

FISCAL ISSUES OF STATE OF NEW YORK.

By E. R. VANDERHOOF.

As a means of invoking the curiosity and interest of neophytes, and of deepening the scholastic impulses of the initiated, I endeavor to place before the readers of the WEEKLY what information is at my command relating to the fiscal issues of the State of New York.

Used for the purpose of legalizing transfer of stocks on Wall Street, and holding in their realm fine fields for the hair splitting prospector, they are found to be very acceptable to many collectors as a side-line for spare moments—a line replete with minor varieties and shades—paper varieties, modes of surcharge and separation. They are commanding no little attention right now, and though the bulk of the varieties will be shortly obsolete, most of them can be picked up for trifling sums.

Of course, some of them are scarce, especially in the minor varieties, but I will endeavor to list only those so diversified that they will be apparent at sight, leaving the development of further varieties to the pleasure of the student.

The stamps have all been engraved and printed by Quale & Sons of Albany, New York. They are printed in sheets of one hundred stamps each. Each sheet is composed of ten rows of ten stamps each. All but the first issue, which is unwatermarked, appear on watermarked paper. The second issue being watermarked "State of New York Stock Transfer Tax." The third and fourth being watermarked "'09" in continuous and repeated lines of characters. The first issue is rouletted—all following being perforated.

The evident demand for the \$10.00 and \$20.00 is so small as to necessitate no change in those designs throughout. Readers will note that these values appear in the first design only. These two values, with single surcharge, and properly belonging to the second issue, are still in use. Nor have I heard rumor of any new design for these values.

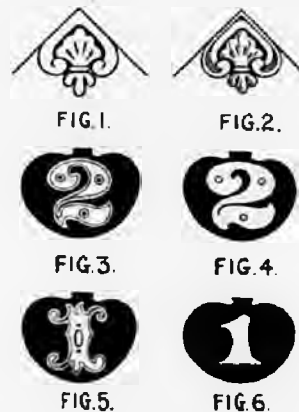
The ink used in applying the surcharges dissolves freely in water and great care should be exercised in cleaning the stamps—better not soak them at all as the paper will usually come readily enough from the backs of the stamps without soaking.

Finding these stamps without cut cancellations is like a systematic search for the proverbial hen's teeth, but it only adds zest to the search.

FIRST ISSUE, JUNE, 1905.

The design of this first issue measures $23\frac{1}{2}$ by $31\frac{1}{2}$ mm. It is printed on light weight white, wove paper. The upper center is ornamented by a circular tablet bearing the arms of the State of New York on colorless background, this coat-of-arms being surrounded by a band bearing the inscription "State of New York Stock Transfer Tax"—in colorless letters. The background of the rest of the design is composed of vertical lines of color. Each corner is ornamented by a design closely resembling the "Spade" of a deck of cards, only with more ornaments. A small oval surrounded by foliage and immediately underneath the coat of arms bears the numeral of value, while directly underneath this label is another bearing the denomination in letters. There are four elongated tablets, one at either side of the stamp bearing

heavy vertical lines which graduate the color to a nicety.



Below is a list of the values and varieties that have come to my direct notice, omitting all of the trifling minor varieties, which for good and sufficient reasons I do not consider worthy of mention in this humble article.

- Rouletted $11\frac{1}{2}$.
- 2c black.
4c red brown (shades).
10c green.
20c orange (shades).
A—Coarse impression.
B—Very clean, clear cut impression.
C—Pelure paper.
50c brown.
A—Single lined corner (Fig. 1).
B—Double lined corner (Fig. 2).
\$1.00 ultramarine (shades).
A—Double impression.
\$2.00 lake.
\$2.00 rose (shades).
- Type I.
1—Double lined numeral (Fig. 3).
2—Three dots on numeral.
3—Back ground composed of horizontal and vertical lines of color, lending a speckled aspect.
4—Single lined corner ornaments similar to Fig. 1.
- Type II.
1—Single lined numeral (Fig. 4).
2—Dots on numeral and back ground same as previous type.
3—Corner ornaments same as last.
- Type III.
1—Double lined corner similar to Fig. 2.
2—Numeral of value clear white.
3—Back ground solid color.
\$10.00 violet.
\$20.00 olive.

Following is a list of the imperf. and part perf. varieties of this issue which have been reported to me from very good authority as existing, or else have been sent me for inspection. I list them entirely separate from the design varieties and add them solely for the purpose of making this list as complete as possible.

- Imperf.
2c black.
10c green.
20c orange.
50c brown.
- Part Perf.
\$2.00 rose.

Before leaving the First Issue it may be timely to add a few words concerning the same. The 4 cent value is very hard to procure—in fact the 4 cent value is an uncommon denomination in all issues—and in this First Issue it exists in two distinct shades, I might say colors, copper color or red brown, and dark brown. For brevity I have listed it as red-brown only, it being the commoner shade.

The 10 cent value varies but little either in shade, retouches of engraving or imprint of worn and new plates. It appears to be the clearest cut and best executed of the values. The color in

which it is printed no doubt enhances this impression.

The 20c value has many shades, and several minor varieties of imprint and trivial differences in design can be found, too exacting to try the patience of the novice with, and unnecessary to the student, who can pick them out to his heart's desire. I have listed but two diametrically different impressions which, although not really distinct varieties to my mind, possess sufficient merit to bear classification. By seeing the two varieties side by side the difference is readily perceptible, and the slight deviation in my table will furnish food for thought to the party who revels in detail.

Type A of the fifty cent value is very hard for me to find. I have looked over several thousand copies and have turned up but few of them.

The \$2.00 values are the mine of the set, and although I have listed but three major types, which I consider the three necessary types to sub-classify from, still others can be found with the difference so marked and varied as to enable one to indulge in hair-splitting classification and arrangement *ad infinitum*. This is particularly true in Type 1, where the inner line of the numeral can be found in all stages of completion, clearness, continuity and length. I have listed the lake as a separate color, not a shade—it is so pronounced as to be necessary in distinguishing it.

SECOND ISSUE, 1906.

This issue is perforate $11\frac{1}{2}$ and watermarked as described. On each stamp is applied an imprint of some gelatinous substance, lozenge, or more properly speaking diamond shaped. This imprint measures approximately $12\frac{1}{2}$ by $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm., horizontally and vertically respectively. Each point of this imprint extends towards the middle of one side of the stamp. All denominations are surcharged in fugitive ink with double lined numerals of value in characters 14 mm. in height. Design same as first issue.

- 2c bluish black.
2c greenish black.
4c red brown.
10c green.
20c orange.
A—No surcharge.
50c brown.
\$1.00 ultramarine. Fancy numeral (Fig. 5).
Back ground similar to Fig. 3.
\$1.00 ultramarine. Plain numeral (Fig. 6).
Back ground of solid color.
A—Without surcharge.
\$2.00 rose (shades).
A—Surcharge applied in red.
B—Surcharge applied in green.
\$10.00 violet.
\$20.00 olive.

As near as I have been able to determine the imperf. and part perf. varieties of this issue are as follows:

- Imperf.
2c bluish black.
20c orange.
20c orange, without surcharge.
- Part Perf.
20c orange.

Minor varieties in this issue are much scarcer than in the previous one. This remains true also of the next two issues. Still there are some things to be found, but of such trifling significance as to be hardly worthy of note at this time.

THIRD ISSUE, 1907.

The design of this issue is entirely new, the stamps being somewhat smaller than the preceding issues. The design measures 22 by $29\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

It consists of a scalloped border with slightly ornamented corners, the coat-of-arms in a circle surrounded by a semi-circular band with the inscription "State of New York". Underneath in two lines are the words "Stock Transfer Tax". At the base and in the center is a ribbon separating two shields which bear the inscriptions of currency value.

On the values under \$1.00 the ribbon is straight and horizontal and bears the legend "CENTS" in small capital letters. On the \$1.00 values the ribbon is curved downwards, giving space for a fancy dollar sign (\$). The design is much more artistic than its predecessors and the paper appears to be heavier and of a pinkish or creamy lavender color.

All values are surcharged in the same manner as the second issue and on a gelatinous diamond or lozenge of the same size and form. The gauge of perforation is 11½. The values consist as below.

2c red brown.
4c lilac.
10c ultramarine.
20c slate green.
50c red orange.
\$1.00 deep rose.
\$2.00 green.

Some of these values are slow in making an appearance on the market owing to legislation which requires the brokers to retain the bill of transfer for a period of some months' duration. The chance of study and search for minor varieties is limited by a scarcity of stock for examination. Shades are fewer and the printing is much better than before.

FOURTH ISSUE, 1908.

This issue, the current one, is exactly the same as the previous issue except as follows: The gelatinous overprint is applied in wavy concentric lines 2½ mms. in width and running vertically over the stamps at a distance of 7 mms. apart.

Likewise the form of surcharge is changed. Instead of being applied in one or two numerals of the usual height, it is applied in multiple. Where but one numeral is required to express a value the surcharge is applied in small double lined numerals 5 mms. high with eight characters repeated thus:

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5      5
 5     5
5      5
5      5

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Where the value or denomination of the stamp requires two digits for expression, the surcharge is applied in numerals of 6 mms. in height for the top and bottom while the middle numerals are two mms. higher.

The 50c value has the character "c" at either side of the middle numerals of surcharge, no doubt a wise provision, as from the color of the stamp the green surcharge shows up boldly, and without these characters to fill in, the stamp would appear too thin in the middle to bear the weight of the upper row of numerals. Try this by covering the two characters up and the stamp will no doubt appear to you, as to me, badly out of proportion. The second form of surcharge is repeated in multiple as below:

5 5

5 5

5 5

The paper used is apparently the same as for the Third Issue. Perf. 11½. The values are as below.

2c red brown.
4c lilac.
10c ultramarine.
20c slate green.
50c orange.
\$1.00 carmine.
\$2.00 green.

In the foregoing it has been the aim of the writer to make his article an incentive for collectors to appreciate these beautiful stamps rather than to furnish an article replete with expert testimony. There are no doubt omissions and errors in the above, and I have endeavored to be correct generally, rather than technically. I hope that whatever interest may be inspired by my effort will be productive in the discovery of many additional varieties. It will be a pleasure on my part to hear from any one who has anything at hand in connection with these stamps. I have a number of duplicates which I will be very glad to exchange with collectors who are interested.

For a large portion of the foregoing I am indebted to several dealers, the Treasury Department of the State of New York, and many of my correspondents and friends. B. D. Förster, who is I believe the best posted party on these stamps I have had the pleasure of corresponding with, was instrumental in assisting me in a large measure.

The major portion of the part perf. and imperf. varieties are, I believe his own discoveries, although I have seen some of them from other sources.