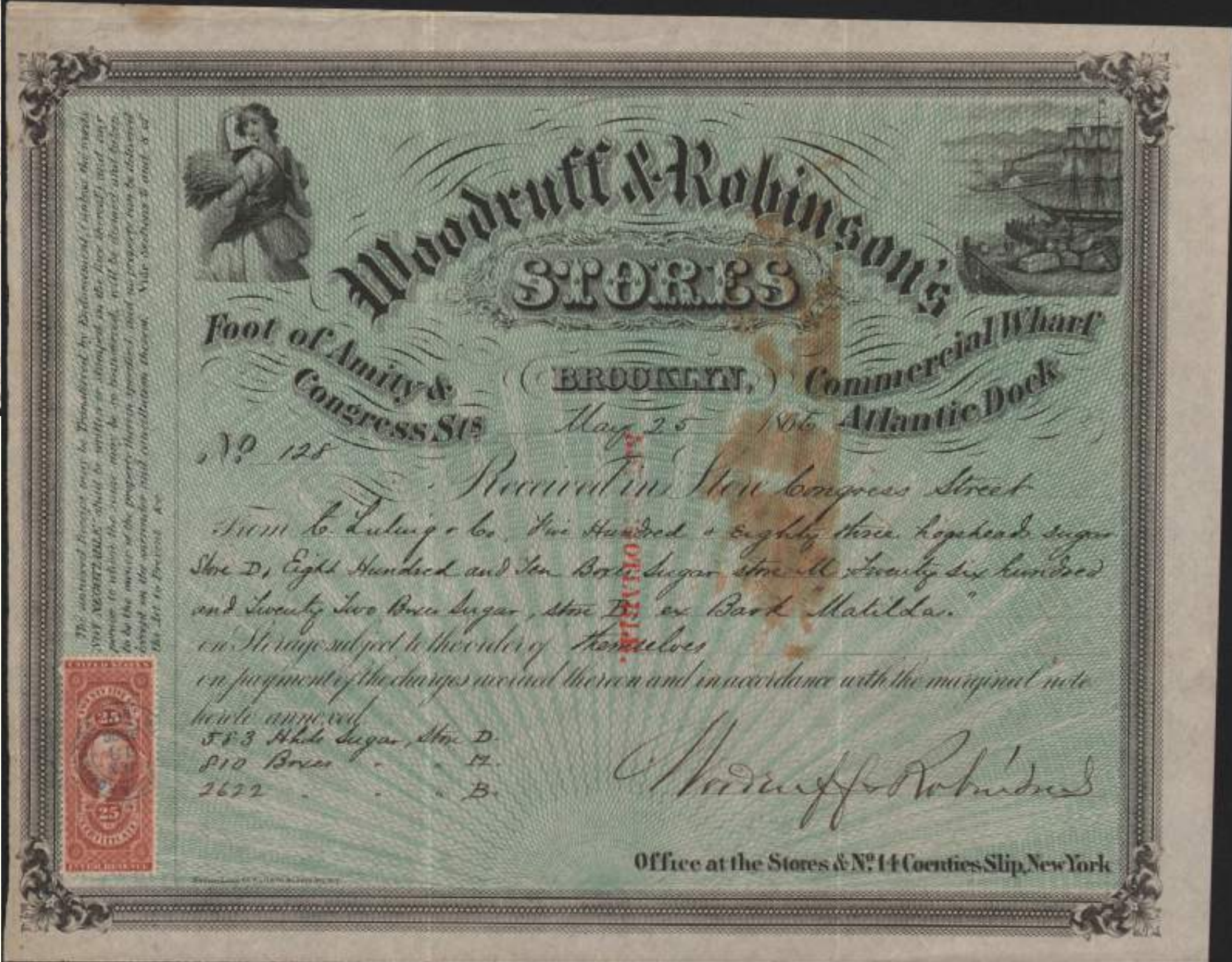
Warehouse Receipt ECU
 Warehouse receipt bearing matching 25¢ Warehouse Receipt imperforate cancelled December 19, 1862
 Twelve EMUs recorded
 One of two recorded obligatory matching usages, before December 25, 1862



Gaming the System (I): 1864 10¢ Rate
 October 1865 receipt, Ely & Co.'s Bonded Warehouse, for 200 boxes sugar ex Moro Castle
 Sole recorded example of 10¢ rate
 As usual, the value is not stated; Ely & Co. apparently took advantage of this to underpay the correct tax.

1864 30¢+ Rate
 June 1865 receipt for storage of 3,555 bushels of oats. Ex-Turner
 Two examples recorded of 1864 open-ended rate of 30¢ and above

Warehouse Receipt, Weigher's Return
 Warehouse Receipt and Weigher's Return are among the most elusive of the major taxed document types.
 Fewer than 20 warehouse receipts have been recorded, only five spread among the four 1864 rates.
 Only four weigher's returns recorded



39. WEAIGHER'S RETURN
 1864. Weight up to 5,000 pounds, .10
 Over 5,000 pounds, .25
 Tax rescinded August 1, 1866

Gaming the System (II): 1864 25¢ Rate
 May 1866 receipt for storage of 583 hogsheads and 3,432 boxes of Cuba sugar
 Three examples recorded of 1864 25¢ unascertained value rate
 Strictly speaking, values were never known precisely, thus were "unascertained." However, to pay the intended tax it was only necessary to know the value to the nearest \$1,000! Another receipt for 148 boxes of Cuba sugar shows \$1 tax; by extrapolation, \$30 or more was due on the one shown here! Because of widespread irregularities like this, the stamp tax was rescinded in 1866.



10¢ rate
 Above, August 1864, weight 4,830 lb, tax 10¢. Ex-Turner
 Two examples of 10¢ rate recorded

25¢ rate
 Right, August 1864, weight 16,744 lb, tax 25¢. Ex-Turner
 Two examples of 25¢ rate recorded

Epilog
 Upon repeal of the stamp taxes in 1883, some nine billion stamps had been sold, valued at \$215 million, by conservative estimate equivalent to about \$5 billion today.
 During the decade of comprehensive stamp taxes, 1862-1872, they were the fifth-leading source of internal revenue, behind only the duties on manufactures, incomes, spirits and tobacco.
 The documentary stamps featured in this exhibit accounted for 60% of this revenue. Of these, nearly two billion were 2¢ stamps, virtually all used on checks and receipts.
 The remaining 1¢ through \$500 documentaries accounted for 41% of monies but only a minuscule 3.8% of stamps! (Exhibitor's research)