

THE MATCH WRAPPERS OF BYAM, CARLTON & CO.

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The object of this article is to give a list of dates of the Byam, Carlton & Co., match box wrappers as far as known to date. No list has been published in many years, and since Sterling's 1888 and Adenaw's 1894 catalogues, quite a number of new dates have been discovered.

As far as I know there is only one other published list, and that is an incomplete one printed in "Mekeel's Complete Catalogue" of 1894, and all signs point to its having been copied from Sterling's and Adenaw's lists.

A. Forbin's "Catalogue of Fiscal Stamps" published this year in France, makes an effort to note the number of dates of the four varieties, as 17, 33, 58 and 49, but this is away short of the actual number, and many less than the old authorities, so Forbin adds nothing to our knowledge, especially as he gives no list of dates.

Sterling's list is correct as far as it goes, but Adenaw has several mistakes; he duplicates and mixes up the "reading up" and "reading down" varieties, and cites three dates in August, 1872, that it is almost certain never were issued.

The Revenue book published in 1899 by the Boston Phil. Society did not go into the matter of dates at all, and also omitted to note and describe the difference in the "reading up" and "reading down" varieties. But in other respects it is the best book of reference on the subject; and for the minute description of all the wrappers, I refer my readers to it, and I thus avoid a dry description of them here, which would involve an unnecessarily long article.

I am indebted to a number of brother collectors for valuable information as to dates, among whom I wish to thank Mr. J. N. Morse of Boston, Mr. E. C. Farnsworth of Portland, Dr. Geo. Hetrich, Mr. A. G. Bishop, and Mr. Chas. A. Nast. The last three men have furnished me with four dates, of which I shall later mention, and of which I did not have a copy. The list which I append, will be a list of dates that I own and have in my possession, with the exception of those four, two of which I have examined. I mention this so that there will be no question of "hearsay" dates. The two that I have not seen were offered to be sent on to me for examination, but I did not consider it necessary, as the gentleman is a good student and thoroughly reliable, and I asked him to confirm the dates a second time in writing, which he did.

Now, having quoted my authorities, I will append the list; but before doing so, I may say that the collecting of Match and Medicine wrappers is quite a proper part of a Private Proprietary collection; and in my opinion, can be likened to the relation that Envelopes and Wrappers bear to the regular adhesive postal issues—quite close.

Scott's numbers 3148 and 3149 have no dates. Scott's number 3151 has but one date, APRIL, 1866 with a variety without comma.

There are many minor varieties and errors in the dates, and in the initials B. C. & Co., such as, omission of periods and commas, B. O. for B. C., B. G., B. O. & C. C. etc. Then again the relative position of the month to the year varies, showing that the type for the same date was set more than once. Also the mortise containing the date is more or less broken, until the top of the frame is gone altogether. I shall omit all but one or two very distinct errors.

The reason for changing from the 1st to the 2nd day of the month was to avoid Sunday, but investigation shows that some were dated on a Sunday.

In the three lists which follow the printer has been very accurate about the commas and periods and "errors."

SCOTT'S No. 3150, ONE HEAD TO RIGHT ON WHITE PAPER—23 LISTED.

MAY, 1866.	April 1868
*JULY, 1866.	Jan. 1 1869
AUGUST, 1866.	Nov. 1 1869
Septem. 1866.	Aug. 1 1870
October, 1866.	June 1 1871
April, 1867.	July 1 1872
May, 1867.	July 1 1873
June 1867.	Aug. 1 1874
Nov. 2 1867.	April 2 1875
1867.	April 2 1875 with
Jan. 6 1868.	top of frame entirely
Feb. 8 1868.	broken away.
April 2 1868.	

* Given by Sterling, Adenaw and Mekeel. Mekeel gives Jan. 1868; whereas it should be Jan. 6 1868. Sterling gives no Jan. 1868 at all. My opinion is, that one authority compiled from another, and that any mistake was carried on. I am only giving dates that I have and noting the others as I go along. Adenaw says: "I am conscious that this list is far from what it ought to be. Brother collectors from whom I expected additional information failed or refused to send it."

SCOTT'S No. 3152, TWO HEADS TO RIGHT ON BUFF PAPER—80 LISTED.

All dates of this variety, to and including, Mar 1 1872 have the directions at the right side "reading up." All from June 1 1872 on, have the directions "reading down." If any dates should be found between March and June 1872, it will be interesting to know just where the change takes place. Here is where Adenaw has made his mistake. He quotes, April, May, July and August of 1872 in the list of "reading up"; three of which I do not believe exist either way, and on the next page he quotes July 1872 again under the "reading down". It would be remarkable if July existed both ways. He also has Feb. and March 1873 under the "reading up", and on the next page the same months "reading down". He, or the printer, got things badly mixed.

Reads up	Aug 2 1871
MARCH, 1866.	Oct 2 1871
*MAY, 1866.	Nov 1 1871
JUNE, 1866.	Dec 1 1871
JULY, 1866.	Feb 1 1872
Septem. 1866.	Mar 1 1872
Novem. 1866.	Mar 1 187
Decem. 1866.	Reads down
Jan. 1867.	June 1 1872
Feb. 1867.	July 1 1872
March, 1867.	Sept. 2 1872
*Sep. 1867.	Nov 2 1872
Nov. 2 1867.	Jan 2 1873
Feb. 3 1868.	Feb 1 1873
Aug. 1 1868.	Mar 1 1873
Sept. 1 1868.	May 1 1873
Dec. 1 1868.	June 2 1873
Jan 1 1869.	July 1 1873
†Feb 1 1869.	Aug 1 1873
April 1 1869.	Aug 1
June 1 1869.	Oct 1 1873
Aug 1 1869.	Nov 1 1873
Oct. 1 1869.	Dec 1 1873
†Nov 1 1869.	Jan 1 1874
Feb 1 1870.	Mar 2 1874
Mar 1 1870.	May 2 1874
April 1 1870.	June 1 1874
May 2 1870.	July 1 1874
June 1 1870.	Sept 1 1874
July 1 1870.	Nov 2 1874
Aug 1 1870.	Dec 2 1874
Sept 1 1870.	Feb 2 1875
Sep. 1870.	May 2 1875
Nov. 1 1870.	June 2 1875
Dec 1 1870.	June 2 1875
Jan 2 1871.	July 2 1875
Feb 2 1871.	Aug 2 1875
Mar 2 1871.	Sept. 2 1875
April 1 1871.	
Apr. 1 1871.	
April 1871.	*Dr. Geo. Hetrich owns
May 2 1871.	†C. A. Nast owns
July 1 1871.	‡A. G. Bishop owns

Note. This list contains all that Sterling gives and many more. It contains all that Adenaw gives and many more, with the exception of the three dates in 1872 heretofore

mentioned. He gives June 2, 1874 as well as June 1 1874 but this agrees with no authority, and should be June 1 or June J.

SCOTT'S No. 3153 ONE HEAD TO LEFT ON WHITE PAPER. (ENGRAVED) 49 LISTED.

July 1 1876.	Sep. 2 1878.
Sep. 1 1876.	Oct. 1 1878.
Oct. 1 1876.	Nov. 1 1878.
Nov. 1 1876.	Dec. 2 1878.
Dec. 1 1876.	Jan. 1 1879.
Jan. 1 1877.	Feb. 1 1879.
Feb. 1 1877.	Mar. 1 1879.
Mar. 1 1877.	Apr. 1 1879.
Apr. 2 1877.	May. 1 1879.
May 1 1877.	Jun. 2 1879.
Jun. 1 1877.	Jul. 1 1879.
Jul. 2 1877.	Aug. 1 1879.
Aug. 1 1877.	Sep. 1 1879.
Sep. 1 1877.	Oct. 1 1879.
Oct. 1 1877.	Nov. 1 1879.
Nov. 1 1877.	Dec. 1 1879.
Dec. 1 1877.	Jan. 1 1880.
Jan. 1 1878.	Feb. 2 1880.
Feb. 1 1878.	Mar. 1 1880.
Mar. 1 1878.	Apr. 1 1880.
Apr. 1 1878.	May. 1 1880.
May. 1 1878.	Jun. 1 1880.
Jun. 1 1878.	Jul. 1 1880.
Jul. 1 1878.	Aug. 2 1880.
Aug. 1 1878.	

This list agrees with Sterling, Adenaw and Mekeel; 49 dates. A few varieties of periods and commas exist.

SCOTT'S No. 3154 TWO HEADS TO LEFT ON BUFF PAPER (ENGRAVED) 59 LISTED.

Note. In all the dates of 1876, the B., C. & Co. in normal condition, has a comma after the period following "B".

From January 1, 1877, to the end of the list, the comma, in the normal condition, is omitted. Several minor errors occur in this series. One well known variety has no date at all, and is believed to have been printed in 1878; also the same mistake occurred at the printing of July 1, 1879; some with no date got out then. I have an albino of that date, also; evidently two sheets printed at same time, and only the impression showing on one. This series I know was printed in sheets, for I have a horizontal strip of three, of date April 1, 1880; and single copies frequently show a part of the next stamp, through careless cutting apart.

It will be unnecessary to give a protracted list of dates of this series, because one lot was issued every month, from January 1, 1876, to, and including October 1, 1880. All were dated the first of the month, except the following, April 2, 1877; July 2, 1877; September 2, 1878; December 2, 1878; June 2, 1879; February 2, 1880, and August 2, 1880; and the "no date" one.

The cause of most of the errors in all the series is mainly due to printing the initials and date from type set in a mortise, cut in the wood block. The type would slip out or become broken, causing partial or no dates to be printed and issued. The errors in what are known as the engraved series, 3153 and 3154, are very few.

RECAPITULATION—NUMBER OF DATES LISTED.

Scott's No.	3151	3150	3152	3153	3154	Total
Sterling	1	14	57	49	59	180
Adenaw	1	17	62	49	59	188
Mekeel	1	17	62	49	59	188
Forbin	1	17	33	49	58	158
Eagle	1	23	80	49	59	212

A very good way to keep wrappers, by those who collect dates, is to place them in chronological order in a shallow paste-board or cigar box; this keeps them smooth and flat, can be readily examined and avoid the danger of injury that stamp-stickers cause when mounting in an album.

I would be pleased to hear from any one who has any dates other than those given, and would like to exchange duplicates.