

Viewing the American Bank Note Archives

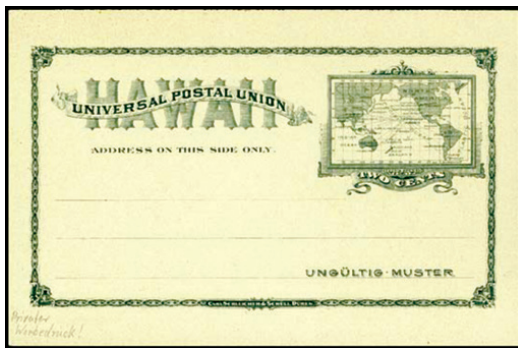
by John F. Dunn (From USSN, October 2008)

(As with other viewings from the past, I bring this one back for the information as the realizations would be out of date by now. JFD.)

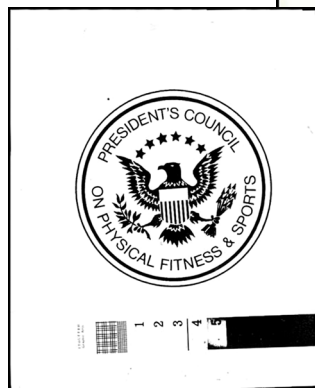
Last June 2008 H.R. Harmer Inc. conducted another in a continuing series of auctions of the American Bank Note Company Archives. While the two-part auction offered much worldwide material, in this Viewing we will focus on the United States sections.

The first of those U.S. offerings was a forgery, this German Forgery of the Hawaii UX9 Postal Card. Extremely well engraved. The lot describer stated, "This evidently was meant not to fool collectors but to let them have a decent space filler. The lower right has printed 'Ungultig [Invalid]-Munster' and the ABNC imprint is replaced by 'Carl Schleicher & Schull Duren'.

What is most interesting is that the genuine card has a Scott Catalogue Value (SCV) of \$45, but this counterfeit sold for \$375! (All prices in this report do not include the 15% Buyers' Premiums that are added on to these hammer prices.



Next up is this unique 1982 Essay for an unissued stamp. This Scott unlisted Essay was intended for a proposed "Presidents Council On Physical Fitness & Sports" issue. The manuscript notation includes "...no torch, add Female." Estimated at \$750 to \$1,500, this model did not sell.



Also not selling was this unique sports stamp Model for the Presidential Seal, one of four different proofs, for a proposed Presidential Seal to be used on U.S. Sports stamps.

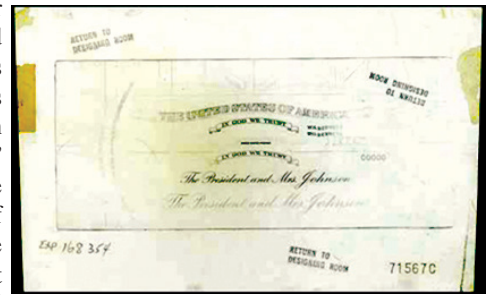
The lot, estimated at \$250 to \$500, also included the Plant

Order for a proof and related correspondence.

Still another unissued stamp represented by an Essay was this example, for a Vincent Price U.S. commemorative, missing the denomination and "U.S." imprint. This unique large die proof on india on large card—shown here with the design enlarged—sold for \$450.

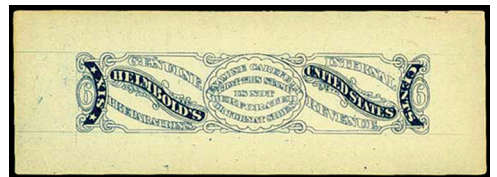


Sheet, with a number of intaglio printed engravings of letters and text, as well as handstamps, "Return to Designing Room." Engravings include "The United States of America." "In God We Trust," "The President and Mrs. Johnson..."



"UNITED STATES POSTAGE" and "WILDERNESS." Estimated at \$350-700, this lot did not sell.

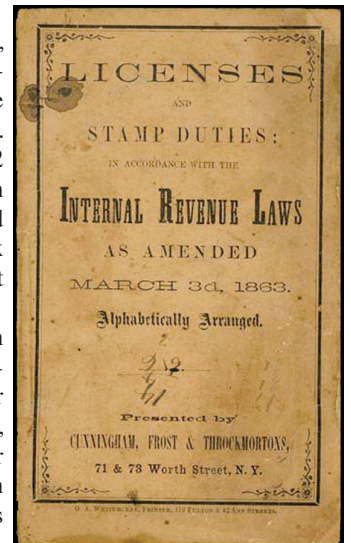
The next lot offered—also not selling, but nonetheless noteworthy for Viewing here—was this Essay for Helmbold's Genuine Preparations



Private Die Proprietary Medicine stamp. The partially engraved 6 cent stamp is different from the issued stamp. It was estimated at \$200-400.

I should point out that while a number of lots I selected for Viewing did not sell—including this next lot—the vast majority of the lots offered in this auction DID sell.

This next lot is a booklet titled, "Licenses and Stamp Duties in Accordance With The Internal Revenue Laws as Amended March 3rd, 1863. Alphabetically Arranged..." The 32 pages contain, as the lot description states, "Everything you ever wanted to know about 1863 stamp duty tax rates." The booklet was estimated at \$500-1000.



The next item I selected, shown below, is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Coupons Front Cover Specimens Sheet (#3), ca.1970-90s, showing a vertical pair of front cover specimens from a \$65 Food Coupon or Stamp Booklet. This Specimens sheet realized \$95.



This next lot is an 1862 License Agreement for Brandreth's Vegetable Universal Pills, unissued and possibly a proof, with samples of labels on left, right and bottom. The engraved scene is titled, "The Establishment at Sing Where the Medicines are Manufactured."

This lot sold for \$2,100.

Below that we see an intricate design that was produced as a proof for Mexican Mustang Liment Label, New York, 1853 50 cents. The design shows the front and back of an "1853" 50 cent piece flanking a woman pouring water with wild horses running underneath. The micro printing under the horse vignette states Danforth, Wright & Co.

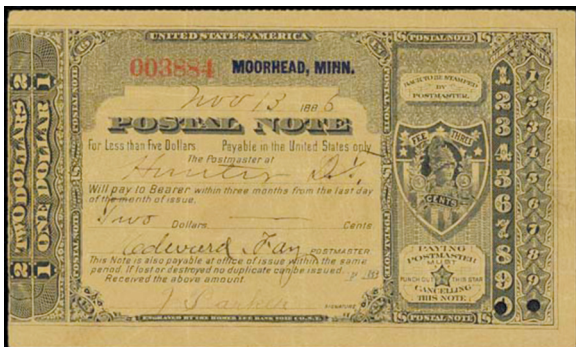


This attractive lot sold for \$260.



Still another piece that we collectors rarely see is this "Transportation of the Mails Post Office Department" Warrant, a check issued on March 29, 1861 in Wilmington, North Carolina in the amount of \$66. North Carolina seceded from the Union on May 20, 1861, so this is a late usage before secession. It sold for \$260.

A more valuable Postal Note is this \$2.00 Moorhead, Minnesota



Nov. 13, 1886 Note, payable in Hunter, D.T. (Dakota Territory). Possibly unique and the highest denomination for this state, it realized \$5,500.

This next piece is an Essay for a 2 Cents Imprinted Revenue proof, presumably for Revenue Stamped Paper. Estimated at \$250-500, it sold for \$180.



Also on the Revenue Stamped Paper subject, next we view a Bank of New Castle, Kentucky, issued and cancelled draft with a RN-C-11 brown imprint that realized \$180.



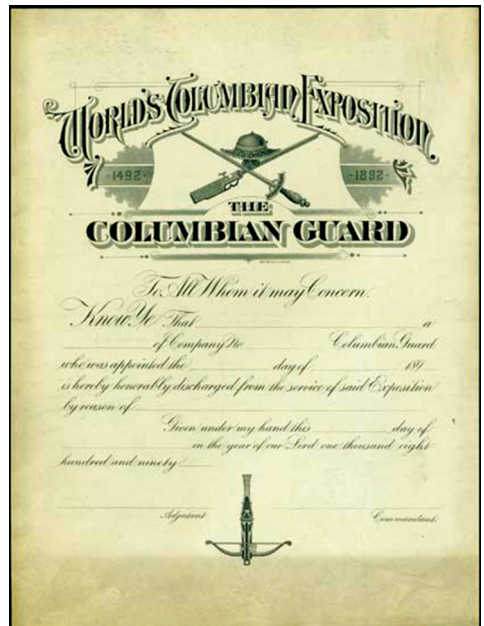
Among state issues, I selected a lot with four different Michigan Department of Conservation Trout specimen stamps, all \$1 denominations, for 1948, 1953, 1954 and 1956. Scarce



as specimens, the lot was estimated at \$150-\$300, but did not sell.

A subject that is near and dear to collectors' hearts is the 1893 Columbian Exposition, and there were some interesting lots on that subject in the auction.

Shown first is this Columbian Guard Honorable Discharge specimen certificate with a vignette of a sword, gun and helmet on top and cross bow on the bottom. The Columbian Guard members were involved with keeping order at the Exposition and acting as unofficial ambassadors. Almost all were from military or police service and were between 21 and 35 years of age and had to have certain physical attributes including height requirements. This Certificate realized \$425.



Next we view an engraving for the front and back of a Columbian Exposition Medal. It's an intaglio proof printed on thin white card, showing Columbus' landing on front and text on the back reading "World's Columbian Exposition In Commemoration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Landing of Columbus...." The proof sold for \$100.



More familiar to some collectors may be this Columbian Exposition Ticket, but rare as a Specimen. It shows a Native American with feather head-dress. Note that



the serial numbers are "00000." In uncirculated condition, it was estimated at \$400-800, but did not sell.



Less often seen, we view three different Pan-American Exposition Tickets for the 1901 Buffalo, New York event. In the upper left is a Children's Ticket with "Buffalo Day October 19" in red; in upper right, another ticket with black overprint; and at bottom a large format ticket with "May 20th Dedication Day" inscription in the lower left. This lot realized \$160.

Finally, I couldn't pass by this next lot, an American Philatelic Society 1922 issued and uncanceled stock certificate with an embossed red seal. No further details given or needed, it sold for \$140.



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