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Northfield, MN 55057-0808

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS

2011 DUES NOTICE

- ☐ United States - \$15 for one year.
- ☐ Canada - \$20 (IN U.S. FUNDS) for one year.
- ☐ Outside U.S. and Canada - \$25 (IN U.S. FUNDS) for one year.
- ☐ Electronic membership only (any country) - \$13 for one year. No issues of The Check Collector will be mailed.

You may renew for as many additional years as you desire. Please indicate how many, if more than one: _____

- ☐ Donation _____ The ASCC is a 501(c)-3 non-profit organization - your donation may be tax deductible.

The Check Collector is sent via Periodicals Mail to U.S. addresses. To receive it by First Class Mail, add \$4 per year. A new membership card will be sent if you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your renewal.

Memberships can be paid through PayPal on the ASCC website: www.ascheckcollectors.org. Otherwise, please mail this form and a check in U.S. funds made out to the ASCC to:

ASCC, 473 East Elm, Sycamore, IL 60178

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ilrno2@netzero.com

How can you tell whether you need to pay dues for 2011? Look at the mailing label on the other side of this page. If it says "exp 2010" you *do* need to renew your membership. If it says anything else, you do *not* need to.

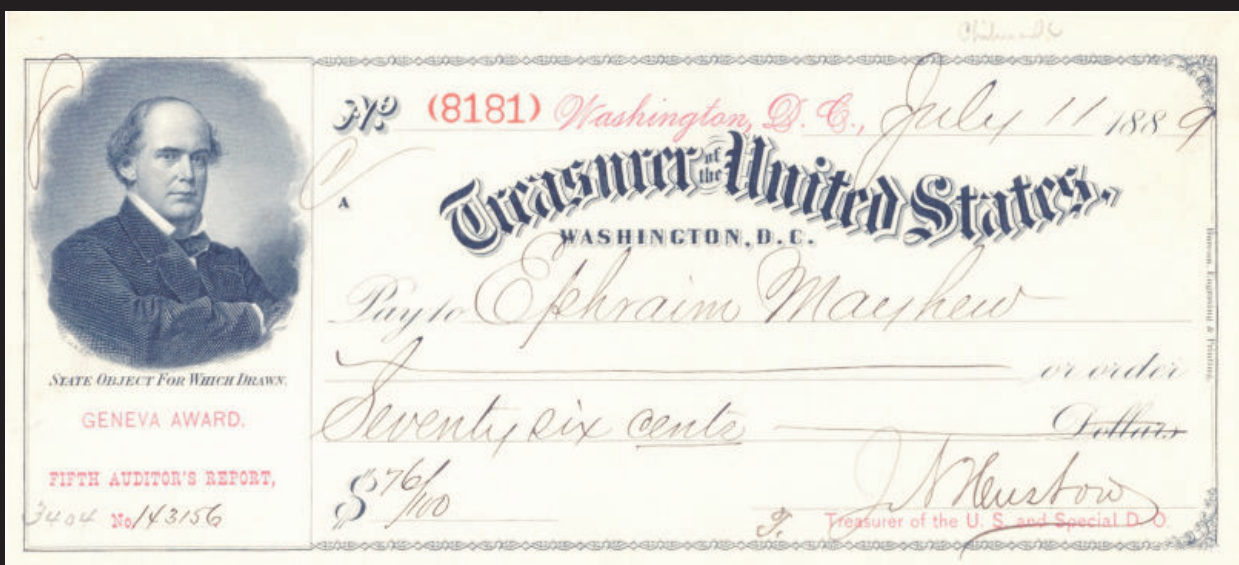
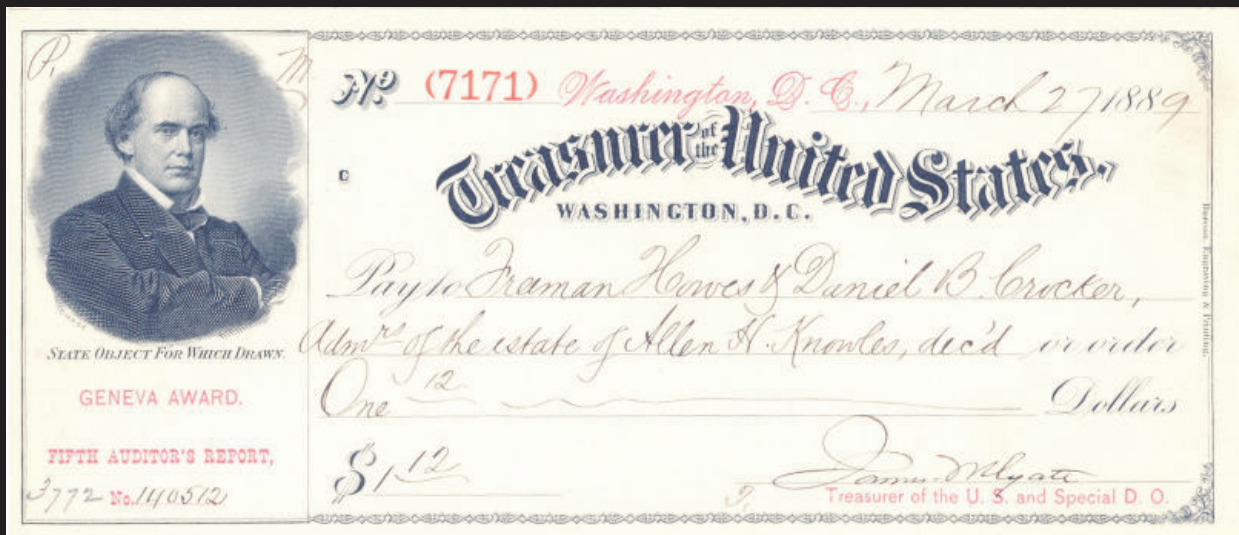
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

October - December 2010

The Journal of

Number 96

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.



Editor: Robert D. Hohertz
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Advertising Manager: All advertising should be channeled through the Treasurer, Dick Naven. Dick's address is on the following page.

The Check Collector (ISSN 1066-3061) is published quarterly by the American Society of Check Collectors, 473 East Elm, Sycamore, IL 60178-1934. Subscription only by membership, dues \$15 per year in the US (\$20 per year in Canada and Mexico, \$25 elsewhere). Periodicals postage paid at Northfield, MN 55057 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: **send address changes to:** *The Check Collector*, 473 East Elm, Sycamore, IL 60178-1934. All rights reserved.

To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents.

We retype all material. Illustrations require an **original** or a **good, clear, black and white copy, preferably as large as can be obtained**. A clear color copy is even better. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully. Any questions, ask the Editor!

To our advertisers:

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the July - September 2010 issue of *The Check Collector* is August 1.

The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby, and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads must be camera-ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

ASCC assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising. However, it will reprint that portion of an advertisement in which a typographical error appeared upon prompt notification of such error.

All advertisements and payments should be submitted to the Treasurer.

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DUES NOTICE on INSIDE FRONT MAILING COVER

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ascheckcollectors.org

On the cover, Geneva Award checks signed by two U.S. Treasurers: James W. Hyatt (May 24, 1887 - May 10, 1889) and J.N. Huston (May 11, 1889 - April 21, 1891.) Read about the reason for these checks in this issue.

Who was Pat Lyon? Find out in this issue. And some more bison...

Also, to save the ASCC from mailing costs, the dues notice is inside the mailing cover of this issue. **NO DUES NOTICE WILL BE MAILED.** If you inadvertently threw it away please let the Secretary know asap. Your membership is important to the Society.

Advertising rates are as follows:

One quarter page	\$25.00/issue
Business card size	\$15.00/issue
\$10 discount for four issues paid at once.	

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

A non-profit organization organized under Section 501-(c)-(3)

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Website: <http://ascinfo.com>**Dues:**

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Canada, Mexico: \$20 per year
Elsewhere: \$25 per year
US First Class Mail: \$20 per year

Security Printers Guide:

\$5 in looseleaf form - order from
William G. Kanowsky, address in
middle column.

Electronic form from Lyman Hensley
free via e-mail or send writable cd and
return postage. Address in first
column.

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- | | | |
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Pat Lyon at the Forge

by Charles Kemp

The portrait shown with this article was painted by John Neagle in 1827. The subject is a real blacksmith named Patrick Lyon. It was his own choice to pose standing proudly at his forge with the tools of his trade arrayed around him. Behind him you can see an apprentice and in the background is a large building with a cupola. The building is there for a reason; it is the Walnut Street Prison and the blacksmith had once been unjustly imprisoned within its walls. The story of Pat Lyon shows that even in a country which proclaims that all men are created equal, class can make a difference.

Lyon's story begins when he was born in London in 1769. It was customary in those days for youths to apprentice at an early age to a craftsman who would teach them a trade. Thus, at age eleven Pat was bound out to a blacksmith for the eight-year apprenticeship required for admission to the Ironmongers Guild.

After successfully completing his training, he was made a Master smith in 1793. Shortly afterward he decided to emigrate to Philadelphia. The city was then the largest in the young country of America and served as both the state and national capitol. There he quickly built a reputation as a highly skilled tradesman. He came to be regarded as the foremost locksmith in the city and he also built hand-pump fire engines that were considered among the finest in the country.

Fate and a combination of events, however, were to bring him from the heights of his trade to poverty and disgrace. In July 1798, Philadelphia was suffering one of its periodic epidemics of yellow fever. Lyon had already lost his wife and daughter to it and was preparing to join the masses fleeing the city for the more healthful countryside.

At that time, the officers of the Bank of Pennsylvania, which was the largest bank in the United States under state charter, were preparing to move to new quarters in Carpenter Hall. They requested that Lyon remain in the city long enough to refit the iron doors from their old vault to the new one. Patrick agreed, and only after completing the job in early August did he leave with his apprentice for a friend's home in Delaware.

Shortly after his departure the bank vault was robbed of \$162,000, one of the largest robberies in Philadelphia's history. Since it appeared to be an inside job with no sign of forced entry, suspicion fell at once on Lyon. His apprentice had fallen victim to the fever and died enroute, but Lyon had arrived safely at his friend's home. As soon as he learned that he was being sought regarding the crime, he traveled back to Philadelphia, mostly on foot as the epidemic had disrupted stage travel.

Upon turning himself in he was subjected to questioning by the bankers, magistrates and constables. He told his story in a straightforward manner, but this only served to convince them that he was guilty. Their supposed logic was that he was known to be a "clever, ingenious man" and his convincing story must therefore be untrue.

Although there were no charges made against Lyon and he had undeniable proof of his presence elsewhere at the time of the robbery, he was confined to the Walnut Street Prison under the immense bond of \$150,000. It came down to the word of the gentleman bankers over that of an honest workman. Lyon languished in prison for more than two months until the real culprits were found to be the bank's porter and an accomplice who were foolish enough to deposit conspicuously large sums in the very bank that they had robbed.

The porter died of the fever but the accomplice, upon being questioned about his sudden wealth, made a full confession and most of the money was recovered. Despite that and the fact that a grand jury had refused to indict him for lack of evidence, Lyon was held for an additional month before finally being released. Even then the bank's officers were not content and conducted a whispering campaign against him, which cost him his customers. Their motive seemed to be that they did not like being shown up by a member of the working class.



Fig. 1) John Neagle's life-size (68" x 93") painting of "Pat Lyon at the Forge" is the earliest known portrait depicting the subject at work. Today it is displayed at the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts.



Fig. 2) This draft on the Farmers and Mechanic's National Bank features the central portion of the painting. It has the imprint of Sage & Sons, Buffalo, N.Y. and is printed in black with the correspondent bank name in red. The use of this portrait nearly fifty years after his vindication indicates how well known his case had been.

Without commissions, Lyon was forced to live for the next seven years at times only by the charity of friends. Finally, he wrote a book about his experience. He described his life in the 4' x 12' cell in which he was confined "I read until I was tired and walked until I was weary". This book brought his case to the attention of the public, as well as some prominent attorneys who agreed to take up his cause and, in 1805, he brought suit against the bank's president, James Fox, and others for malicious persecution. In one of the most celebrated trials of the period, he was ultimately awarded \$9,000 in damages from the bank for its willful destruction of his character.

The trial was widely hailed as a class victory for the common man over the powerful establishment and a reaffirmation of the American belief in justice for all. Patrick Lyon must have felt that way himself because he instructed Neagle to "Paint me at work at my anvil, with my sleeves rolled up and a leathern apron on. I do not desire to be represented as what I am not. Do not paint me as a gentleman." After all that supposed gentlemen had done to him, it is no wonder that he did not want to be portrayed as one.

Patrick Lyon died in 1829, only a few years after he was painted.

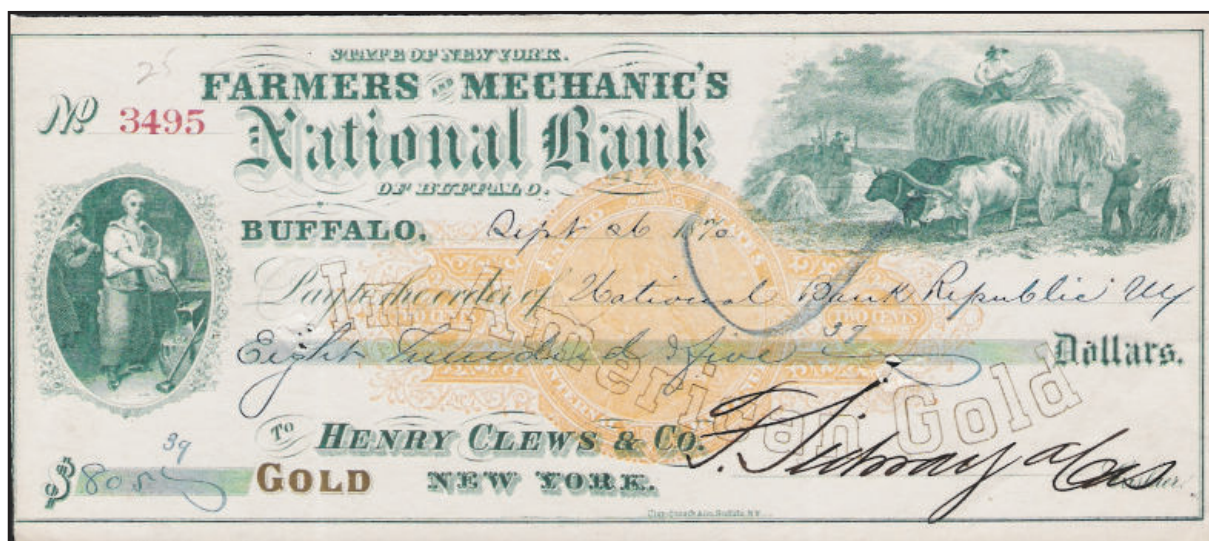


Fig. 3) The imprint of this draft, printed in green, is Clay, Cusack & Co., Buffalo, N.Y. and appears to have been printed from the same plate but with "Gold" and "In American Gold" added in gold ink, and a different correspondent bank.

The Treasury Drafts and Documents from The Geneva Award

by Lawrence D. Schuffman, MSFS & Theodore B. Robinson, BS, MS, VMD
adapted from the July, 2010 Bank Note Reporter, by permission of the authors

Over the past several years the cry of “*blame it on the attorneys*” has become quite prevalent in our society. Your authors must admit that they too have been caught saying this as well.

However, things were not always this way. If not for a small group of attorneys a little over a century ago, we may not have had such institutions as The Hague, The League of Nations, The United Nations and a recent discovery of legal and numismatic importance...

U.S. Treasury Drafts of the Geneva Award.

Summary:

During the American Civil War of 1861-1865, the Union Navy instituted a blockade around the Confederate ports to prevent raw material, such as cotton, to be shipped in exchange for goods necessary for the Southern states. Responding to this act, the Confederacy turned to Great Britain, considered a neutral power during the conflict, to build cruisers which were funded by the Confederacy. Once built, the ships were sailed to and outfitted with cannon and other armaments by other nations who were sympathetic to the Southerners' cause, as well as their gold.

These ships became known as the Confederate Commerce Raiders. They were the CSS Florida, the CSS Shenandoah and the most lethal and famous, the CSS Alabama, which destroyed 68 Union/Merchant Marine ships.

Once the “War Between the States” was over, the maritime grievances continued to mount against Great Britain for their actions to support the Confederacy during the war. These ships were responsible for increased insurance premiums, forcing many ship owners to increase their risk of loss because they could not afford the premiums to insure their goods or ships. Ultimately, many had to sell their ships to foreigners to cover losses incurred.

Early in the war, the official United States response to the British support of the Confederacy was a damages claim totaling \$19,021,000 (1860's Dollars). Escalating accusations, such as Britain's support of the Confederacy extended the war to twice as long as it could have been, ratcheted up the total bill to \$2.1 billion. Sanity prevailed but not until 1872 when the final award was not just \$15.5 million in gold, but an apology from Great Britain and additional maritime laws.

Historical Background

Once the Civil War had ended, the United States sought restitution from Great Britain in spite of the fact that Britain declared its neutrality. The United States argued several points among which were:

1. These cruisers were built in Great Britain and then sailed to other ports where they were retrofitted as War Ships.
2. Britain allowed Confederate cruisers bent on destroying and or seizing United States commerce to come and go at will within their shores and at several times during the war these cruisers were manned by British officers and or sailors.
3. These Confederate cruisers caused millions of dollars of damage and loss of life through their attacks on the Unions Merchant Marine fleet.

The Treaty of Washington in 1871 signed by both Great Britain and the United States provided for an international arbitration tribunal to hear both sides. This was the first time that two sovereign nations met to settle a dispute in this manner.

The case for the United States was argued by former Assistant Secretary of State Bancroft Davis, along with lawyers Caleb Cushing, William Evarts and Morrison Waite who were counseled by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish and Secretary of the Treasury George Boutwell. The Tribunal consisted of Charles Francis Adams, who represented the U.S., Chief Justice Sir Alexander Cockburn of Great Britain and the following arbitrators: Baron D' Itajuba, (Brazil), Count Frederick Sclopis, (Italy) and Jacob Staempfli, (Switzerland).

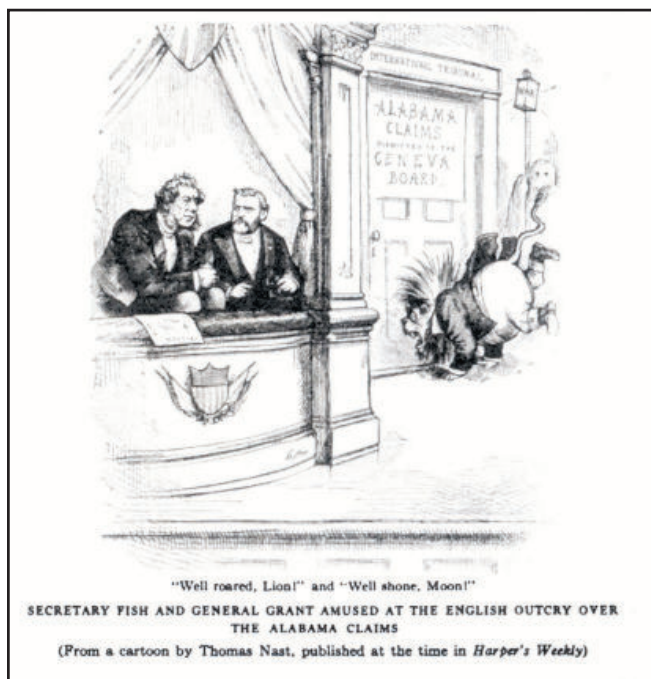


SALLE DES CONFÉRENCES, HOTEL DE VILLE, WHERE THE GENEVA TRIBUNAL WAS HELD
(From a sketch published in *Harper's Weekly*, May 18, 1872)

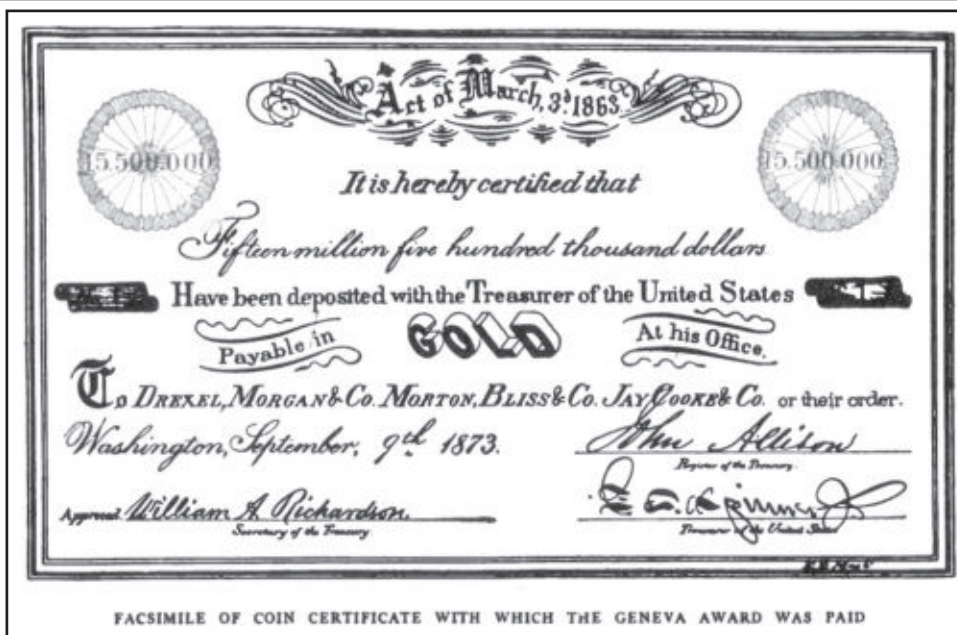
The Tribunal found for the United States and Great Britain agreed to pay the U.S. \$15,500,000 in gold to cover the predatory attack and loss of life and property brought on by the cruisers *Alabama*, *Florida* and *Shenandoah*.

The negotiations took place at Suitland, businessman Samuel Taylor Suit 's personal estate and the tribunal session took place in a reception room of the Town Hall in Geneva. This is now named *salle de l'Alabama*.

The final award of \$15,500,000 in gold formed part of the Treaty of Washington and was paid out in 1872.

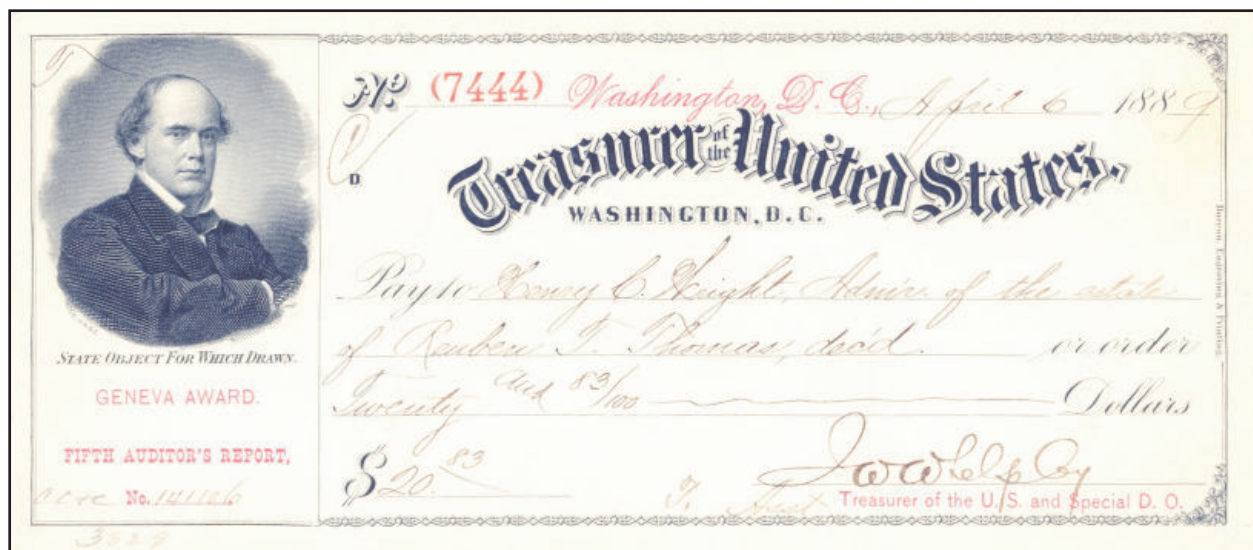


Once the award was received by the U.S. Treasury (a facsimile of the draft that consummated the transfer is shown), claimants petitioned Congress to share in the award received in Geneva and a Court of Commissioners of *Alabama Claims* was established in Washington, DC to administer the myriad of claims. Hence the term: *Geneva Award*.



The drafts all contain this reference: *Geneva Award* and are hand signed by the U. S. Treasurer of the period:

James W. Hyatt (May 24, 1887 – May 10, 1889), *J. N. Huston* (May 11, 1889- April 21, 1891), as well as Assistant Treasury Secretary *J.W. Whelpley*, who served from 1890 -1893.

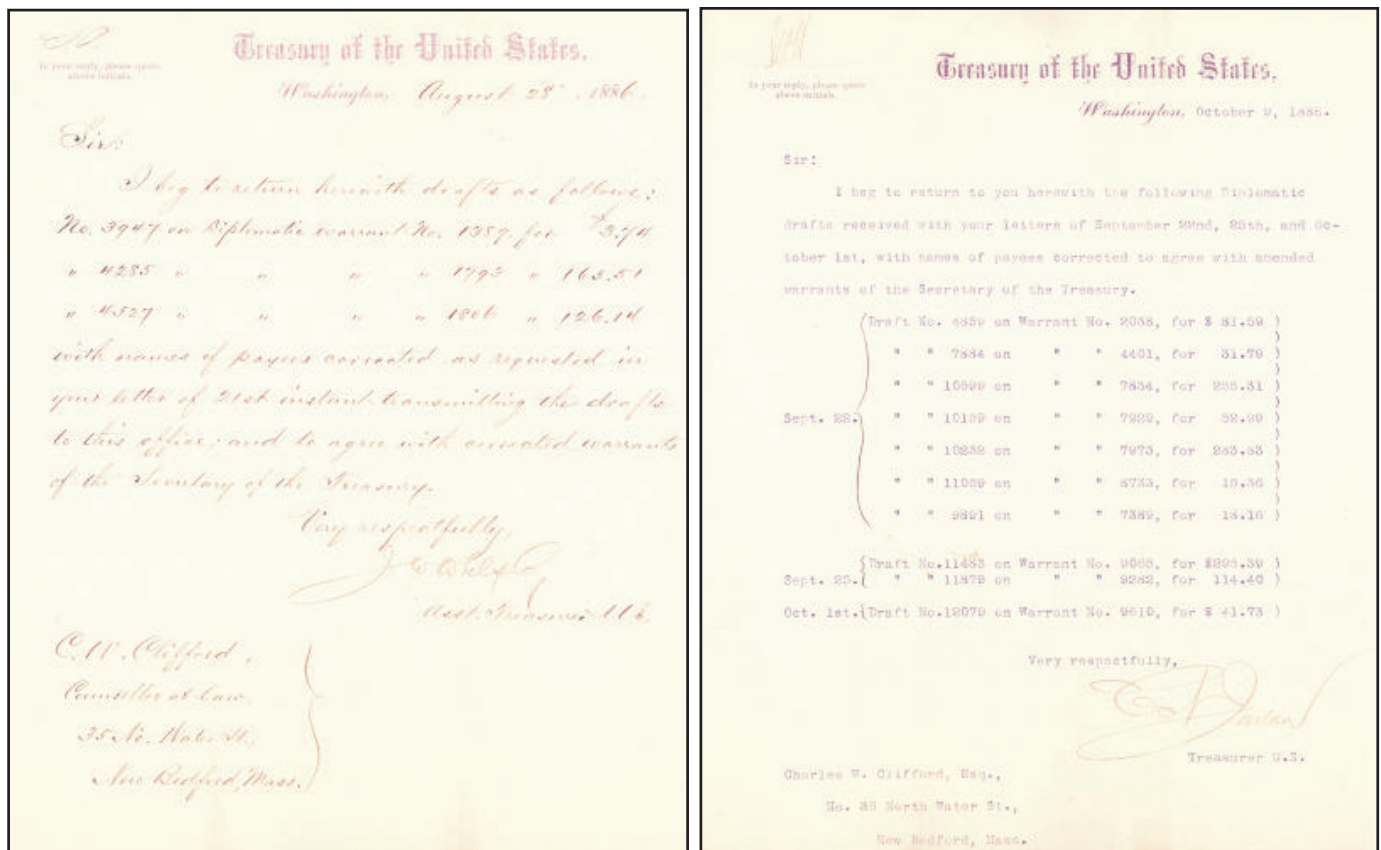


Draft signed by J.W. Whelpley. See the cover for those signed by Hyatt and Huston.

There are also letters obtained by your authors that were written and signed by the U.S. Treasurers of the period: *Conrad N. Jordan*, *James W. Hyatt* and *J. N. Huston*, whose facsimile signatures also appear on the \$1 Silver Certificate 1886 Series "Martha" Notes.

Many of the letters refer to: William W. Crapo, Esquire, (pronounced CRAY-PO). Crapo, a lawyer and three term U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, was one of a group of East Coast lawyers who worked tirelessly to secure reparations for a group of whalers from New England who lost family members and property due to the acts of the Confederate "Raiders".

It is anyone's guess, but your authors feel that the reason that these checks survived so many years in a rare UNCANCELLED state of preservation, is that once the funds were allocated by the Treasury Department and set to be paid out, such a period of time had elapsed that the recipients were never found.

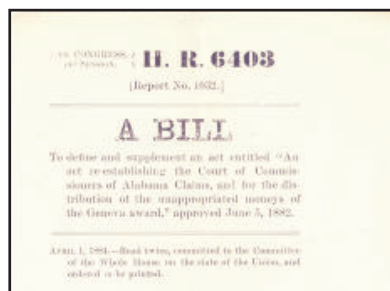


Left, a letter written and signed by Assistant Treasury Secretary Whelpley delinquent disbursement of Treasury draft, to Attorney C.W. Clifford. Clifford was a law partner of Crapo.

Right, letter written by U.S. Treasurer Conrad Jordan, to Attorney C.W. Clifford, again delinquent draft disbursement.

Final Legacy

Our legacy, brought about by these negotiations between two sovereign nations, led to a court of international arbitration. This use of arbitration launched a movement to codify public international law with hopes for finding peaceful solutions to international disputes. The arbitration of the *Alabama* claims was thus a precursor to The Hague Convention, the League of Nations, the World Court, and what we know today as the United Nations.



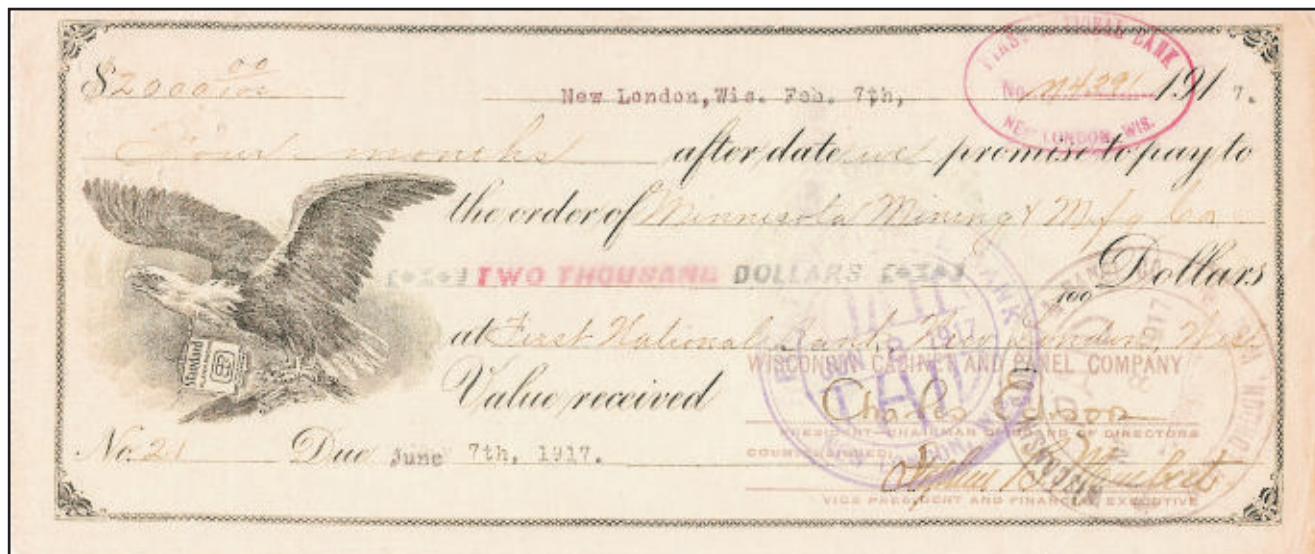
Announcement of House of Representatives Bill H.R. 6403 that paved the way for the "act of Congress" that granted monies to claimants from the Geneva Award years earlier.

References:

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- Nevins, Allan. *Hamilton Fish*. New York: Ungar, 1957.
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- Wilson, Woodrow Ph.D., Litt.D., LL.D. President of the United States *A History of the American People* Volume #9 pgs 290-304 Harper & Brothers, New York & London, 1918

Some Interesting Things are Still to be Found

by Jim Adams



The Wisconsin Cabinet & Panel Company made cabinets for the Edison Phonograph Company. Thomas Edison liked the quality of their work so much that he bought the company and installed his son Charles as President and Chairman of the Board. This promissory note was signed by Charles in 1917.

During World War I Charles directed the manufacturing of war materials, and later became Secretary of the Navy (1939-40) and then Governor of New Jersey (1941-44). He was heavily involved in many of the companies his father founded, and was always active in public affairs. He died in 1969 at the age of 79.



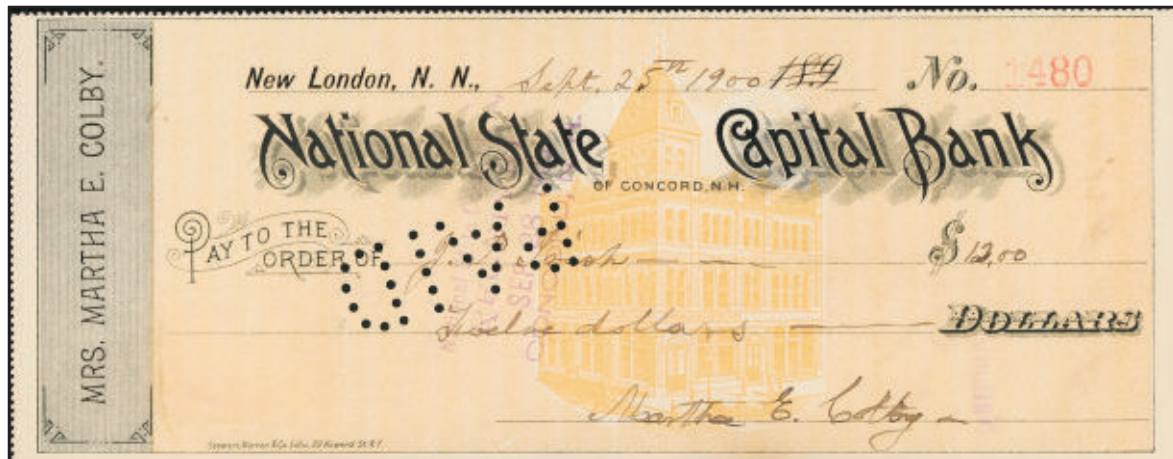
This unusual check was sent to me by friend and fellow check collector Doug Simonson.

Have any of you ASCC members ever seen a check made out to a number before? This one was made out to "689."

The number is the same as the check number, which may provide part of the reason. However, the "payee" is written in with a great flourish, and it is difficult to imagine that the writer was daydreaming when he did it.

Some Other Interesting Things

by Bob Hohertz



The printer of this check, Stewart, Warren & Company, botched up the abbreviation of New Hampshire, using N.N. instead of N.H. It is possible to see where a battleship revenue was removed from the check at lower left - pity. This check was acquired from Bob Spence, Jr.



This 1914 check from the Northwestern Furniture Company is elaborate to begin with, but the back is even more impressive. Printed in green, it looks almost like currency. Which, I imagine, was the point.



Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902 David McHugh

Manhattan Silver Mining Company (continued)



1873 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type D7, which consists of Federal D-type imprint with addition of "GOOD ONLY FOR / BANK CHECK" inscribed in the circles at the left and right).

The check is drawn on an account at Paxton & Curtis, is signed by Allen Curtis.

1872 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type E7, which consists of Federal E-type imprint with addition of "GOOD ONLY FOR / BANK CHECK" inscribed above and below the portrait).

The check, for \$1,200, is drawn on an account at Paxton & Curtis, payable to Allen Curtis and signed by Allen Curtis (payable to himself).



1876 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type F1).

The check is drawn on an account at Paxton & Curtis, is signed by Allen Curtis.



Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902

David McHugh

Manhattan Silver Mining Company (continued)



1879 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).

The check is drawn on an account at Paxton & Curtis, is payable to Gage, Curtis & Co. and is signed by Allen Curtis. The amount of this check, \$27,787.20, is approximately equal in today's dollars to between \$1 million and \$4 million, depending upon the method of inflation you employ.

Mariposa Mill Company

Mariposa Mill was located just north of Virginia City. It was controlled by John W. Mackay and James G. Fair, and in 1872 was reported to be processing 30 tons of ore a day from Hale & Norcross Mine.²



1870 check, subject to both 2¢ Federal and 2¢ Nevada tax (Imprint Type B16a, which consists of Federal B-type imprint with addition below it of rectangular tablet inscribed with "Good only for checks and drafts payable at sight" plus an orange red Nevada imprint).

It is signed by John W. Mackay.

Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902

David McHugh

Mariposa Mill Company (continued)



1871 check, subject to both 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type C21, which consists of Federal C-type imprint with addition of "GOOD / ONLY FOR BANK / CHECK" in a 3-part band in the imprint) and 2¢ Nevada tax.

It signed by John Mackay.



1873 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type E7, which consists of Federal E-type imprint with addition of "GOOD ONLY FOR / BANK CHECK" restrictive clause inscribed above and below the portrait).

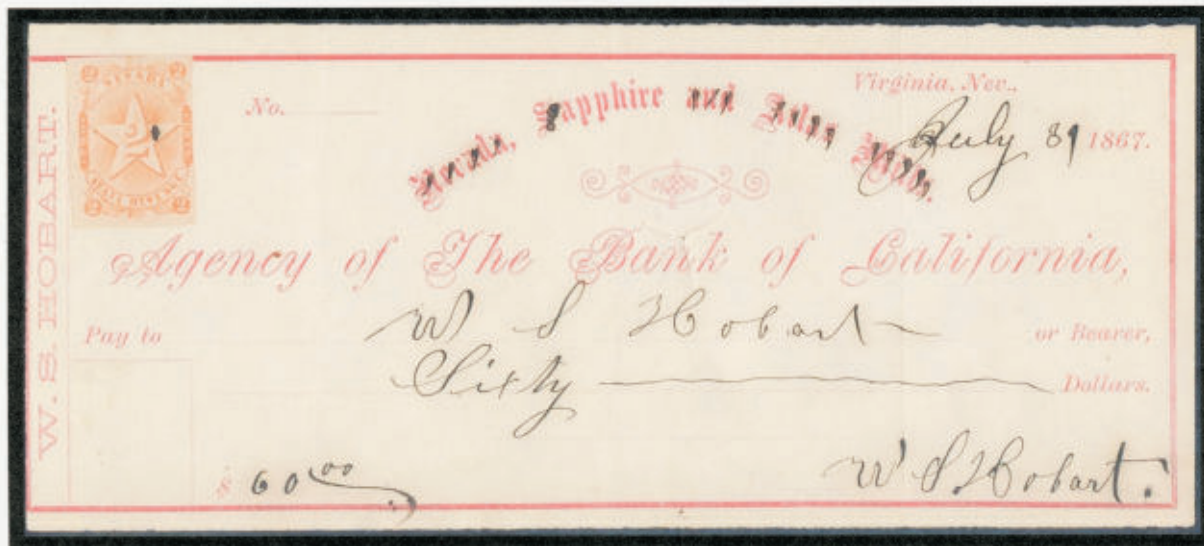
It is signed by James G. Fair.

Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902

David McHugh

Nevada, Sapphire & Atlas Mills

These three mills, Nevada, Sapphire and Atlas, were all controlled by H. S. Hobart.



1867 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax and 2¢ Nevada tax. The Federal stamp is missing, and was probably removed from the lower left corner.

It is payable to W. S. Hobart and is signed by W. S. Hobart (payable to himself). Notice Hobart's "doodles" in the company name at the top of the check.

North Consolidated Virginia Mining Company

This mine was located directly east of the Ophir and Mexican. The shaft was below the 1,300 foot level.¹²



1879 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).

It is payable to The Virginia and Truckee Railroad Company and is signed by David H. Jackson, born in Ohio in 1835.

Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902

David McHugh

Occidental Mill

The Occidental Mill was also controlled by James G. Fair and John W. Mackay.



1872 check, subject to both 2¢ Federal and 2¢ Nevada tax (Imprint Type C21b, which consists of Federal C-type imprint with addition of "GOOD / ONLY FOR BANK / CHECK" in a 3-part band in the imprint, plus an orange red Nevada imprint).

It is signed by James G. Fair.



1872 check, subject to both 2¢ Federal and 2¢ Nevada tax (Imprint Type C22, which consists of Federal C-type imprint with addition of "GOOD / ONLY FOR BANK / CHECK" in a 3-part band in the imprint and printed in brown).

It is signed by John W. Mackay.

Nevada Revenue-Stamped Checks, Drafts and Certificates of Deposit - 1862 to 1902

David McHugh

Ophir Silver Mining Company

The first discovery of precious minerals in the Comstock Mining District, Virginia City, Nevada, was made on what was to become the Ophir Silver Mining claim. Peter O'Riley and Patrick McLaughlin located gold at the Ophir claim in June, 1859, and in August of that same year discovered the rich silver vein which was to spark the "Wasboe Rush". The Ophir was a 675' long claim which yielded about \$20 million before it was exhausted. The Ophir was owned and operated by Hearst, Haggin, Tevis & Co., a company headed by George Hearst, and it grew to become the largest private mine-owning firm in the US. Tragically, discoverer Patrick McLaughlin, sold his interest for \$3,500, which he soon lost, and died working at odd jobs. Discoverer Peter O'Riley collected dividends on his interest and invested \$40,000 in another mining operation. He lost everything, went insane, and died in an asylum in California.



1879 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).



1878 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).

It is signed by James G. Fair.

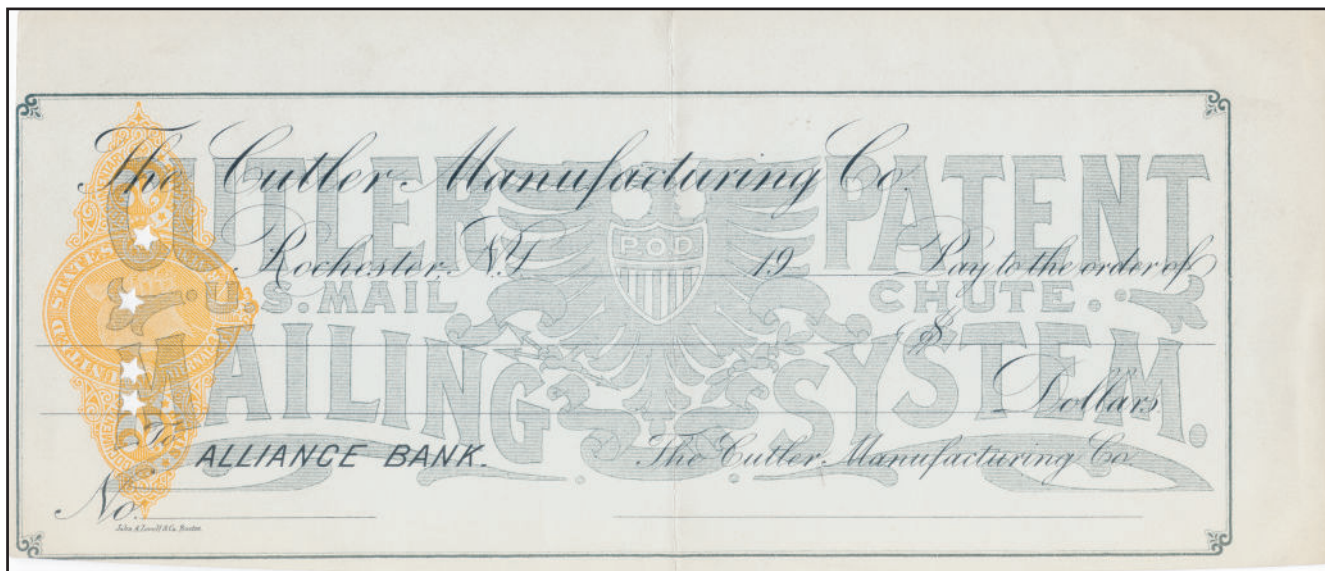
To be continued.

RN Inventory - X7d

Bob Hohertz

I've been promising/threatening another RN inventory for a while now, and thought I'd weigh in on one that hasn't been done before, to my knowledge. RN-X7d is the common Spanish American War imprint printed vertically on a check or draft, usually to avoid a central vignette.

The Scott Specialized does not indicate that an unused copy exists, but one does. It bears the group of star punches that indicates it is part of a group of questionable items, either copies spoiled when the imprint was applied, or special copies kept by the imprint printer for some reason.



Four other users are known to me, one only by a cut square.

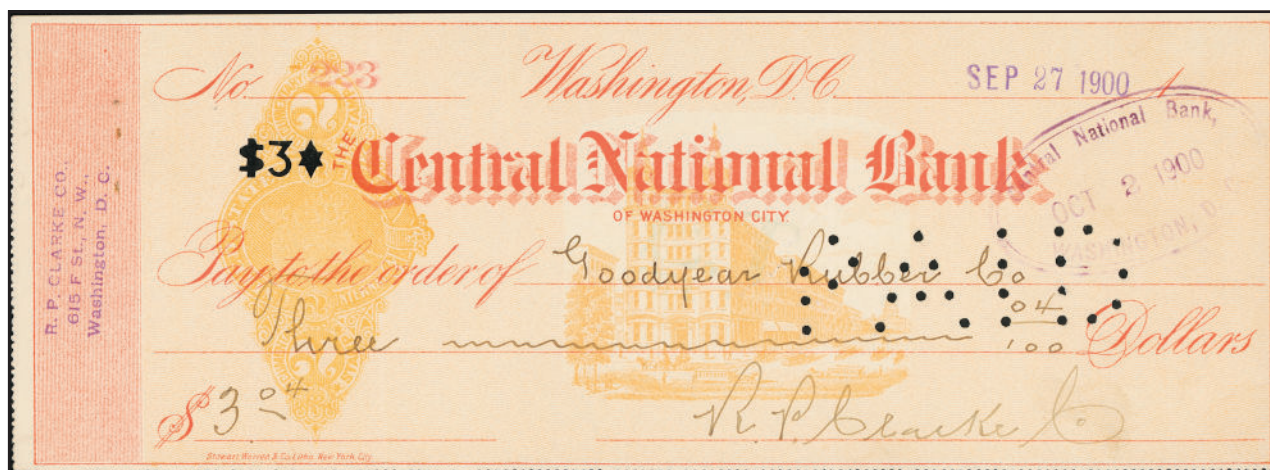
X7d Inventory

DC, Washington used	Central NB	R, Or, r tint, or tint	SWa
ME, Portland	generic, Union Mutual Life	Black, Or	LPr used
ME, Portland	generic, Union Mutual Life	Black, G	LPr used
ME, Portland	Portland NB, Union Mutual Life	Black, G	LPr used
ME, Portland	Seventh NB, NY, Union Mutual Life	Black, G, R	LPr used
NJ, Clinton	First ?	?	? used, cs
NY, Rochester	Alliance B, Cutler Mfg Co	G, g	JAL unused
NY, Troy	Union NB, Malleable Iron Works	Bl, Or	JHW used

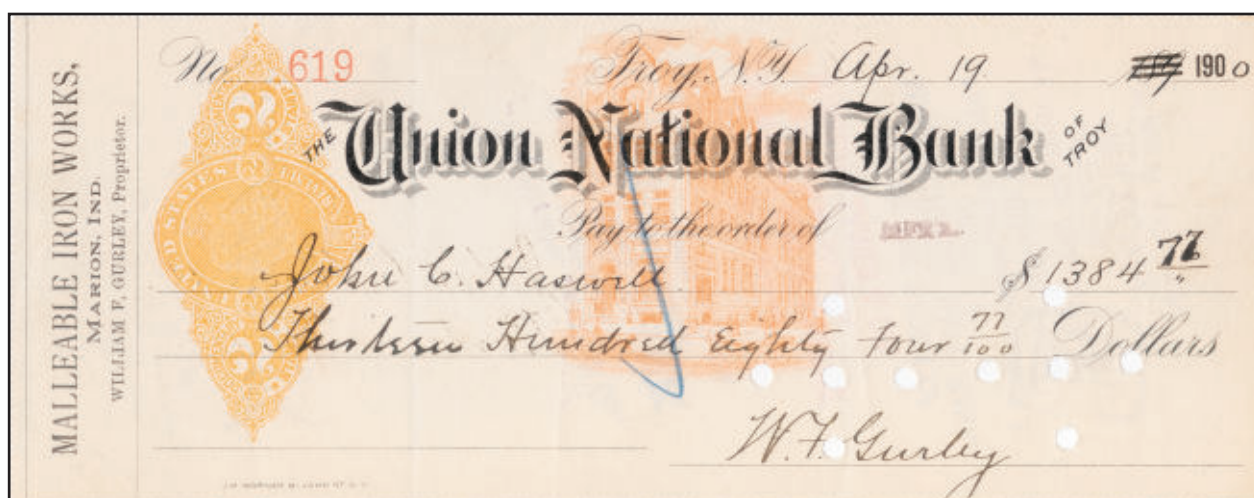
X7d var.

GA, Albany	Exchange B of Albany	Bl, Or	SLE used
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The X7d variety consists of an imprint printed vertically reading down at the right of the check, whereas all regular X7d's have imprints printed vertically reading up at the left. Only one copy is known to me.

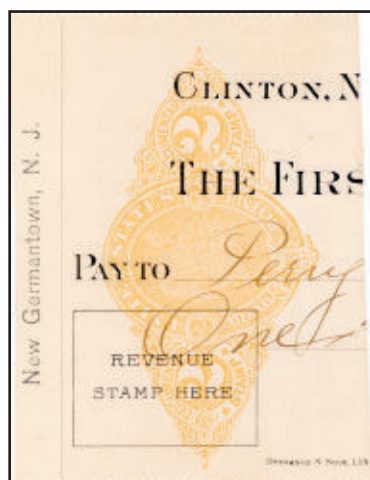


The Washington, D.C. X7d. On earlier checks of the Central National Bank the imprint was horizontal, but placed high and to the right to avoid the vignette.



A Union National Bank check from the Malleable Iron Works.

An example of one of the Union Mutual Life checks and the only known copy of the Exchange Bank of Albany X7d variety are pictured in TCC 83, July-September 2007, and on the ASCC website in color, in the copy of the magazine archived there.



If anyone has a complete check from Clinton, NJ with a vertical imprint, please notify the Editor for inclusion in this survey. It would be a shame if this cut square is all that we have left.

Additions to Earlier RN Inventories



A Carlisle, PA G3, courtesy of Georgette Cornio. Printed in light purple by WFM.



A Brooklyn, E.D. (Eastern District) G1b, Theo F. Jackson, obtained, appropriately enough, at Eric Jackson's table at a recent stamp show. The printing is black, but the name is orange and there is an orange tint on most of the background. The printer is Snyder & Black, SBI.

Email to the Editor

Bob:

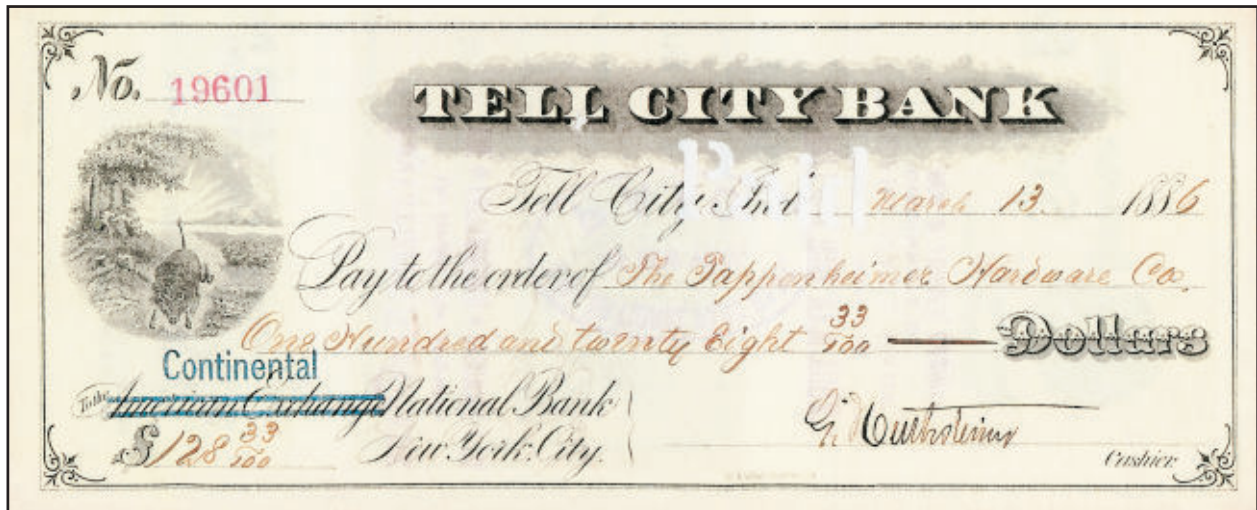
I just read your article about bison in the latest issue of The Check Collector. I found it very interesting. I wanted to point out that the check vignette on page 7 from Aurora, Indiana, was the state seal of Indiana (where I grew up). My source describes the state seal as "a pioneer felling a tree at sunset as a buffalo flees in the foreground." Thus, the idea of a buffalo so near a man was to convey the idea that the pioneers were bringing civilization to the area and the "wild" ways were a thing of the past. The message was the idea of Westward expansion. The first known use of the seal was reputedly in 1801 by Indiana Territory, although Indiana did not become a state until 1816. My source says that there is no record of who designed the seal. It is quite common to see this vignette on Indiana stocks and bonds. What I found fascinating was that you found it on checks from other states. I had never seen it on checks from states other than Indiana.

Dale L. Flesher

Letter to the Editor

Dear Bob,

Enjoyed your "American Buffalo" article in the issue #95 of TCC. Here are a few vignettes of "buffalo" from my collection. The Tell City, Indiana vignette is a different take on the axe guy. The animal is coming from a different direction. Maybe he's on his way back.



Regards,
Jim Adams
#1701

Letter to the Editor

A response to the Find in the Marketplace, page 22 of *The Check Collector* July-Sept 2010.

The two checks on the National Exchange Bank with RN-X are interesting, but the bottom one is not an error by any means. If you look at the check, you'll see it is missing the serial number of 2501. It is obvious to me that the check order was from serial number "X" to 2500 thus no serial number on the check nor any Revenue Stamp needed.

Yours truly,
Arri Jacob

Response from the Editor

Arri,

You make an interesting point, and your explanation could be correct, but I don't think it is. There is a diagonal crease at the bottom right of the top check, running upward, and a corresponding one at the upper right of the bottom check, running downward. These had to have been made when the bottom check was folded up under the top one or they wouldn't match the way they do. This is a simple and perfectly reasonable explanation for the missing imprint.

Of course, this fold could have been done after imprinting, but then we would have to believe that the person who owned the checks gave the Revenue Agent a specific instruction about the exact number they wanted to have imprinted that was one less than the number of checks they gave the Agent, that this was passed on to the imprint printer, and then that the imprint printer made up a special plate for that one sheet of checks to leave one imprint off at the bottom, just to save two cents. I am dubious.

My guess is that the check number is missing for the same reason the imprint is - that the check was folded under the one above it after the initial printing and stayed that way through printing the check number and then the imprint.

Bob



Another check with a bison vignette, sent in by Jim Adams.

Pennsylvania Banks - 12

by Peter Robin

I request the help of all readers in adding information to these listings as well as, of course, the counties to come. I can be reached by e-mail at peterrobin@verizon.net or by regular mail at Box 353, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Bank Name	Stamp	Years	Printer	Colors	Vignette	Size in mm
Montgomery County						
The Bryn Mawr N. B.	X7	1900	WmM	Black on Rose	None	168 x 75 mm.
1 st N.B. of Conshohocken	R151	1879	WmM	Black on Lilac	Dog on chest	197 x 70 mm.
Perkiomen N. B.						
of East Greenville	G1	1878	WmM	Green on Lilac	Henry Kriebel	195 x 75 mm.
Same	G1	1879	WmM	Black on Lemon	None	169 x 67 mm.
Same	R164	1899	WmM	Blue on White	None	178 x 76 mm.
Same	R164	1901	WmM	Black on White	None	172 x 69 mm.
Lansdale Trust & Safe Deposit	R164	1901	McP	Rust on Tan	None	151 x 72 mm.
1 st N. B. of Lansdale	R104	1880	Damy	Black on White	None	163 x 74 mm.
Same	D1	1875	WmM	Black on White	Ornamental design	171 x 69 mm.
Same	G1	1881	WmM	Black on White	Ornamental design	175 x 69 mm.
Same	None	1896	Alt	Red on White	Joseph Becker	196 x 74 mm.
Bank of Montgomery County Norristown	None	183-	None	Black on White	Ornamental design	208 w/tab x 70 mm.
Same	None	1835	None	Black on White	Ornamental design	145 x 63 mm.
Montgomery County N. B. of Norristown	R15	1868	WFM	Blue on White	Dog/chest and eagle	178 x 73 mm.
Same	R104	1872	None	Black on White	Estate of Joshua Moloney	186 x 90 mm.
Same	R152	1879	WFM	Blue on White	None	183 x 70 mm.
Same	F1	1883	WmM	Blue on White	None	153 X 66 MM.
Same	G1	18—	WmM	Purple on Cream	None	
Same	X7	1903	WFM	Navy on White	None	206 x 80 mm.
Montgomery Insurance, Trust & Safety Deposit						
Norristown	X7	1904	None	Black on Green	None	214 x 75 mm.
1 st N. B. of Norristown	R164	1900	None	Black on Cream	Pennsylvania	212 x 85 mm.
Farmers N. B. of Pottsburg	G1	1879	WmM	Blue on Cream	Ornamental design	178 x 68 mm.
Same	R154	1898	None	Black on Tan	Bank logo	180 x 77 mm.
Same	X7	1901	WFM	Black on White	Bank logo	
Same	X7	1900	WFM	Blue on Cream	None	
J.W. Castleberry & Co. Pottstown	R135	1873	Da&	Red on White	Banking Hours of J. W. C.	192 x 68 mm.
Same	D1	1875	WmM	Red on white	George R. Harrison	206 x 70 mm.
Same	R152	1876	Da&	Black on White	None	165 x 68 mm.
N. B. of Pottstown	R15	1869	WmM	Red on White	None	185 x 72 mm.
Same	R135	1873	JBL	Red on White	None	192 x 69 mm.
Same	R152	1879	Graham & Entwisle	Red on White	None	177 x 68 mm.
Same	G1	1879	WmM	Black on Tan	Empty gray space	203 x 70 mm.
Same	R164	1899	None	Black on White	None	
National Iron Bank of Pottstown	R155	1900	None	Black on Yellow	None	210 x 77 mm.
Same	R164	1900	None	Black on Yellow	None	210 x 77 mm.
Security Company of Pottstown	R164	1899	None	Black on Yellow	Train and boat	210 x 80 mm.
Home N. B. of Royersford (gothic)	R163	1898	?	Black on Tan	None	151 x 70 mm.
Same (roman)	R164	1898	None	Black on Tan	None	
N. B. of Schwenksville	R164	1899	?	Red on White	S.H. Longaker & Co.	198 x 72 mm.
Union N. B. of Souderton	R152	1877	WFM	Black on White	Ornamental design	190 x 70 mm.
Same	G1	1877	WFM	Black on Lavender	Ornamental design	190 x 70 mm.

Bank Name	Stamp	Years	Printer	Colors	Vignette	Size in mm
Montour County						
1 st N. B. of Danville	R164	1899	WFM	Black on Tan	Estate of Thomas Beaver	202 x 85 mm.



Montgomery County



Montour County. Danville, VA check on the First national Bank of Danville, PA.

Announcements

With this issue of the Check Collector you will receive, as part of the cover page, a Dues Notice. It is very important to the ASCC that you pay your dues promptly, as it eliminates the cost and hassle of mailing follow-up notices.

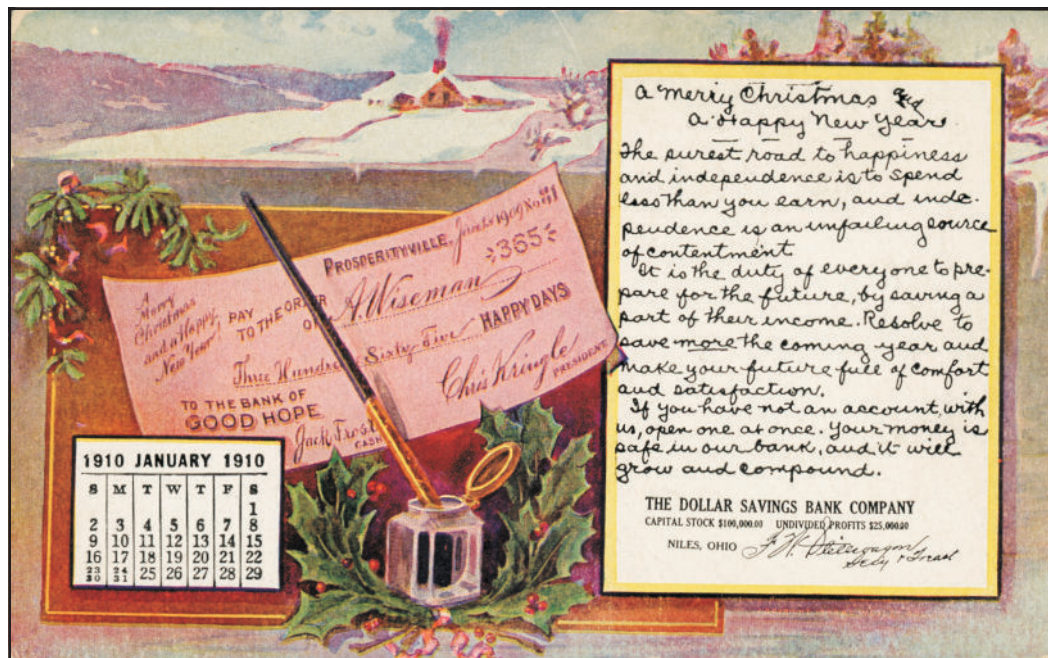
Dick Naven has done a marvelous job of reworking our website, as he described in the last issue. Thanks to Dick, we can now accept membership renewal payments (as well as payments with new applications for membership) through PayPal. We also now can offer, at reduced dues of \$13.00, an electronic only membership whereby members can access TCC in color on the website and not receive the printed copy. Regular members also will be able to access the password protected TCC.

The ASCC operated at a deficit of about \$1,200 last year. Bob has changed printers and we are now saving about \$300 on printing costs per issue, so we should now be operating on a break even basis. To continue to do so without raising dues it is important to maintain our membership level. Your continuing membership is very important, and you can further help your society by a donation of any amount over and above the amount of dues. We are a 501(c)-3 non-profit organization, so any donation may be tax deductible.

We should have posted a notice concerning elections to the Board in the last issue, but the Editor forgot to remind me, so we are doing it now. If no nominations for Board membership are received by the end of January 2011, the following members will be re-elected per our by-laws: Coleman Leifer, Peter Martin, Dick Naven, and Michael Turrini. Their terms will last through 2011 and 2012.

Hermann

Happy Holidays from the ASCC Board



Secretary's Report

Lyman Hensley

Previous total	221
New members	4
Reinstatements	0
Resignations	0
Deaths	0
Dropped Not paid	0
Current Total	225

New members

1864 By R Hohertz

Frank Cunliffe

21, 31

225 Penn Boulevard

Lansdowne, PA 19050

1865 Through Web Site

Paul Franklin

Western Gold Rush & Mining checks, Comstock Mining checks

124 West Jeffrey Pine Road

Reno, NV 89511

1866 by Lyman Hensley

Tim Wait

4, 31

9185 Kipling Way

Machesney park, IL 6115

1867

Bobby Gustrowsky

17-B Kingery Quarter

#107

Willowbrook, IL 60527

Note from last issue: Harv Elander collects all types of documents.



Member Exchange

Collector wants to buy checks signed by famous people! **Ray Anthony**, 1314 Odell, Suite 2, Roseburg, OR 97470

Wanted: US Government checks and Wisconsin financial documents. **James A. Downey**, 1534 Pennsylvania Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. E-mail mufelika@itol.com.

New member is interested in pre-1950 Wisconsin checks. Will purchase or trade for any needed. **Tom Casper**, S95W13453 St. Andrews Dr., Muskego, WI 53150. E-mail tcasper57@hotmail.com.

Charter member would like to obtain a check from the "Washington National Bank" or the Telegraphers National Bank", both of Saint Louis, MO. Will purchase or trade. **Ron Horstman**, 5010 Timber Lane, Gerald, MO 63037

Wanted: New York State/City; Connecticut early checks especially if issued by National Banks. Send on approval/ email lcsilver@optonline.net. **Leon Silverman**, 237 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605

Collector seeks old Philippines Treasury Checks, 1900-1915 with portrait of Gen Henry Lawton. Willing to pay top prices for nice examples. Send photocopies and correspondence to: **Craig Williams**, 3014 N W Euclid Ave, Lawton OK, 73505

Member seeks any paper items regarding the Smith-Condit Arms Co., Standard Arms Co., Cramps Gun Works, and Artillery Fuse Co., all Philadelphia, PA or Wilmington, DE area. **George Fink**, PO Box 4, Viola, DE 19979 (302-233-8171).

Wanted: Checks from dealers in Indian relics or fossils - or signed by archaeologists or paleontologists. Or other related paper. Write: **Stan Raugh**, 4217 *th Avenue, Temple, PA 19570-1805.

Early checks, etc. with Old West themes. Trains, Indians, Cowboys, Buffalo, Horses. Send photocopy or email with offer. **Buck Major**, 522 Mourning Dove Cove, Temple, TX 76502-5043, buckleymajor@yahoo.com.

Check Collector back issues wanted, and all periodicals issued by coin clubs relating to all subjects of United States numismatics. Please send list. **Harold Thomas**, PO Box 7520, Beaumont, TX 77726-7520. 409-466-0781

Wanted: "Manuscript" aka completely handwritten checks. All states and dates (generally pre-1900. **Sheldon Rabin**, 2820 Breckenridge Circle, Aurora, IL 60504, sheldonrabin@yahoo.com

Wanted: "Presidential" named city checks. Need Hoover, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Reagan & Bush. Will purchase or trade. **James Adams**, 1607 Birch St., Baraboo, WI 53913.

Dealer wants checks signed by celebrities. No quantity too large. **Myron Ross**, Heroes & Legends, 18034 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Exchange postings will be taken from ASCC members who are collectors only. Postings of 20 words or less are free; please remit \$3 each issue for postings of 21 to fifty words. Name and address do **not** count toward the 20 words.

Neither the Editor nor the ASCC can be responsible for compliance with any promises made in postings, or in response to them. Be very clear as to the value you place on your material when discussing a trade. Fairness and common courtesy are to be expected, but common sense must rule.

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the American Society of Check Collectors, Inc., and agrees to comply with its Charter and By-Laws.

Enclosed with this application is \$15 for dues (\$20 for US mailing of *The Check Collector* by First Class Mail, \$25 for Canada and Mexico, \$25 for other foreign countries) Please make remittance in U.S. funds only payable to: *The American Society of Check Collectors, Inc.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

E-mail address: _____

New Application _____ Reinstatement _____

Collector _____ Collector/Dealer _____ Dealer _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I found out about the ASCC through: _____

Please complete this form, enclose remittance for membership and mail to the Secretary:

Lyman Hensley, 473 East Elm, Sycamore, IL 60178, USA

Please circle the numbers that indicate your areas of collecting interest. This information will be listed with your name on our membership roster.

1. Checks, General

8. Travelers Checks and Money Orders

2. Checks, US

9. Specimen Checks

Region or States of Interest: _____

10. Ration Checks

11. Refund/Rebate Checks

3. US Government Checks

12. Other _____

4. Miscellaneous Fiscals

14. Counter and Modern Checks

Bank Drafts

20. Vignettes

Bills of Exchange

21. Autographs

Certificates of Deposit

22. Railroads, Steamboats, Mining

Promissory Notes

23. Banking History

Receipts

24. Security Printers and Printing

Warrants

25. Check Protectors and Cancel Device

5. Checks, Great Britain

26. Wells Fargo History

6. Checks, Canada

30. Stocks and Bonds

7. Checks, World

31. Revenue Stamped Documents

Region or Countries of Interest: _____

32. Emergency Scrip