

## U. S. REVENUES LISTED AND PRICED. DO THEY EXIST? A PERTINENT QUERY BY A RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY.

By CLARENCE H. EAGLE, 57 Broad St., N. Y. City.

Since writing an article for *Carter's Messenger*, which was published in April, 1908, with the above caption, I have been able to add one of the doubted Medicine stamps to the list, viz., Scott's No. 3288b. It is the same type as the long, common stamp, in black, priced at \$1.50 on old paper. The only difference is that it is printed in blue ink. The same stamp printed in red, Scott's No. 3286, has been known many years, although only one copy of it is in existence, or rather, has come to light up to the present time. This red copy was found by Mr. J. W. Scott many years ago pasted on a show card with other stamps and hung up in a stationery store in New York. He purchased the card, and placed the stamp in his Match and Medicine collection, of which he had a very fine one. He later disposed of this collection and the 1c red, J. C. Ayer & Co., went to the Vanderlip collection of Boston. There it reposed until Mr. Vanderlip sold his collection, when it passed into my possession. The Standard Catalogue has priced the stamp at \$300, but of course it cannot be supplied, as there is but the one copy. The copy printed in blue has only recently been found, and to Mr. Geo. J. Carter, the proprietor of Carter's Album, and late president of the U. S. Revenue Society, is due the credit of finding this stamp. The former owner obtained it in 1865. The Boston Phil. Society's book on revenues states that this blue stamp, as well as the red and several other colors, was issued in 1863. Is it not strange, as well as interesting that this stamp should have been "prophesied" so many years ago, and yet not known or catalogued until this time!

This should encourage all collectors of revenue stamps to hunt for the other ones that were foretold; perhaps a few copies of all of them are still in existence. It would be a fine thing if we could add the whole series to the catalogue.

Scott's catalogue takes no account of "experimental silk." This makes a lot of trouble for the collector, because many of the "ex-silks" are listed with the "regular silks." Many of the ex-silks do not exist as silk, and many occur on both papers. The result is great confusion.

I will explain here that *all* stamps of the regular documentary, first issue, listed as silk paper, like 2801d, are experimental silk, and that none of them is regular silk, as found in the Match and Medicine issues.

The following Match stamps are found on ex-silk only, but listed as silk in Scott's, Bent & Lea and Buck. J. B. Kelly & Co., medicine, occur on ex-silk, but not listed in Scott's except as on old paper.

A number of stamps occur on both ex-silk and regular silk, such as the following. Boutell & Maynard, Hunt, 1c N. Y. Match, Russell, Wilmington, 2c Demas Barnes & Co., 4c U. S. Prop. Med. Co., Oliver Crook & Co. I have not given the entire list.

There are numerous errors in Scott's also. As far as we know, the ultramarine ink was only used during the time that the "old" paper was in use, and I am inclined to doubt several of the stamps listed as ultramarine; for instance Eichele & Co. is not known on old paper, and if it exists in ultramarine it must be on the silk or wmk. paper.

The same is true of Wm. Roeber. I have not seen a true ultra of either of those stamps. Remember, light-blue and "milk-blue" are only shades of the regular blue; the true ultra must have a purplish cast, altho' very delicate to make it correct.

Jayne's "blue-ruled," copies are of no philatelic interest. I have both blue and red ruled ones. The lines come from the stamps having been pasted or mounted in old account books that had ledger ruling. To prove this, wet a stamp, place it on a ruled ledger sheet or bill head, press it in a copying press, and you will have the ruling transferred to the stamp. That is all there is to that "variety."

No pair of Mishler's Herb Bitters part-perf. has ever turned up; many single copies can be trimmed to look well as a part-perf. The same may be said of Home Bitters Co. Rings Veg. Ambrosia 4c exists part-perf. frequently in singles, and is all right, for I have a vertical pair in fine condition. Sheetz's imperf. is probably all right, because the Butler & Carpenter records show that it was issued so, but no pair has been found, altho' several singles with wide margins are known. The Swaim's are listed right, and altho' three varieties are unpriced, one copy each is known. The Tallcott on pink is all right, altho' I only know of two copies. The Corning & Tappans are confusing to the collector, for there is a die cut variety, the commonest of all, which is not mentioned. There are two sizes of round dies used on the black stamps. They should be priced about 75c for the small die and \$1.00 for the large die. The Young, Ladd & Coffins are confusing, for many are listed imperf., that have never been seen in pairs. Only three values are known in pairs and those are on wmk. paper, viz., 2, 3 and 4c. All the silks and pinks are unknown in pairs, though most are listed imperf. The 4c Hazeltine probably was used imperf., for many copies are found with good margins, but no pairs are known. G. G. Green, tête bêche, means that the plate on which the stamps were printed, had the stamps in rows, head to head, and neck to neck. I have a vertical strip of three which shows the entire scheme. No single copy is therefore of any value to illustrate that variety. The Perry Davis shades are very complicated and perplexing—several are of colors that easily fade—and the whole list should be revised. This however will be quite a difficult task.

As I said in my last article, I am still looking for Bentz on silk, Campion on pink uncut, Kerr 4c on old, Rose 2c on wmk.

If any of the readers of this article know of the following I should appreciate hearing from them:

Young L. & Coffin pair of 1c, on any paper, imperf.; Wilder 1c old and 4c old and silk, pairs; Campion on silk, in a pair; G. G. Green rouletted pair; Hoyt 4c silk, block of four; 1c Herrick's plasters, red on pink, without the initials H. M. F. printed thereon.

Also pairs of U. S. Revs. first issue perforated, 2c proprietary, orange and the 6c Prop. orange; \$10 Charter Party imperf. in a pair; second issue pairs of the \$1.30 and \$1.90. In the 1871 issue perf. pair of the 2c on green paper; 1875 issue, rouletted pair of the Liberty Head 2c check stamp.

In connection with the subject of errors in the Standard Catalogue, I would like to call attention to the difference in rarity of two or three of the second issue inverts, according to their condition. The 25c is the rarest of all that issue, and in any reasonable condition is worth \$150. There are only four or five known. The one dollar invert is in the same class, and as rare, provided it is not of the *punched* lot found about two years ago. These punched copies had large holes, either round or triangular, at one end or at both ends of the stamp. These holes were neatly filled in by expert repairers so neatly that those unaware of the game would not suspect that they were repaired at all. There were at least one hundred copies of the punched kind found in the New York Custom House, but no unpunched ones. This of course made the punched and repaired ones very common, while the unpunched copies, only four or five being known, remained just as rare. Before the "find," the old unpunched kind sold at auction as high as \$101, and that kind is just as rare today and well worth \$150. The punched ones, however, can be had for about \$20.00. The Catalogue gives no price for either condition. The same punched condition exists with the 50c invert. But no other values have been found except a very few \$5.00 inverts, not enough to depreciate the value, however.

Collectors of imperf. and part-perf. revenues should, as far as their means will permit, obtain pairs of those stamps, as being the only positive proof. Why pay five dollars for an imperf. stamp that may have been trimmed from a five cent perforated stamp, when ten dollars might buy a pair, that for all time could not be questioned or criticised?

For many years I have been collecting pairs for the purpose of proving what exist imperf. and what do not exist in that condition. Up to the present time I have obtained pairs of all the imperf. except three, and I don't mind telling all my readers what they are, even at the risk of making them more expensive in the end. They are the \$1.30, \$1.90 and \$10 Charter Party. I do not doubt that these three were issued imperf., though I have not seen any pairs. Will they turn up? I think the Charter Party will, but the other two odd values may never have been used, except singly. Remember, people never used two stamps if one was sufficient. During the Spanish-American war two stamps were never put on a check, though millions—yes billions—of checks were used with one stamp. If there were no remainders, a pair of "I. R." check stamps would be quite a rarity.

Before closing I suggest an interesting sideline of Match collecting; that of Match wrappers. Byam and Carleton dated most all the wrappers as they were printed, probably with the same idea that Eastman dates all his Kodak films, so that the consumer knows how old the goods are. Matches deteriorated with time. Collecting the dates makes a very interesting study. I have a very full list of dates, and would be glad to exchange duplicate dates with any one who is interested. Send me a list of the dates you have, and I will let you have duplicates of those you are short as far as they hold out.