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THE CHECK COLLECTOR

Northfield, MN 55057-0808

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# THE CHECK COLLECTOR

January - March 2011

# The Journal of

Number 97

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.

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# 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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The bank drafts on the cover feature vignettes of a goddess carrying wheat, probably meant to be Ceres. See an exhaustive comparison of the variants of this vignette in this issue. Read about genuinely "Cool" taxi vouchers and enjoy the continuation of the late David McHugh's survey of Nevada stamped paper.

Since we have not run a cumulative index for at least two years, one is included this time as well.

Advertising rates are as follows:

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

# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

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# Check-Like "Cool Taxi" Vouchers Make their Impact across Quebec by Harold Don Allen

The õCool Taxiö voucher, so-called, is a check-like Canadian bearer instrument that all but cries out for further investigation. And, indeed, the scrip could reward such continuing study, clearly having a future in its province of origin and, as well, a good story to tell.



The colorful and innovative voucher, introduced across Quebec in mid-December with strong media support, suggests, in adolescent turn of phrase, that it would be õcoolö if parents and others were to prepay a taxi fare to assure a safe trip home from seasonal partying and such.

The document is unilingual French, but you do find õcoolö (as in õcool jazzö) even in current dictionaries of European French. Voucher graphics, most significantly, allude to Quebec government and province-wide taxi industry endorsement, and such chits are spendable without time limit.

õCool Taxiö vouchers thus far are to be found in \$10 and \$5 denominations, with õcoolö graphics and distinctive colors: black on pale blue, with highlights of green, yellow, and a heat-responsive pink. Colors do not in themselves distinguish denominations.

Vouchers are 159 mm by 69 mm (pretty much dollar size), and have significant anticounterfeiting or antialteration protection: machine-readable (MICR) six-digit lot numbers and serial numbers, the color-changing patch, and a line of extreme microprinting the entire width of the scrip. The craftsmanship would appear to be that of a creative graphic designer working with a sophisticated though unidentified check printery.

Unlike a government or corporate check, however, the voucher provides for neither an imprinted signature nor a penned countersignature, and has no place for taxi driver or customer endorsement. The driver is directed to give change, when indicated, in cash.

Most significantly, I think, the idea for such presentation vouchers geared primarily to adolescent users arose not with the taxi industry but with a concerned government and public. Three young women, 16-year-olds, had been injured in a single Montreal-area automobile accident the previous July. (In December, one young woman remained hospitalized, the press reported at the time of the launch of the scrip.) The three fathers campaigned vigorously for what was to be Cool Taxi scrip, to be purchased by parents to assure, at holiday and partying time, safe transportation home. The taxi industry had been fully supportive, as was Quebec& transportation minister, and provincial groups concerned with taxi financing and insurance (groups whose logos appear on the face of the scrip).

Vouchers were to be available through participating taxi firms, a gas station convenience store chain (Couche-Tard, \$10 and \$5 values), and a pharmacy chain (Familiprix, vouchers of \$10 value).

The taxi industry recognized such vouchers as more than a seasonal item, year-round availability extending their potential to gifts for seniors or others welcoming such transportation.

Couche-Tard vouchers in the Montreal area list on the back back) some 21 participating taxi firms, one as far north as the Val døOr mining districts. Such vouchers we have to be regional, varieties by now having been identified for the Quebec City, Saguenay, and Eastern Townships districts. All issues provide taxi drivers with guidance as to redemption through their company office to the established provincial taxi federation.

Within weeks of the mid-December launch, Cool Taxi organizers were reporting voucher sales approaching \$1,000,000, with a further sizeable printing in preparation.

A good bit of trial and error understandably has been involved in early stages of the project, I feel sure. For a government-supported, well-intentioned voucher venture, however, it should be instructive to monitor the ways in which Cool Taxi chits evolve.



# Another G3 Courtesy of Georgette Cornio



How many times do we see these William Wister checks and not really look at the imprints carefully? Most are G1's, but...

# Farm Crops in Nineteenth Century Vignettes by Bob Hohertz

I am first generation off the farm. As I like to say, as far and as fast off the farm as possible. I had no aptitude for, nor any intention of ever farming. However, in retirement, my wife and I live across a parkway from an operating farm, and find that to be delightful.

With that introduction, let's launch into a look at nineteenth century vignettes featuring typical farm crops: wheat, corn, hay, cotton, tobacco.

# Ceres

We will begin with a detailed look at two vignettes of the goddess with the wheat, most probably a depiction of the Greek Demeter or the roman Ceres, the latter being the source of our word ocereal. I went online to find a statue or painting that would have served as a source for the vignette, but had no luck. However, a Wikipedia article said that, old free-standing statuary, she (Ceres) commonly wears a wheat-crown, or holds a wheat spray. The vignette figures costume certainly isnot that of a typical farm worker, so I have little doubt that she is meant to be a mythological character, and Ceres is the logical candidate.

As a result of my foray into the Native American vignettes I quickly realized that apparently identical ones have enough minor design differences to indicate that popular figures were copied numerous times rather than obtained from one or two central sources. Perhaps each check printer developed their own? I pulled a dozen checks with the Ceres vignette out of my collection, and found that only two used the exact same cut, both being printed by Corlies, Macy and Company.

Seven of the checks used the vignette with the wheat held in the figure ight hand and five with it in her left hand. Those proportions don't mean much, as I suspect there are a number more of each, many of them different from any I will show.

I've sorted the vignettes by the chronology of the use of the checks, which again does not mean very much as far as which, if any, may be the original design. Only one has a 186\_ dateline, one of those printed by Corlies, Macy. The check face is printed in a pale violet-brown that evades decent reproduction here, but as the vignette is the same as is found on the bottom draft on the cover, it is no great loss.

I will show life size illustrations of the first four vignettes side by side so differences can be seen more readily.



The Brownville, Nebraska draft above was used in January of 1870. It was probably produced toward the end of the 1860's, as the printed dateline is 18\_\_. The Type B revenue imprint on it was being replaced by Type C around 1870, as well.

The draft was printed by Maverick, Stephan & Company of New York.



This receipt also has a printed 18\_\_ dateline and bears a type of B imprint with an instructive clause. It was a product of Sanford and Hayward, Cleveland.



A receipt printed by Benjamin D. Benson, of New York. The revenue imprint is Type C which came into use circa early 1870. This one includes the instructive clause, "GOOD WHEN ISSUED FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY" in small type below the imprint.



From left to right, Corlies, Macy; Maverick, Stephan; Sanford & Hayward; and Benson. There are many minor differences, but the easiest to spot are in the wreath on the ground, the ground around it, and the pile of rocks at bottom left. The faces are quite different as well.

Two uses of the vignette in the 1880's.



A check from Fincastle, Virginia, printed by Randolph & English of Richmond. The printed dateline is 187\_.



This Parkersburg check was printed by J.H. Warner in the 1880's.





Vignettes used by Randolph & English, and J.H. Warner. The first one does away with the steps at lower left and much of the cloudy background, while the second has some nicely detailed trees and flowers at lower left and bottom. Neither eactly matches any of the versions shown on the previous page.

The vignettes with the wheat in the left hand are not just mirror images of those already shown. There is no wreath on the ground, there are no steps, and there are no strange forms in the background. In varying detail, both bare feet are shown, where in the first group only the right foot is visible. The goddess in this group appears to be walking along a rocky shore.

The earliest use in my collection, the draft shown on the cover, is dated 1872. It was printed by William Mann of Philadelphia.



This check was printed in green by Clay Cosack & Company of Buffalo. The Type D imprint was introduced in early 1872 and was used until late 1875. The check was used in 1873.



Another use of a Type D imprint, on a check printed by Major & Knapp.







These vignettes were used by William Mann (on the cover of this issue), Clay Cosack and Major & Knapp, respectively. Obvious differences occur in the branch held in the figure's right hand and the ground to our right, as well as other places.

Two uses of the vignette from the late 1870's and the early 1880's.



This check was printed in the late 1870's by Cosack & Company of Buffalo, almost certainly the same as or successor to Clay Cosack & Company which printed a check on the previous page. One might think that the vignette would be identical, but it is not.



A check printed by T. Groom & Company, Boston. The vignette is not identical to any of the others shown.







Vignettes used by Clay Cosack (repeated from previous page), Cosack & Company, and T. Groom & Company. Again, note differences in the branches held in the figure's right hand and the depiction of the ground at our right. Of the eleven vignettes shown in this article, none is the same as any other!

To be continued.

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# WYOMING

A Presidential Check (W.A. Carter) - Leifer / 43 - 17 W. A. Carter, Post Trader, Ft. Bridger / 6 - 11

The International Paper Money Show will be held at the Cook Convention Center, East Hall, 225 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee on June 10 - 12, 2011. The bourse will be open Friday, June 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Saturday the 11th, the same hours, and Sunday, the 12th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

If there is to be an ASCC meeting at the show, time and location will be in the show program.

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

Opbir Silver Mining Company (Continued)

1900 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type X7).

It is payable to Tbomas Dick, a teamster born in Canada in 1846, and is signed by Gilbert M. M. Ross, born in Scotland in 1851.



# Opbir Mill

The Ophir Mill was operated by The Ophir Silver Mining Company, as evidenced by W. S. Hobart's name on the check. It was also controlled by John W. Mackay, who signed the check.



1872 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).

The check is signed by John Mackay.

# George Hearst (1820 - 1891)

Born near Sullivan, Missouri, bis father died in debt when George was 26. George took on the responsibility to care for his mother, younger sister and crippled brother. He improved the farm's profitability, opened a store and leased some lead mines. In May of 1850, at the age of 30 he left for California to look into gold mining. He reached Placerville in October and began gold mining. He quickly developed new and better ways to extract gold, and in 1857 located the extremely rich LeCompton Mine near Nevada City. His fortunes grew, and when he learned of the silver finds in Nevada in 1859, he sold his share of the LeCompton Mine and bought a one-sixth interest in the Ophir Mine in what is now Washoe County. The mining camp first called Ophir became Silver City and then Virginia City. In 1861 he married Elizabeth Apperson. In 1863 they had a son, William Randolph Hearst. In 1880 George acquired the small San Francisco Examiner as the payment for a gambling debt. His son took it over in 1887 and it became the foundation of the Hearst Publishing empire.

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

# Pacific Mill & Mining Company

This company was also controlled by James G. Fair and John W. Mackay. It had a 120 HP steam engine that used 9 cords of wood per day, had 30 stamps, 15 pans, could produce 50 tons per day, and had 20 employees.



1875 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type D1).

It is payable to James G. Fair and is signed by James G. Fair (payable to bimself). With bis endorsement on the back, this document contains three signatures of James G. Fair. James Ir. Frair

**Endorsement on Back** 

1877 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).

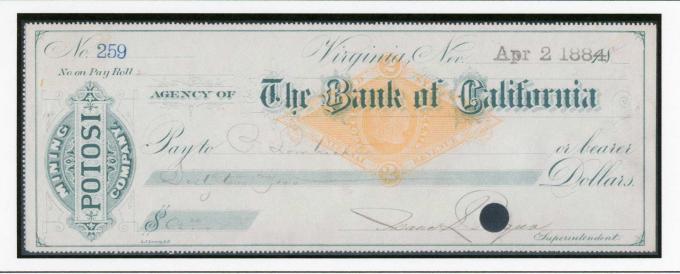
It is signed by James G. Fair.



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

Potosi Mining Company

The Chollar and Potosi mines were consolidated in 1865 as a result of a lawsuit. The split back into separate companies in 1878.



1884 check, NOT subject to Federal tax, but containing unredeemed imprint (Imprint Type G1).

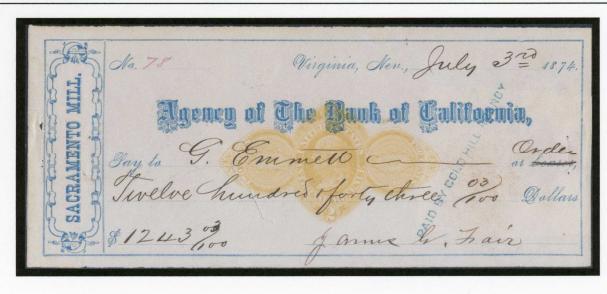
It is signed by Isaac L. Requa.

Sacramento Mill

This company was controlled by James G. Fair and John W. Mackay.

1874 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type D4).

It is signed by James G. Fair.



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

# Sapphire Mill

Sappbire Mill was built in 1860 as J. B. Gagnon & Co's mill. It was located across a canyon from Belcher Silver Mine and a short distance down from Gold Hill proper. It was controlled by W. S. Hobart. It had a 40 HP steam engine that used 4 cords of wood per day, had 16 stamps, 40 pans, could produce 20 tons per day, and had 12 employees.



1870 check, subject to both 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type B17, which consists of Federal B-type imprint with addition below it of octagonal tablet inscribed with "Good only for checks and drafts payable at sight") and 2¢ Nevada tax. However, it has a Federal stamp affixed instead of the required Nevada stamp.

It is signed by W. S. Hohart

This 1874 check was subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type D1).

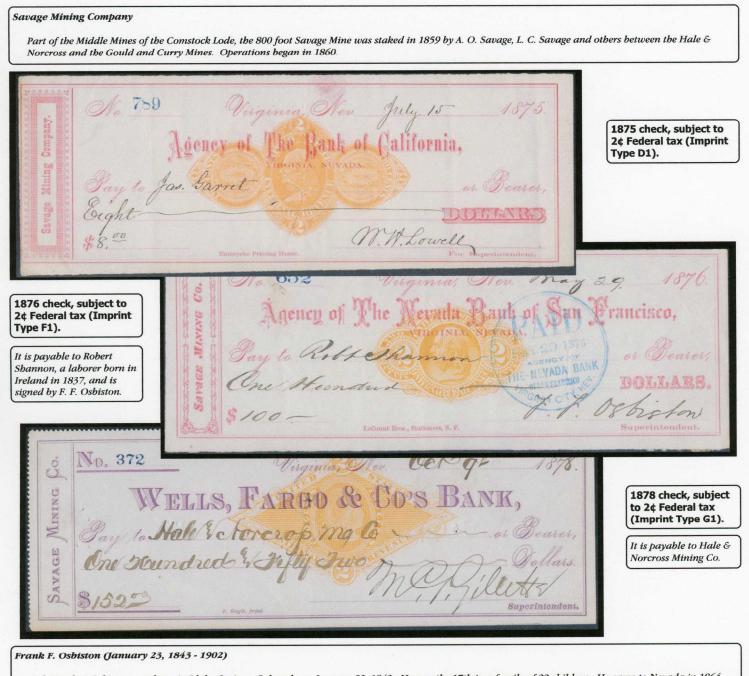
It is payable to Robert Young, a miner born in Ireland in 1850, and is signed by W. S. Hobart.



Walter Scott (W. S.) Hobart (October 30, 1839 - June 2, 1892)

Walter Scott Hobart was born in Burlington, Vermont, in 1839. He married Mary Rounds in Passaic, New York, in 1868. He owned and founded Hobart Mills, the lumber mill north of Truckee, and he was the owner of the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company, which had several mills and a short-line railroad line in Incline Village, Nevada. He was a Nevada State Senator from Story County from 1872 to 1896. Hobart was also on the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company's board of directors. He died in San Francisco in 1892.

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



Col. Frank F. Osbiston was born in Idabo Springs, Colorado on January 23, 1843. He was the 17th in a family of 22 children. He came to Nevada in 1864 and married Frances Hinman in 1871 at Virginia City. He was a mine superintendant of several Bonanza firm mines on the Comstock Lode, including the Savage Mine and Hale & Norcross Mine, Gould & Curry and Best & Belcher. He served in the 4th general assembly of the state legislature. He died in Western Australia in 1902.

To be continued.

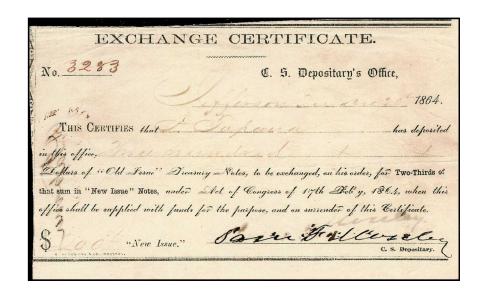
# Letter to the Editor

Bob,



Here's an interesting follow-up to the "J.H. Sherburne - Indian Trader" article in TCC #95. These "trader" checks are very hard to find. Florer & Bannerman were originally in Gray Horse, Oklahoma Territory before moving twenty miles northeast to Pawhuska, the county seat of Osage County. Gray Horse was named for an Osage medicine man, and is no longer in existence. Pawhuska was named for an Osage Chief whose name means "white hair."

It appears the check was payable to "bearer" for beaver pelts.



Also, I recently acquired this interesting piece of C.S.A. paper. It's an interim deposit receipt/exchange certificate from Jefferson, Texas, 1864. It records the exchange of "old issue" treasury notes for "new issue" notes at 2/3's value.

Hugh Shull doesn't list any of these certificates from Texas. I can't make out the signer.

Regards, Jim Adams

# Email to the Editor

Hi Bob,

Re the "Letter to the Editor" on p. 20 of the Jan-Mar 2010 issue of The Check Collector regarding the Civil War promissory note shown at the top of the page: the town involved was Paris, ME.

I did a bit of Googling and found an entry in a book entitled "History of Paris, Maine, from its settlement to 1880" by Barry Lapham that listed all three of the signatories on the document (Charles W. Bemis, George F. Hammond, and Herrick O. Buell) as Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor in 1861-62. Soooooo - Paris, ME has gotta be the place!

Don Woodworth

# Treasurer's Report

January 1 to December 1, 2010

Beginning Treasury Balance	<u>ə:</u>		\$5,196.35
Plus: Income			
Dues	\$3,395.83	(See Note 4)	
Advertising	270.00		
Interest Earned	47.32		
Total Inco	ome \$3,713.15		+3,713.15
Less: Expenses			
Postage	\$451.59		
Printing	4,063.62	(See Note 2)	
Office	82.90		
Fees	85.00		
Total Exp	enses \$4,972.11		-4,972.11
Ending Account Balances:			
Checking	\$240.36		
Money Market	743.17	(See Note 3)	
Certificate of Depo	osit 2,953.86		
PayPal Account	0.00		
Treasury	Balance \$3,937.39		\$3,937.39

# Notes:

- 1) \$3,713.15 4,972.11 = \$1,258.96 Net Operating Loss
- 2) In 2010 we paid for printing 5 issues of TCC because we changed printers mid-year and the last two issues were paid in advance rather than on a 30 day account.
- 3) The Money Market Account has since been closed, as our balance was insufficient to avoid a monthly fee and it wasn't earning significant income, either.
- 4) Dues income figures are in odd cents because they are net of PayPal fees (30 cents per transaction, plus 2.95%, plus any foreign currency conversion fees.)
- 5) Current Treasury balance is \$4,778.55, as of February 2, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dick Naven, Treasurer

# **Announcements**

No nominations to serve on the Board of Directors have been received, so the Directors with expiring terms have been reelected to a new term.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see the Treasurer & Report for 2010. It shows a loss of \$1,258.96. However, the notes explain that due to the change of printers we paid for five issues of TCC in 2010, but that in 2011 we will pay for, at most, four. In 2011 we will see the full benefit of the reduced printing costs due to the change in printers, about \$600. The net difference is at least \$1,500 of expenses, so we should be sound financially.

I say should because the latest report I have from our secretary is that 100 members have not paid to renew their memberships. This is over twice the usual number as of this time of year. With a total membership of only about 233 we cannot survive if a large number of members dong renew. Please do so ASAP if this applies to you.

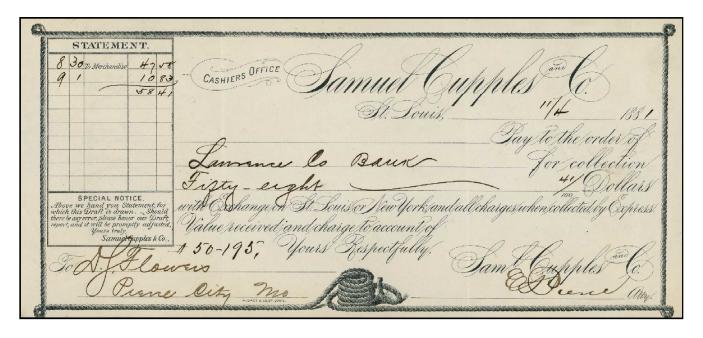
We have tried to make it easier to renew by allowing it to be done electronically, with payment by credit card or PayPal. Go to the õASCC Membershipö page on the Society website which also provides for renewals. For January and February only 13 members have used this option.

We have received \$61.00 in donations from several members, to whom we send a big thank you. Any amount is appreciated and may be sent in along with dues or by going to the õDonations to the ASCCö page on the website.

I am sorry I have to nag, but we do have to operate on a sound basis.

Hermann

# Non-Bank Checks Revisited Bob Hohertz



In reference to my articles in TCC 94, not everyone put revenues on drafts and checks that did not draw on a bank or financial instution after they were no longer required to do so in October of 1872. This merchants draft was used in 1881 to collect money from a distributor of Cupples products, and though the money was to be paid into the Cupples account it was a transaction between two non-financial parties, so was not taxable.

Cupples used this same draft design for twenty years, as copies with Spanish American revenue imprints are known, used in 1900.

# Secretary's Report Lyman Hensley

Previous total	225
New members	8
Reinstatements	0
Resiginations	0
Deaths	0
Dropped Not paid	0
Current Total	233

# New members

1868 Through website

Christina Bowler receipts

4889 Irish Lane Fitchburg, WI 53711

1869 Through website

Charlene Myers checks

41 Pershing Ct. Uniontown PA, 15401

1870 Through website Norman P Horowitz 14320 Ventura Blvd #618 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

1871

Robert L Kirchner

1625 Farnam St. Suite 840

Omaha NE, 68102

in American Revenuer

Stuart Packard 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 32

1151 Peveril Rd.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

1873 by a friend

Steve Rush 2(CO,NV), 20, 22

545 Conal Bell Drive Montrose, CO 81403

1874 by ARA

Michael Hassien 1, 3, 12 (overstamped Gold or Silver), 20, 25, 30, 31

11359 Little Patuxent Parkway #616

Columbia, PA 21044

1875 by Jim Adams

Tom Dallmann 2, 3, 4 (drafts, Cert of Dep, Prom notes, warrants), 9, 10, 20, 22, 30, 31

8210 W. Coldspring Rd. Greenfield, WI 53220

# **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 Artillary 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 **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 remains a second less 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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1. Checks, General 2. Checks, US	8. Travelers Checks and Money Orders 9. Specimen Checks
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2. Checks, US	9. Specimen Checks
2. Checks, US	<ul><li>9. Specimen Checks</li><li>10. Ration Checks</li><li>11. Refund/Rebate Checks</li></ul>
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