

THE CHECK COLLECTOR

April - June 2011

The Journal of

Number 98

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.



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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, color copy, preferably as large as can be obtained**. A clear black and white copy is acceptable. 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 2011 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.

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All advertisements and payments should be submitted to the Treasurer.

Contents

- 4 Crop Vignettes 2 - *Hohertz*
- 9 Found on Internet - *Schutts*
- 10 Early Twentieth Century - *Adams*
- 12 Nevada Stamped Checks - *McHugh*
- 17 Bank Check Stamps - *Poleske*
- 18 Taxed by Two Countries - *Hohertz*
- 23 Interesting Items - *Spence*
- 24 Email to Editor - *Kawalec*
- 25 Announcements - *Ivester*
- 25 Secretary's Report
- 27 Member Exchange

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www.ascheckcollectors.org



Most items in this issue involve taxes in some way. More space is given to a vignette of a woman carrying wheat, and we are shown some curious items from the early twentieth century as well as the nineteenth.

We look at some documents taxed by two countries, and approach the end of David McHugh's exhibit of Nevada stamped checks.

Advertising rates are as follows:

One quarter page	\$25.00/issue
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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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| Certificates of Deposit | 11. Refund/Rebate Checks | 26. Wells Fargo History |
| Promissory Notes | 12. Other | 30. Stock & Bond Certificates |
| Warrants | 14. Counter & Modern Checks | 31. Revenue Stamped Documents |
| Receipts | 20. Vignettes | 32. Emergency Scrip |

Farm Crops in Nineteenth Century Vignettes - Part 2

by Bob Hohertz

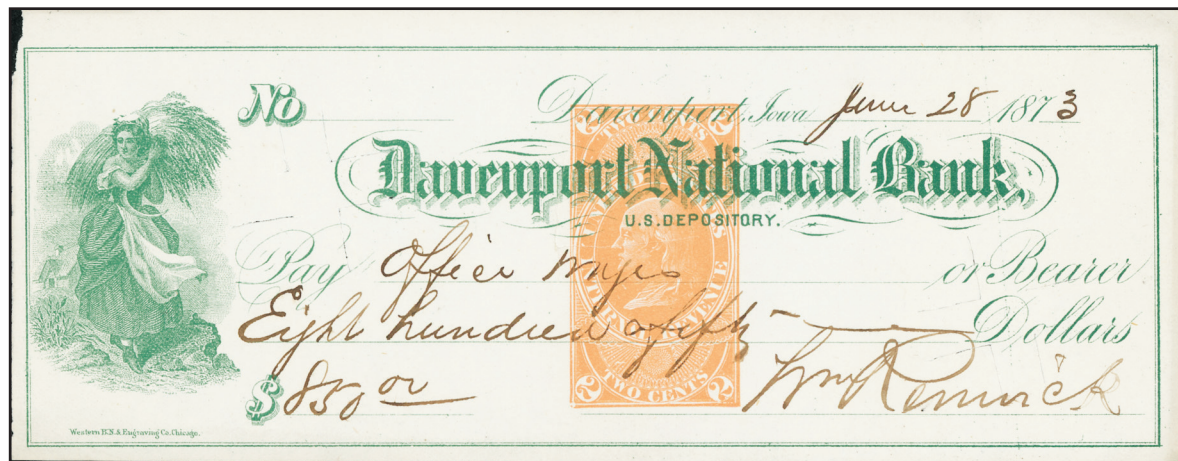
In selecting items for this series of articles it came to my attention that one of the most commonly repeated vignettes on checks and drafts used from 1864 through 1883 was the woman with a bale of wheat on her shoulder. This part of the series on farm crop vignettes will treat only that image, and while it probably does not exhaust the variations used during the period, it risks exhausting the reader, and the writer. Nevertheless, here goes.

The vignette in question is the one that appears on all of the instruments on the cover of this issue: a woman with a laurel wreath on her head and a scythe hooked over her left arm while she balances a sheaf of wheat on one shoulder and walks on a rocky path that is perhaps near the edge of a drop-off of unknown depth. Her clothing looks a bit too fancy for working on a farm, but not so elegant as that worn by Ceres in the last set of vignettes we examined. It well may be the costume that mid nineteenth-century engravers felt was worn in the field by eighteenth-century workers, or another instance of a romantic view of an idyllic past time.

There are two distinct versions of the vignette in question. One has a house to the left of the figure, and the other doesn't. We will look at those with the house first, as there are fewer of them, at least in my collection.



A Paris, IL draft dated 1872. Printer: Culver, Page & Hoyne, Stationers, Chicago (CPH).



A Davenport, IA check printed in green by Western B.N. & Engraving Co., Chicago (WBN). 1873 use.

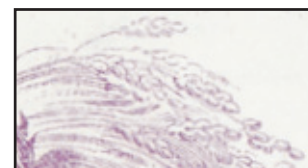


A check used by Smith & Murdock of Worcester, MA . Printed in violet by Sanford & Co. Stationers, Worcester, Mass (San).

The vignettes on these three checks are quite similar, but not the same. One of the easiest places to note a significant difference is the design of the chimney of the house to the left of the figure.



Another noticeable area of difference is found in the heads of the wheat.



The styles of the engravers range widely. The CPH version has something of a Rembrandt sketch about it, the WBN wheat is roughed in, and the San version incorporates a lot of detail.

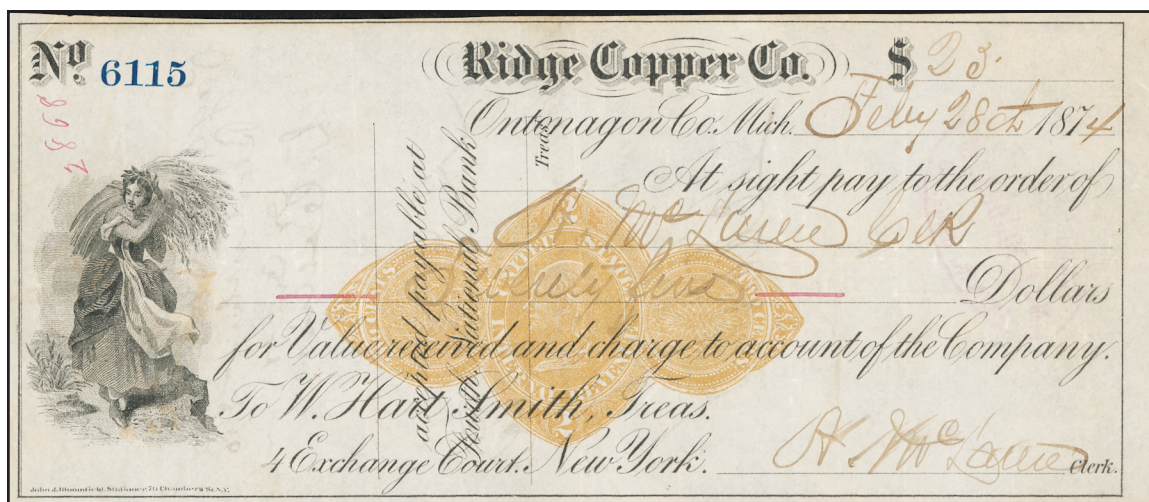


The vignettes on the checks above and below, printed for William C. Henry, Banker, of Mineral Point Wisconsin by Cameron, Amberg & Co. Stationers, Chicago (CaA), are particularly interesting in that the vignette on the one on top, used in 1878, includes the house at left, while the vignette on the bottom check, used in 1879, does not.



There is plenty of room to have included the house in the second vignette, so it was left out for some other reason.

The vignette with house is not the same as any of those pictured on the previous page, and the two vignettes used by CaA have many details that are different. It was not just a case of removing the house from the design.



This draft of the Ridge Copper Company, Ontonagon County, Michigan was printed by John J Bloomfield, Stationer, 70 Chambers.St., NY (JJB) and used in early 1874. The vignette does not have a house at left.



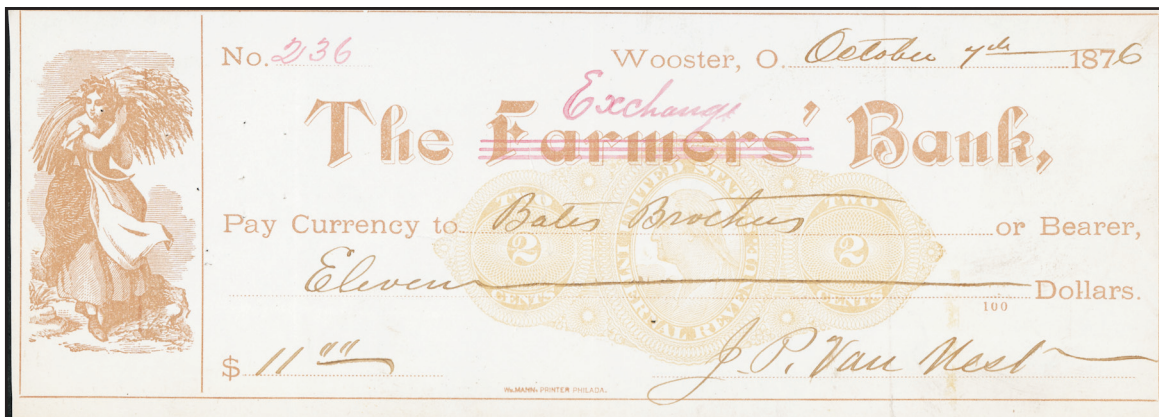
An 1877 check of the Agricultural National Bank of Pittsfield, MA, printed in green by Stearns & Beale, 147 Fulton St., NY (S&B).



The vignettes on the checks above, and the bottom one on the preceding page, are not identical. Perhaps the easiest places to note differences are in the rocks at bottom right and the garland of leaves on the figure's head. It is interesting that the topmost stalk of wheat sticks up above the rest, its stem generally drawn in a strange curve, on all of the versions of the vignette, both those with the house and those without it. Only the CaA versions incorporate it into the sheaf in a logical fashion.

After recording all these variations one vignette, it was somewhat of a surprise to find four different checks, involving at least two different printers, on which the vignettes are so similar that they could have been supplied from the same source. There is no reason why this should be a surprise, as occasionally we use strips of stock designs on the cover of this magazine. What should be the surprising conclusion is that so many printers copied a design rather than buying or licensing one from a single source.

In addition to the vignette on the Milton, IN check shown in its entirety on the cover of this issue, those on the following checks are quite similar. The very minor differences could be explained by deterioration of the dies or, in some cases, cutting the design down to fit a particular space.



The printer of the first check on the preceding page is unknown. The second was printed by Wm Mann of Philadelphia (WmM) and the third by Wm F. Murphy's Sons, 509 Chestnut St., Philadelphia (WFM).

The vignettes below were used in 1875, 1876, 1878 and 1882, respectively. The first printer is unknown, the second is WmM, the third, WFM, and the fourth, unknown.



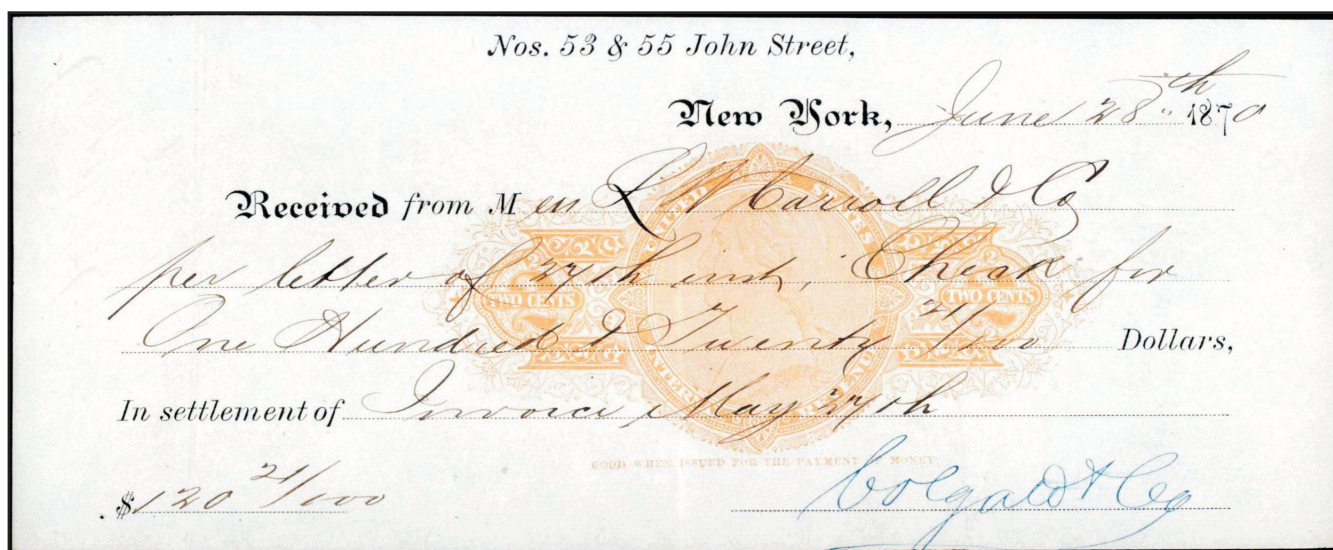
Note that there is no stray stalk of wheat at the top of the sheaf. The garland of leaves on the figure's head is remarkably similar in all four vignettes, and the rocks have the same shape and shading. Only the clouds vary slightly, and that could be a function of trimming the design, or slight variations due to using several copies of the die to print checks three to six up.

Does anyone have a copy of this image on a printer's stock page?

To be continued.

Found on the Internet

courtesy of Larry Schutts



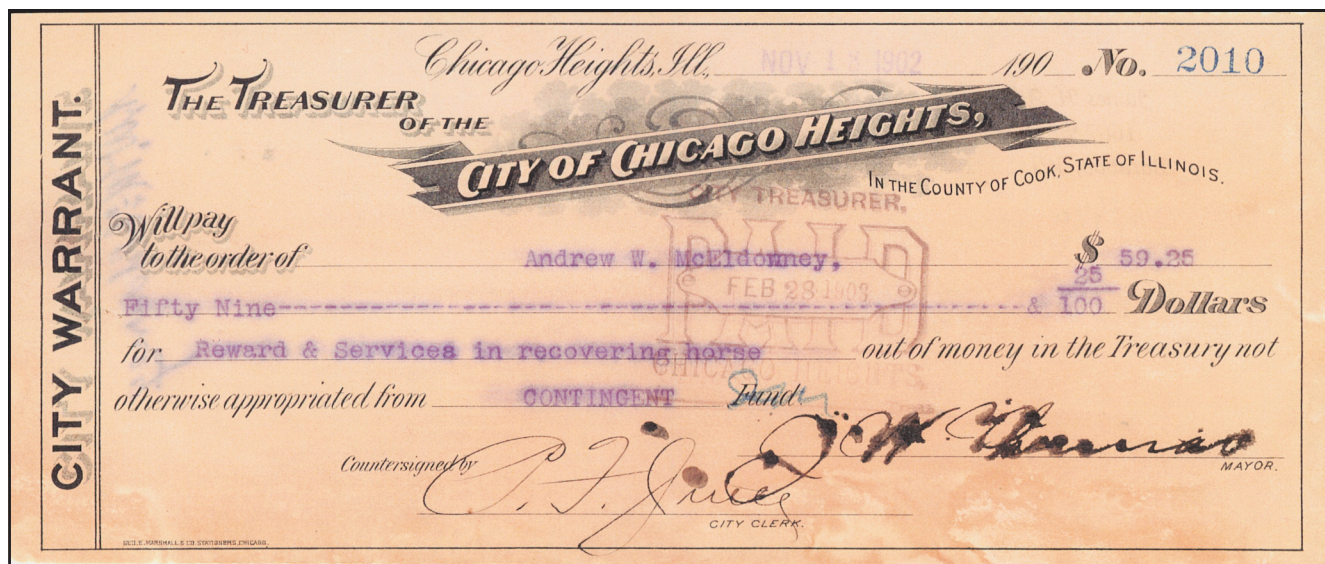
The Colgate C17 - now we know what one more C17 looks like.

Early Twentieth Century Curiousities

by James Adams

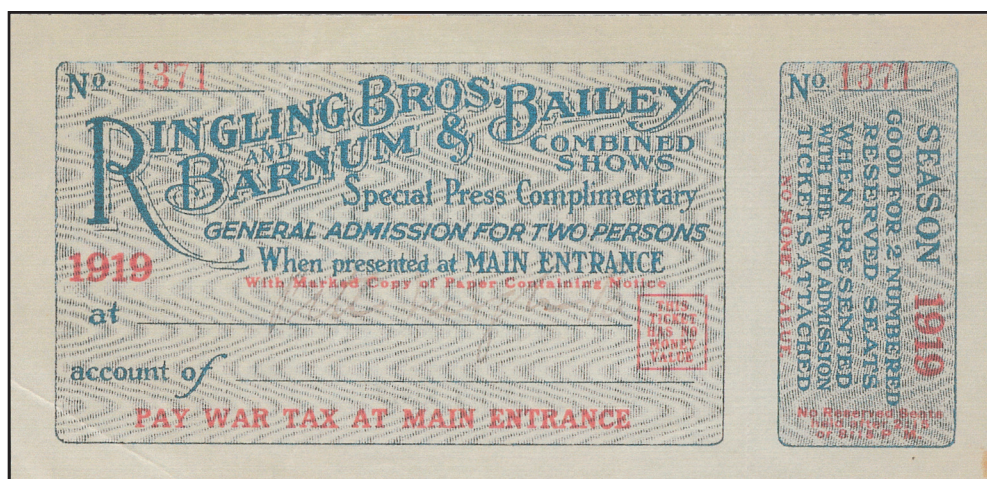
Now that we are in the second decade of the twenty-first century, documents from the early part of the twentieth are beginning to be looked at more carefully. Here are four of some possible interest.

First, a city warrant of the City of Chicago Heights dated November 13, 1902. It was issued as a reward for and payment for services in recovering a horse.

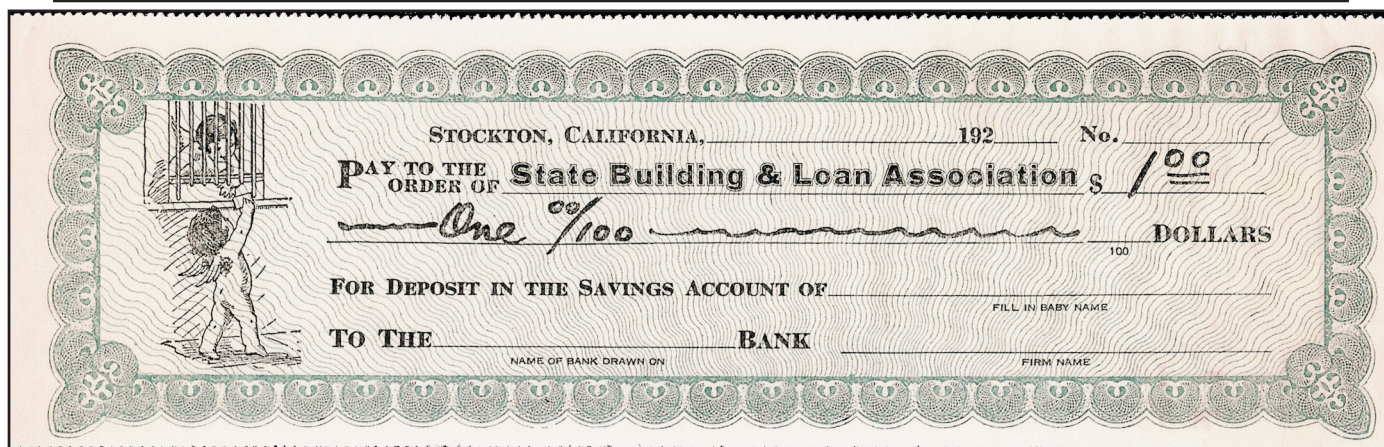


\$59.25 seems like a lot of money for this. From www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ppowerus/result.php, \$59.25 had the same purchasing power in 1902 that \$1,550 did in 2010!

Moving forward in time to 1919, below is a complimentary press ticket to a Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey circus performance.



Note that there was a war tax due for attending, payable at the main entrance.



The third item is an unusual check from Stockton, California. Evidently, at some time in the 1920's, if you visited a local business (in this case, Nick's Beauty Shop) and spent a total of \$10, this \$1 check could be deposited to a child's savings account, and only to such an account. It doesn't sound like much, but looked at as a 10% discount, it wasn't a bad offer at all.

The check had to be endorsed by the father or mother, but the \$10 could be spent by a relative or friend. (Orphans were apparently out of luck, though there may have been some bending of the rule for one lucky enough to have a savings account.) The \$10 did not have to be spent all at once, which was a good thing, since the purchasing power of \$10 in 1925 equaled about \$124 in 2010.



The last item is a fun collectible from 1917. Waldo C. Moore, 1874-1953, was an avid check collector (and President of the American Numismatic Association) who sent these bearer checks to celebrities, asking for a signed check for one cent from each of them in return. Reportedly, many complied, and the resulting checks are still considered to be important sources of autographs.

Don't neglect the early twentieth century in your collections - you may be missing something!

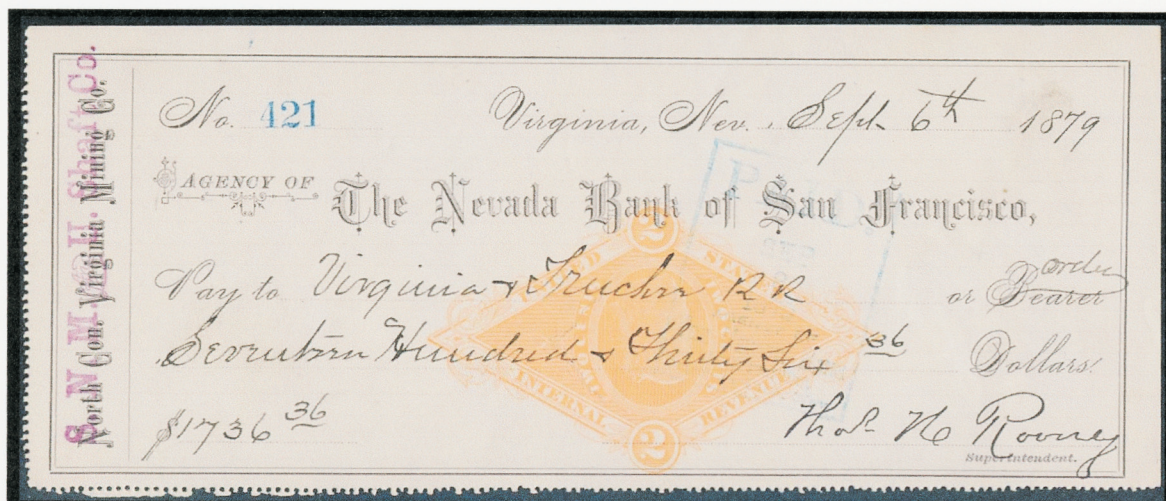
[illegible]

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

David McHugh

Sierra Nevada, Mexican and Union Shaft Company

This company was formed by the merger of Sierra Nevada Mill, Mexican Mill, Union Shaft and Union Consolidated.



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

It is payable to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, and is signed by Thomas Rooney, born in New York in 1845. His father was born in Ireland.



1882 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).

It is payable to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, and is signed by Alexander G. McKenzie, born in Scotland in 1831.

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

David McHugh

Summit Mill

Summit Mill was located at the north end of Virginia City.



1868 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax and 2¢ Nevada tax.

Trench Mill

Trench Mill, built in 1860 near Silver City, was purchased by James Fair and John Mackay in 1869.²



1871 check, subject to 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). It was NOT subject to Nevada tax, as the tax on checks was eliminated March 4, 1871.

It is signed by James Fair.

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

David McHugh

Trench Mill (continued)



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

It signed by John W. Mackay.



1875 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).

It is signed by James Fair.

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

David McHugh

Utah Mining Company

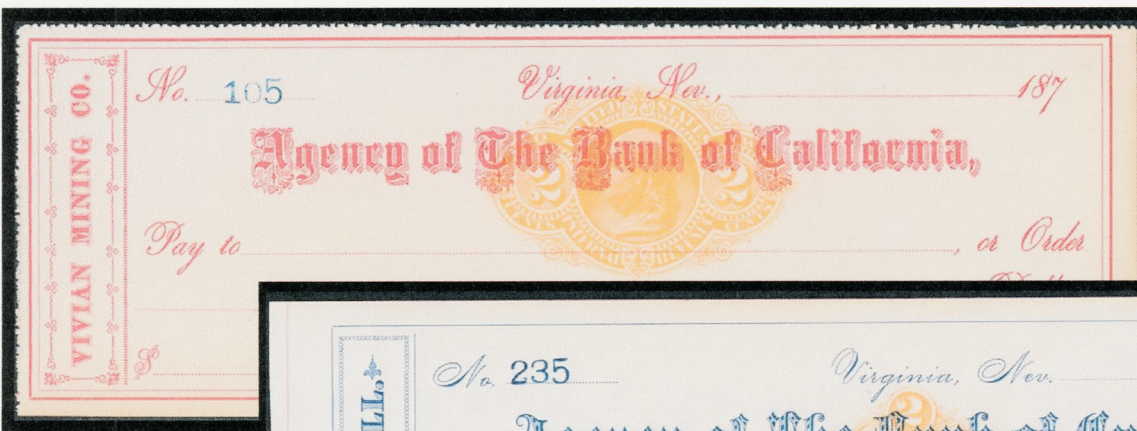
No information could be located about the Utah Mining Company, its operation in Nevada, or its owners.

1876 check,
subject to 2¢
Federal tax
(Imprint Type G1).



Vivian Mill & Mining Company

The mine president was A. K. P. Harmon, and D. L. Bliss was a trustee. The claim had a length of 1,600'.¹²



Unused check
intended for use at a
time that would have
made it subject to a
2¢ Federal tax
(Imprint Type F1).

Unused check
intended for use at a
time that would have
made it subject to a
2¢ Federal tax
(Imprint Type G1).



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

David McHugh

Woodworth Mill

Carson River Quartz Mill, built on the Carson River, was owned by Joseph Woodworth. The mill was later known as the Woodworth Mill. By 1873 it was owned by John W. Mackay and James G. Fair.

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

The check is signed by John W. Mackay.



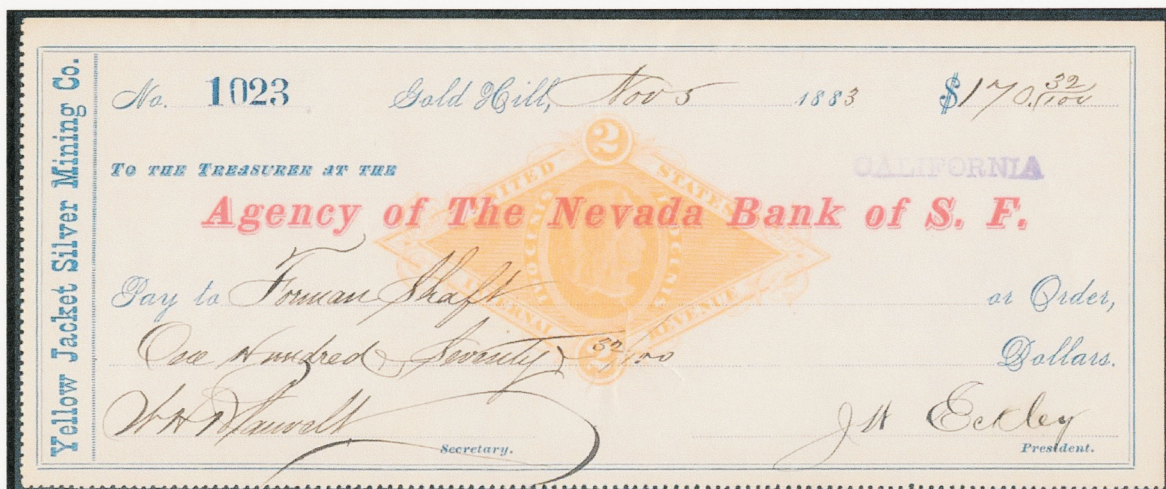
1873 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type E7, which consists of Federal E-type imprint with addition of "GOOD ONLY FOR / BANK CHECK" inscribed above and below the portrait).

It is signed by James G. Fair.

Yellow Jacket Silver Mining Company

The Yellow Jacket Mine, staked in 1859, was one of the deepest in the Comstock Lode, at one point reaching down 3,054 feet.

1883 check, subject to 2¢ Federal tax (Imprint Type G1).



To be continued.

Bank Check Revenue Stamps on Photographs

by Lee Poleske

At least one photograph with a bank check stamp is a nice additional to a check collection.

For those check collectors at all interested in revenue stamps, an interesting use of the 2c bank check stamps R5 (blue) and R6 (orange) is on photographs.

Among the many items subject to Civil War revenue stamp taxes were photographs. This tax became effective September 1, 1864. Remember at this time cameras were large and cumbersome and processing was complicated, so if the average person wanted a personal or family photograph they had to go to a professional photographer and pay for the photograph.

The amount of tax depended on the retail price of the photograph:

<u>Retail price</u>	<u>Tax</u>
up to 25¢	2¢
26¢-50¢	3¢
51¢ to \$1.00	5¢
over \$1.00	5¢ for each additional \$1 or fraction thereof

The most common **2c** tax stamps used on photographs were proprietary stamps, but the **2c** bank check stamps were also occasionally used. From the samples I have seen, R5 seems much more common than R6. The tax stamp was usually put on the back of the photograph.



The tax on photographs was rescinded August 1, 1866.

Checks Taxed by Two Countries

by Bob Hohertz

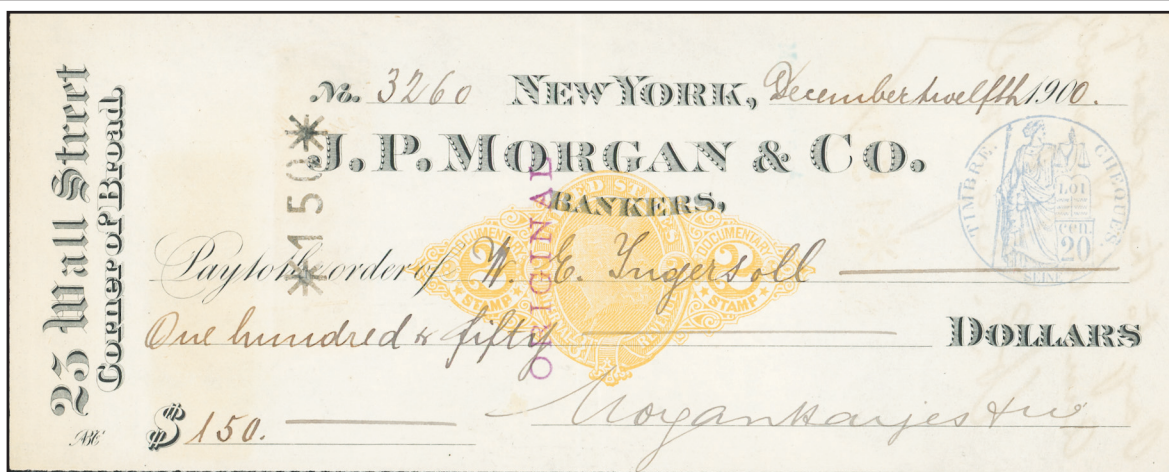
Paul Nelson (see TCC 93 and 94) sent me an interesting bill of exchange from Denmark to Iraq for possible inclusion in a future issue, and what caught my eye was that it bears a Danish revenue, taxing it at issue, and an Iraqi revenue, taxing it when cashed. This led me to think of items in my collection that were taxed by the United States and another country, and to realize that I don't have many, and I don't know all that much about the non-U.S. taxes involved.

One good reason for the lack of ready examples originating in the U.S. is that there are only three, relatively brief, times when checks, drafts and bills of exchange were taxed here. 1862-83 for the Civil War tax, 1898-1902 for the Spanish-American War tax, and the 1932-34 tax.

We'll look at the Danish bill after a few examples that did originate in the U.S.



Perhaps the most sought-after dual-tax item for collectors who want a type set of revenue stamped paper is a pair of the Morgan & Sons bills of exchange, each with a French ten-centime handstamp. These are not known used.



While it is not (yet?) a listed variety, a French twenty-centime handstamp is known on a check with a Spanish-American War imprint. At least this example is used, and the dual tax was not wasted.



The bill of exchange above was taxed two cents as a check by the Type D revenue imprint when written in Saint Louis, and three francs via an adhesive revenue when it was cashed in Paris.

Can anyone explain the French tax on this document? If I read the stamp correctly as a three-franc denomination, this does not seem in line with the French tax handstamps on the documents previously shown, which were only charged five and ten centimes for similar transactions. Check taxes may have increased between the mid-1860's and the late 1870's, but three francs seems unduly large, and would taxes have decreased to a much lower level again by 1900?

Moving on to the period of the Spanish-American War check tax, 1898 to 1902, one of the most often found examples of two-country taxation are the bills of exchange of the El Paso Smelting Works. Some of these were written in Mexico, payable in the United States, and others were written in El Paso, payable in Mexico. In either case, they paid tax to both countries.



This bill was written in El Paso, payable in Mexico city. Six cents tax was paid to the United States, as bills written in sets of two or more were taxed two cents per hundred dollars or fraction thereof and 500 pesos was roughly equivalent to \$250. The tax in Mexico was five centavos.

The bill below was written in Mexico City, payable in New York. A tax of fifty centavos was paid to Mexico, and another two cents to the U.S. when cashed. As a check written in a foreign country on a U.S. bank, the proper tax was twenty cents.



Dual taxation, U.S. and Great Britain, also exists on checks.



Until recently I would have classified this document as a bill of exchange, even though it clearly says it is a check and it only paid the two-cent check tax instead of the roughly \$340 in taxes on a bill, at two cents per hundred dollars and a five-to-one exchange rate.

The similar checks in my collection do not have an additional British revenue stamp. Some facet of British taxation singled this particular one out for it. I could speculate, but perhaps one of our colleagues in the British Banking History Society could tell us why without the need for guessing.

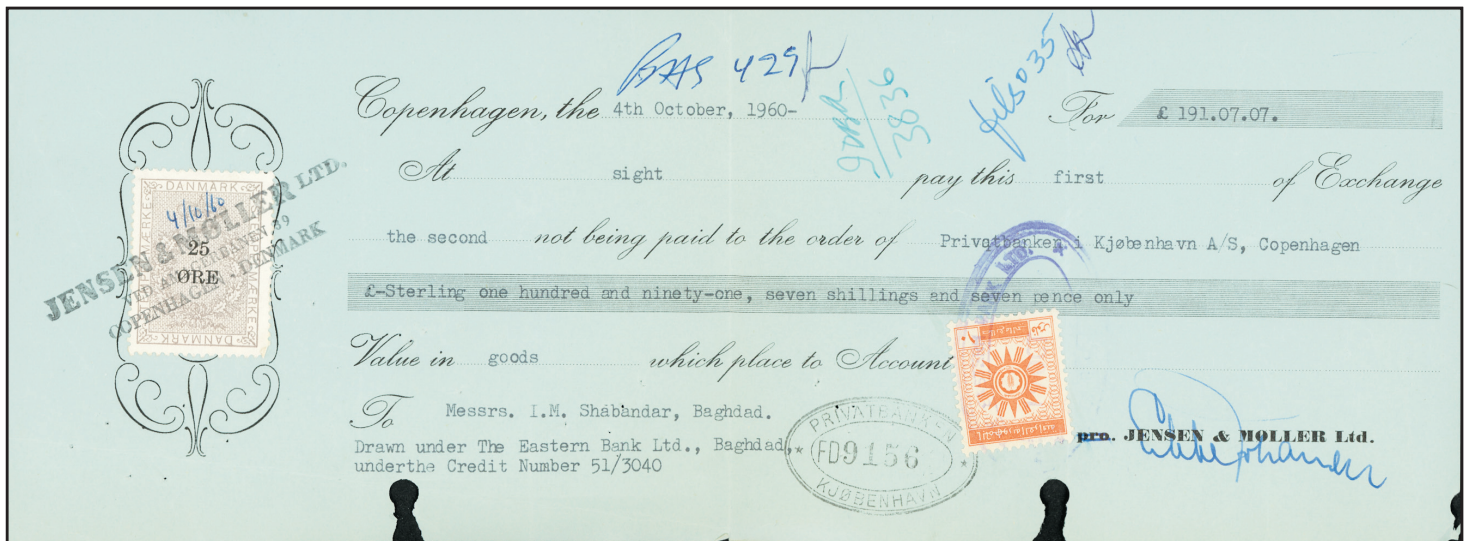


This check was issued in Baltimore. It did not pick up a tax stamp until it was cashed in England, and when it was returned to the United States the Bank of Bethesda collected an additional two cents to satisfy the 1932-35 check tax. The bank added the "plus tax 2¢" handstamp on the right side to remind the depositor to deduct the extra amount.



This check was treated much like the previous one, in that it was written on a U.S. Bank in 1933 but cashed in a foreign country, in this case Palestine, where it picked up an adhesive revenue. When it was returned to the New Rochelle Trust Company it almost certainly was charged the two-cent check tax in effect at the time. Some banks made check by check notations on bank statements to remind depositors to deduct the tax, and others sent a special notice containing the total amount covering all of the checks on the statement. Many of the banks taking one or the other of these approaches did not stamp the checks themselves, which was likely the case here.

Finally, let's take a look at the bill of exchange that started all of this. It was written in Copenhagen in 1960, denominated in pounds sterling, drawn under the Eastern Bank Ltd., Baghdad. It was taxed 25 øre when issued, and some amount (10 fils, perhaps?) when presented in Iraq. The bill is shown at 68% life size, as it is 283 mm long.



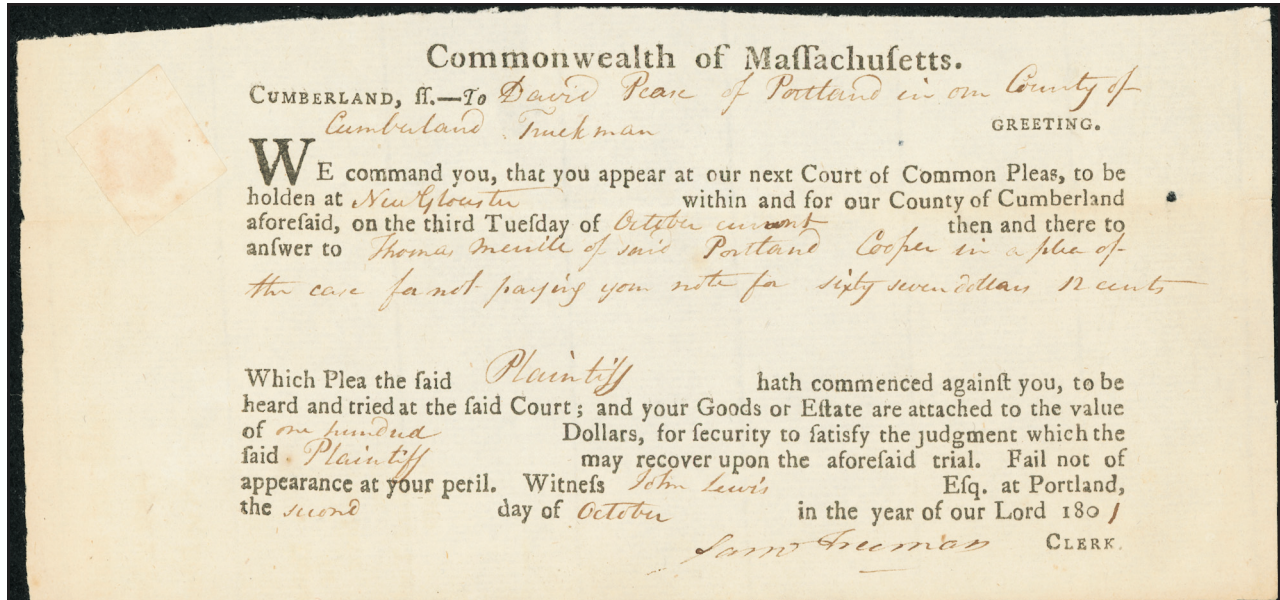
In taking a look at xeroxes of Scandinavian bills that Paul has sent me but which have not yet been published, it appears that two-country taxation is more commonly found in transactions not originating in the U.S. than ones beginning here.

If any reader can explain the foreign tax rates applied to the documents in this article, please let me know.

Some Interesting Items

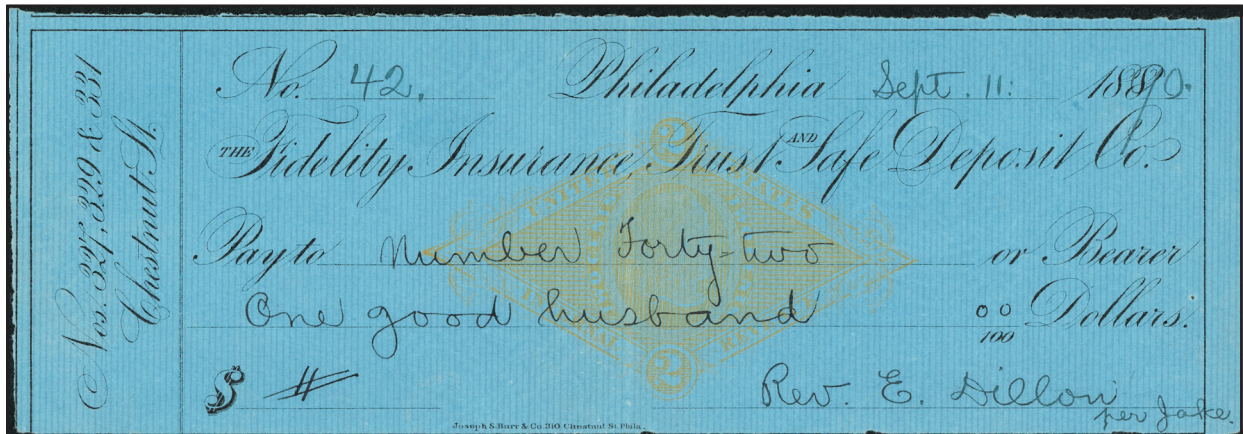
courtesy of Robert B. Spence

These are several items, originally from the Robert A. Spence collection, that may be of interest.



Before March 16, 1820, the state of Maine was only a district belonging to Massachusetts. This 1801 Massachusetts warrant to answer a case of non-payment of a note of \$67.12 was issued in Portland, Cumberland County, which is now Maine.

\$67.12 was not a trivial amount in 1801. It was worth almost as much as \$2,000 today.



Eighty-one years later this Philadelphia check was issued to "Number Forty-two" by the Rev. E. Dillon (per Jake.) The amount paid was "One good husband." It was not endorsed.

This probably was as good a way as any to use up old checks. Note that the revenue imprint was no longer necessary, and had not been redeemed.

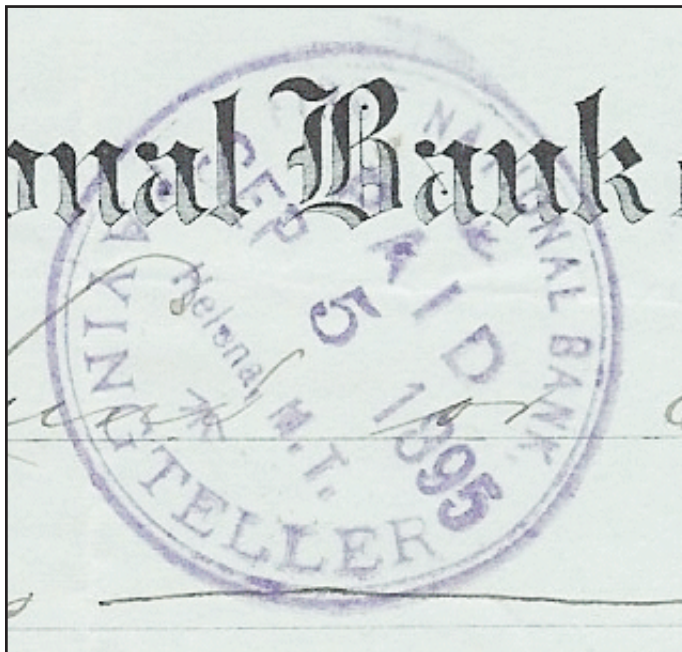
The Fidelity Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company eventually ended up as Wachovia and moved from Philadelphia to North Carolina.

Email to the Editor

Hi ASCC,

I bought this odd check on eBay and thought you would like to print it in a future issue.

The check is dated HELENA, MONTANA Aug. 6 1895 (MT became a state in 1889). The bank stamp on the face of the check is FIRST NATIONAL BANK PAID SEP 5 1895 HELENA M.T. PAYING TELLER. The bank stamp lists Helena as M.T. (Montana Territory). Weird!



Hope you can use it. Thanks.

Steven Kawalec

Announcements

Last quarter I reported that 100 Members were not current on their dues, an unusually large number for that time of year. In this quarter's secretary's report you will see seven resignations and 40 members who have not paid 2011 dues, offset slightly by four new members.

This is still an extraordinarily high number of unpaid members. At a membership of 178 (as I write this), we are approaching the point at which we cannot continue to pay for publishing The Check Collector without an unacceptable dues increase. The list of members who have not renewed is included in the secretary's report. If you see a friend's name on the list, please urge him or her to renew.

Also as I write this, I am preparing to make my annual trip to the Memphis International Paper Money Show. The ASCC has a standing reservation for a meeting room at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday of the show. Usually, only a few members attend. I would like to see a greater turnout and encourage you to plan to attend the show. There are a number of dealers who bring a stock of checks and I always find enough to make the trip worthwhile. The show is always in June. Why not consider attending next year?

Hermann

Secretary's Report

Lyman Hensley

JUNE SECRETARIES REPORT

Previous total	225
New members	4
Reinstatements	0
Resignations	7
Deaths	1
Not paid	42
No Forwarding Address	1
Current Total	178

New members

1876

Dan Harding (checks w/revenues)
P O Box 17212
Urbana, IL 61803

1877 Through Roger Patterson

J Tracy Walker III 2(VA), 4(VA and Confederate)
2865 Mt Aire Rock Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22901

1878

Steve O'Heron
232 San Marin Drive
Novato, CA 94945

1879 Internet

T R Jacks RM's ans RN's
202 East Broadway
Danville, IN 46122

continued on next page

Deceased

1544 Greg Ouellette

Resigned

1846 John Bowman
1638 Thomas Clark
1491 Lee Hartz
1366 Gary Ronk
1676 Lawrence Spychala
1500 Harold Ford
1801 Peter Sanderson

Dropped - No Forwarding Address

1858 Jeff Warner

Unpaid

1841 Pete Angelos	1800 Peter A. Hunt
1398 Ray Anthony	1439 Arri S. Jacob
1565 Robert O. Banks	1759 Elton Jorde
1850 Earl H. Bennett	1052 Donald J. Levis
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1545 Frank Daigle	1854 Postal History Foundation
1820 Robert J. Drew	1847 William G. Rau
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1822 Paul Elles	1838 Bruno Rzepka
0226 Lawrence Falater	1832 Garver H. Sandy
1684 George J. Fink	1406 Dr. Robert I. Schwartz
1078 James L. Gray	1831 Peter Sonne
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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

Seasoned and passionate check collector seeking checks autographed by notable personalities. **Michael Reynard**, 1301 20th St. #260, Santa Monica, CA 90404. reynard@ucla.edu

Wanted: Early NJ Checks. I have a large amount of 1830's Cooperstown NY checks to trade. Write first. **Steven Kawalec**, PO Box 4281, Clifton, NJ 07012. Owlproowler@aol.com.

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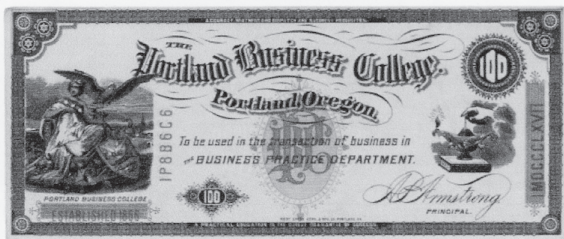
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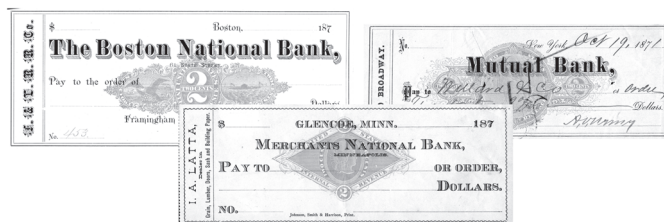
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