

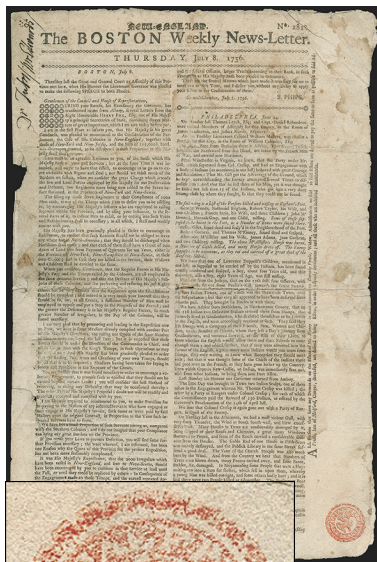
Viewing Collections:

Viewing the Antizzo Revenue Stamped Paper

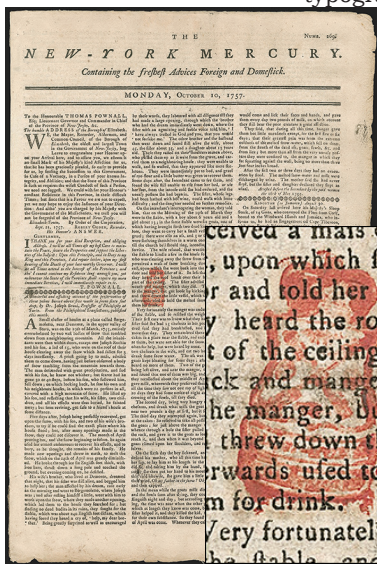
by John F. Dunn

On October 23 Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries presented for auction the Joseph Antizzo Collection of Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper, giving us a chance for an in-depth study of this not-often covered area. As a reminder, all prices quoted here do not include the 18% Buyer's Premium that is added on to these hammer prices; and the statements are from the auction lot descriptions. My comments are in brackets.

The Siegel auctioneers went to great efforts to properly present this auction, as Revenue Stamped Paper is difficult to see, so they showed the documents and enhanced the pieces in separate images. In some instances we worked them further, so what you are seeing stands out more than they do on the actual documents. Also, in order to save space, we show substantially reduced images of the documents and enlarged views of the Revenues.



With that, the first lot selected for viewing was the first lot in the auction, the -1/2p Red, Massachusetts (Sc. RM1), a clearly printed impression at bottom right corner of *The Boston Weekly News-Letter* dated July 8, 1756, interesting news content including list of those killed and missing at Fort Bigham during French and Indian War...Very Fine impression of this scarce early typographed revenue issue, one of the finest impressions we have ever encountered. With an SCV of \$2,500, it drew a hammer price of \$3,250.



Next is the -1/2p New York (RM9), a clear impression on a four-page October 10, 1757, edition of *The New-York Mercury*, interesting news content including report of fortification of Savannah, Extremely Fine impression, Mr. Antizzo considers this to be the finest impression he has ever seen, SCV \$1,600, realization \$325.

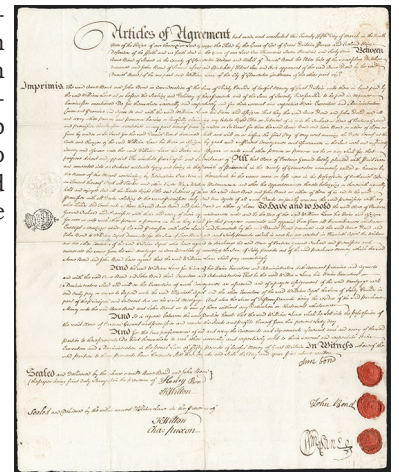
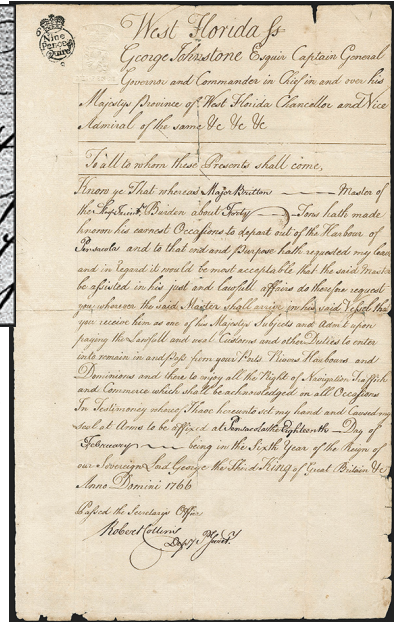


Next we view the 4p "America", Die B (RM25), a detailed impression at top left of handwritten ship's clearance document executed at Pensacola, West Florida, headlined "George Johnstone Esquire, Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in

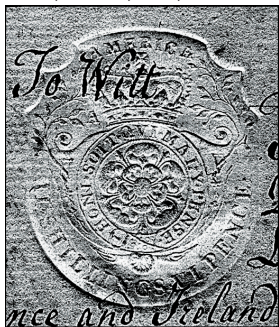
and over his Majesty's Province of West Florida, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same &c &c &c", neat "Nine Pence Quire" crowned circle handstamp, dated February 18, 1766, light vertical file fold affects embossing [the Stamped Revenue].

This is the only recorded example of the British Revenue Issue for Use in America that was actually used in what is now the United States...also the only example of the Die B stamp in private hands. A world-class rarity and one of the highlights of the Antizzo Collection. As it turned out, it drew the top price in the auction. With an SCV of \$7,500-10,000, it sold for \$19,000. [As you can see, Revenue Stamped Paper rarities do not have the following and do not draw the prices that Revenue stamp rarities draw.]

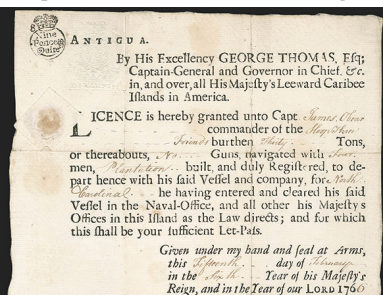
Here we view the 2sh6p "America", Overstruck (RM31 var), a bold impression overstruck by Great Britain 2sh6p embossed revenue stamp, "Nine Pence Quire" crowned circle handstamp at left, on handwritten article of agreement for sale of real estate in Stroud, Gloucester, England, dated March 25, 1769, Very Fine. With the failure of the implementation of the Stamp Act of 1765, so as not to waste paper, the stamped paper was returned to the



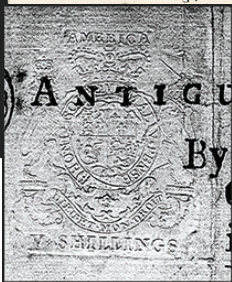
British stamp office where the stamps were overstruck with those currently in use in England, the word “America” was removed and the die was used as a British stamp. Estimated at \$1,000-1,500, it sold for \$3,000.



[To compare the ‘before and after’, above left is RM31, with “America” at the top, from another lot in the auction that I did not select for this viewing, just visible above the manuscript, “To Wittt”, and above right is the Overstruck variety.]



Next is an example of how difficult it was to present these lots. Here’s the lot description: 5sh “America” (RM34) detailed impression at top left of part-printed ship’s clearance document issued in Antigua to the captain of the sloop *Three Friends*, departing for North Carolina, dated February 15, 1766, well-struck “Nine Pence Quire” crowned circle handstamp, part of printing over design which is still clearly visible, expertly silked. This is the only recorded example of the 5-Shilling “America” Revenue Issue. Some are known overstruck with Great Britain



embossed revenue stamps... This is the only recorded example used for its original intended purpose.

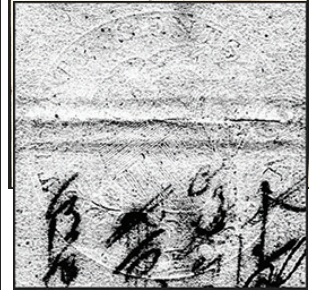
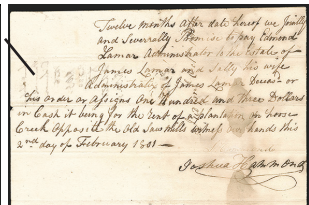
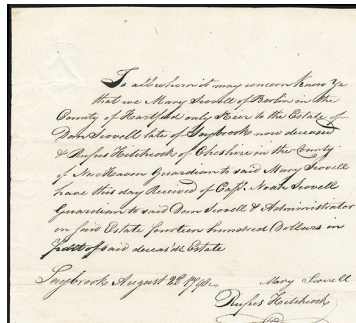
[Looking at the document, you might think the Revenue Stamp is that visible in the upper left, but that is, as described, the Crown Circle handstamp. The Revenue Stamped Paper is embossed, as described and pictured in the magnified enhanced image, below the Antigua printing—and other than a bit of graying, is not at all visible on the document without the rework.]

With an SCV of \$3,750, this lot went for \$7,000 [and I wonder how this sale would have gone without the computer enhancements to make the Revenue Stamped Paper visible].

At the top left of the next column is the \$2.00 Connecticut (RM53), a clear impression at top left of 8 x 12 inch handwritten estate document dated “Saybrook August 22nd 1798”, paper with “1794” watermark at upper left.

This is reported to be the only know example...one of the greatest of all Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper Rarities. The Combs survey lists only this example for the \$2.00 Connecticut. Estimated at \$3,000-4,000 it sold for \$4,000.

At the top right of the next column is the 30¢ Georgia (RM75), a fully legible impression at top left of handwritten promissory note dated February 2, 1801, slight waterstaining

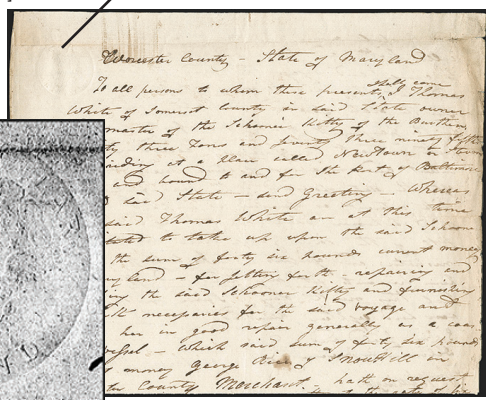


well away from embossing.

This is the only recorded example of the 30-cent Georgia First Federal Issue, a great rarity. With an SCV of \$3,000,

it realized \$1,800. [Note that the manuscript writing over the Embossed stamp is not the clearly visible writing to the right of the embossed area, but the light notation at the bottom of that area (arrow.)]

Here we have the \$1.00 Maryland (RM104), a light



but readable impression at top left of a handwritten bill of sale dated June 9, 1800, light horizontal file fold at top just affects embossing. [The pointer touches the top of the file fold at the junction with the dark area of the embossed stamp.]

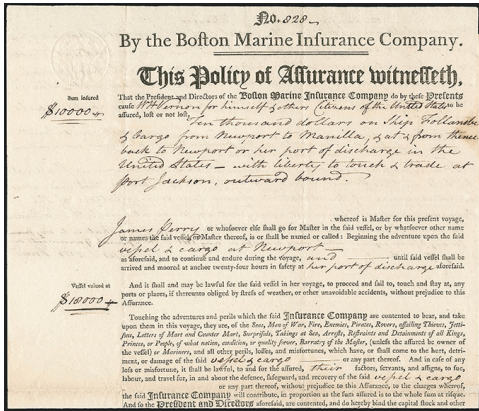
The Combs survey lists three examples of the \$1.00 Maryland First Federal issue, but Joyce had not seen another and considered this to be unique. We have also been unable to locate any others.

Listed but unpriced in Scott, it was estimated at \$2,000-3,000 and realized \$2,100.

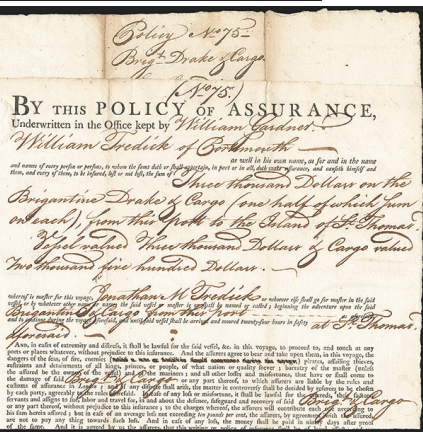
At the top of the next column is the \$1.00 Massachusetts (RM117), a detailed impression at top left of a part-printed insurance policy for the ship *Follansbee* for a trip from Newport to Manila and back, dated September 5, 1800, fresh and Very Fine. Shown here is the magnified view of the Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper.

With an SCV of \$350, it sold for \$550.





To the right is the \$1.00



New Hampshire (RM130), a bold impression at top left of part-printed maritime insurance policy for the brigantine *Drake* and its cargo, dated April 19, 1799. Only three examples are recorded in the Combs Survey.

With an SCV of \$3,500, it went for \$2,100.

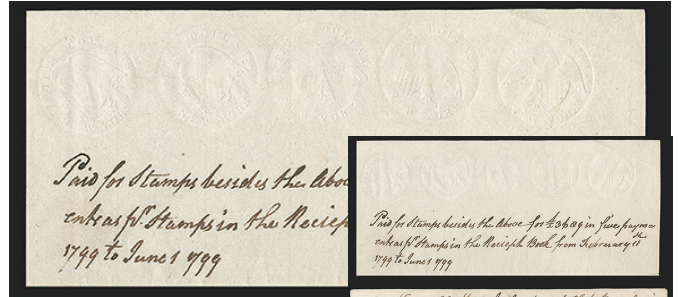
Next is the 20¢ New Jersey (RM138), a clear impression at top left of handwritten promissory note dated January 31, 1800, signed by George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence,



faint horizontal file fold affects embossing, cut cancel barely affects signature. Clymer is one of five people to sign both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Combs states only two examples are known. This has the desirable Signer's signature. Listed but unpriced in Scott, it was estimated at \$2,000-3,000 and sold for \$2,100.

At the top of the next column is the 50¢, \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 New York (RM154, RM157, RM159, RM160), two impressions of the \$10, clear impressions in a row on second page of handwritten discharge of legacy dated November 25, 1799, manuscript "Paid for stamps besides the above for \$36 org. in five payments as pr. stamps in the Receipt Book from the February 11th 1799 to June 1, 1799", pristine condition and excellent impressions—given the significant sums involved the



embosser took his time. [Shown here is the complete page, the top section of that page per the Auction Catalog photo, our own further enlargement and the auction catalog enhanced embossed area.]

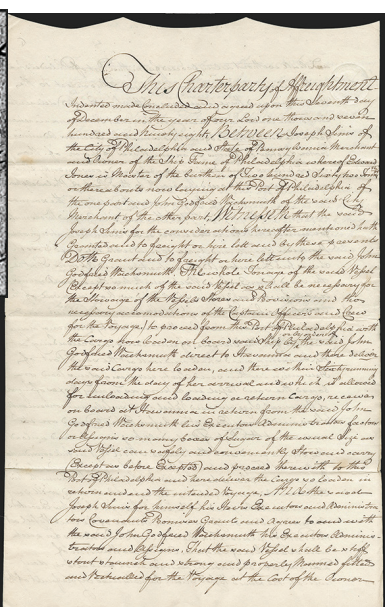
This is without question the greatest First Federal Document in existence. It bears the unique \$2.00, one of two known \$5.00 and the only two recorded examples of the \$10.00 New York.

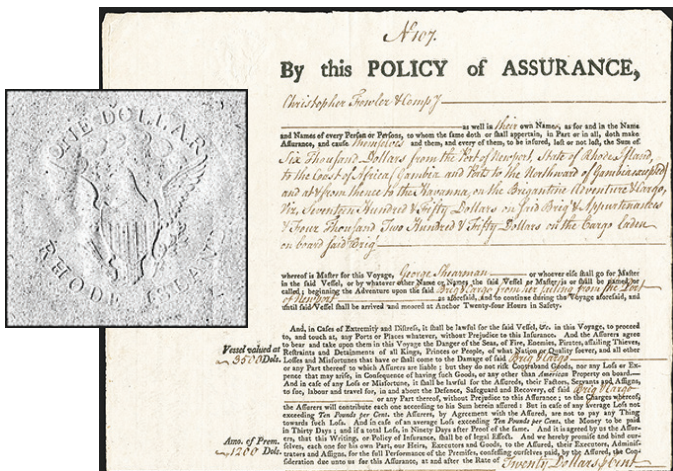
The \$2.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 are all listed but unpriced in Scott. Estimated at \$5,000-7,500, it realized \$10,000. [Keep in mind that the lot that sold for \$19,000, viewed earlier, was a British Revenue for Use in America, and not a Federal document.]

Next up is the \$1.00 Pennsylvania (RM182), a bold impression on the inside page of a four-page handwritten charter party dated December 7, 1798, fresh and Very Fine, a beautiful document, ex Joyce.



With an SCV of \$350, it sold for \$250.





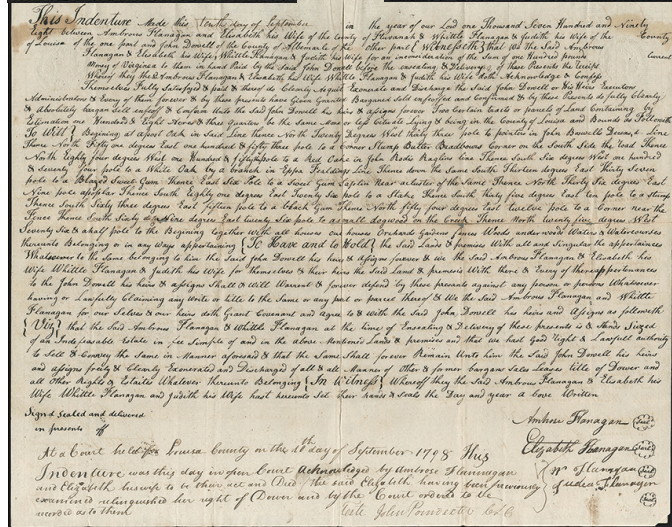
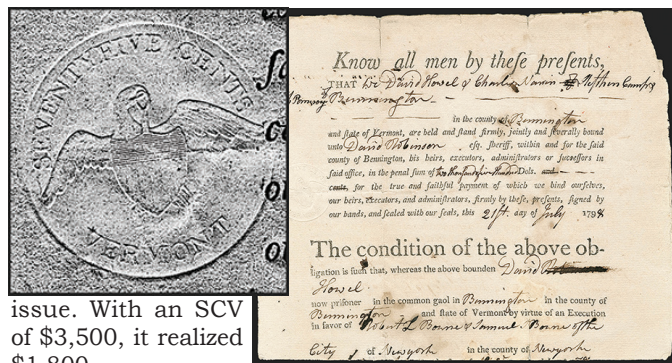
Next up is the \$1.00 Rhode Island (RM195) a detailed impression at top left of a large part-printed shipping insurance policy dated December 9, 1800. The insurance covers the brigantine *Adventure* and cargo for a trip from Newport, Rhode Island, to Africa and then to Havana against a range of issues such as “insurrections of slaves”, a fascinating document, the insurance is for the fixed amount of \$6,000 (vessel was valued at \$3,500) and the premium was \$1,200, an indication of the level of risk for a venture such as this, scarce, as only nine are recorded in the Combs survey.

With an SCV of \$1,250, it sold for \$400.

The next lot selected for viewing is the \$1.00 South Carolina (RM208), a sharp impression, used with a 25¢ South Carolina (RM206), also a sharp impression, applied in the top center margin of a 17 x 21 inch part-printed charter party dated November 10, 1800, notary public seal at bottom, usual file folds and small toning areas clear of \$1.00 embossing, the toning does slightly affect the 25¢ [at the lower right.] This is the only known example of the \$1.00 South Carolina First Federal Issue. One of the great rarities of Embossed Revenue Stamps. With an SCV of \$7,500, it sold for \$3,750.

At the top of the next column we show the 75¢ Vermont (RM233), a clear impression in the left margin of a part-printed bail bond dated July 21, 1798, barely affected by horizontal file fold which does not detract. One of two recorded examples of the 75-cent Vermont First Federal Issue, a major rarity.

The Combs survey records just two examples of this



Above we view the \$1.00 Virginia (RM247), two sharp impressions applied to top left and top right corners of a handwritten deed for the sale of land dated September 10, 1798, the impression at left applied from the back, the impression at right reads normally [most visible in the orientation of “One Dollar”], sensibly reinforced where split along file folds (well away from embossing), toned spot at top left does not affect embossing. Only five examples of the \$1.00 Virginia are recorded (two are on this document). These are the finest impressions. Estimated at \$2,000-3,000, it went for \$1,800.

On page 15 we see the Second Federal Issue \$4.00 Unwatermarked (RM269c), a strong impression on wove paper, Counter Stamp also strongly applied to another similar piece (flaw at bottom), the two are glued together and passed through a slit on 2-page part-printed vellum United States patent signed by Thomas Jefferson as President and James Madison as Secretary of State, titled “The United States of America, To all whom the Letters Patent shall come:” for a patent awarded to Solomon Thayer for an impellent pump, document is 11-3/4 x 14-1/2 in., dated June 9, 1801, also signed by Attorney General Levi Lincoln, also with faint impression of \$4.00 Mary-

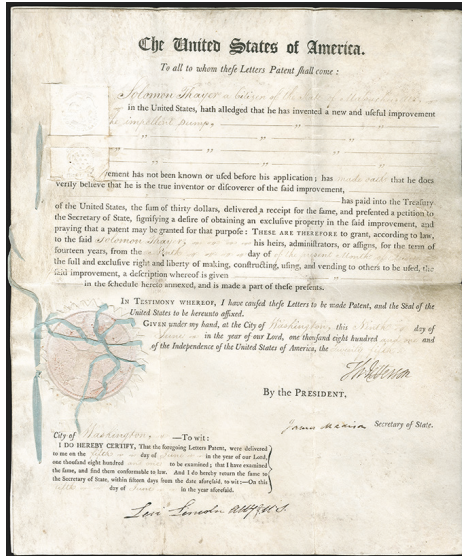


land First Federal Issue (RM106) on vellum (typical impression for vellum, which is why the additional paper with its more malleable properties was used), strong impression

of Great Seal of the United States at left, usual file folds do not affect Jefferson's signature, but one slightly affects Madison's...One of the highlights of the Antizzo Collection and a desirable Presidential document.

In 1790, President George Washington established the first Patent Act, under which the Secretary of State and Executive signed off on patents. Three were granted in 1790, 33 in 1791, 11 in 1792 and 20 in 1793. On June 1, 1802, the position of Superintendent of Patents was created, relieving Madison of that responsibility.

Estimated at \$7,500-10,000, it fetched a top bid of \$16,000.



Stamps and one of the highlights of the Antizzo

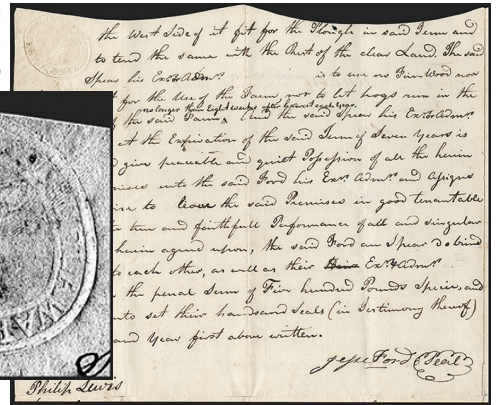


Collection.

The Scott Catalogue notes that in some cases a reddish ink was used in impressing the stamps, and sometimes they were impressed colorless. Only one 20¢ is recorded.

SCV \$5,000, State Revenue Society catalogue value \$10,000. We are unsure why this is valued less than Scott RM291 [SCV \$6,500], given the fact it is far rarer.

It also realized less, hammering for \$6,250 versus the \$8,000 hammer for the RM291 lot.

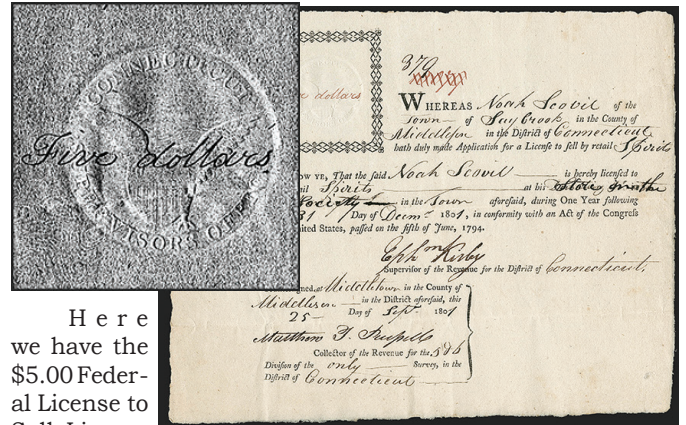


Next we view a 5¢ Delaware (RM291; SRS [State Revenue Society] DS3) impression with red ink [the magnified view in black & white] on an unissued New Castle County writ of execution dated November 2, 1793, on laid paper, sensibly reinforced along split at center well away from stamp, light waterstaining also well away from stamp...very few are known and this is one of the finest, the reddish ink makes this perfect strike easy to see.

The Scott Catalogue notes that in some cases a reddish ink was used in impressing the stamps, and sometimes they were impressed colorless. The State Revenue Society catalogue notes less than six are known of the 5¢, but they do not indicate which have or do not have red ink.

With an SCV of \$6,500, this example realized \$8,000.

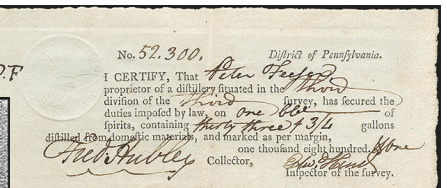
Next we view a 20¢ Delaware (RM292; SRS DS5) colorless, detailed impression on the inside of lease between Jesse Ford and John Spear for Duck Creek, dated January 13, 1794, on laid paper...one of the rarest of all Embossed Revenue



Here we have the \$5.00 Federal License to Sell Liquor,

Provisional (RM400 var), with a red manuscript "Five Dollars" applied over a clear impression of Connecticut Supervisor's Office embossing (RM559) on part-printed license to sell spirits by retail in Saybrook Conn., dated September 25, 1801, usual light file folds, very scarce, ex Wilkens where it realized \$2,200, estimate \$1,000-1,500, realization \$3,250 in this auction.

Finally, we view a Pennsylvania Supervisor's



Seal (RM556) clear impression on part-printed certificate for a distiller stating duties received for one barrel of 33-3/4 gallons of spirits, dated 1801 and signed by collector and inspector of the

survey, Very Fine, this and the previous lot [not selected for this viewing] may have served as the nation's first tax-pays. Estimated at \$400-500, it sold for \$375,

This concludes our viewing. For the complete auction go to https://siegelauctions.com/sales.php?sale_no=1210.