



The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

FOURTH QUARTER 2020

VOLUME 40

NUMBER 4

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUVENIR CARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY



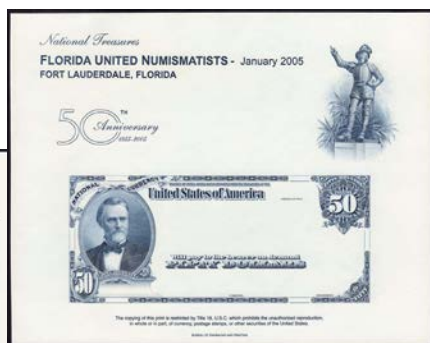


Two vignette proofs recently joined my collection. These caught my attention because I recognized them from appearances on BEP souvenir cards — however, they don't quite match up. Both are progress proofs. These are proofs of an unfinished vignette, usually pulled so the engraver could see how his work was coming along.

The first (above) is titled “Engineering and Construction” and it’s found on B-241. This engraving by Harry Dawson and Louis Schofield was completed in 1925. The progress proof is missing the arched background and the face of the central figure. When you compare the finished vignette you’ll see a lot of cross-hatched shading has also been added.

The second vignette was also done by Schofield. It’s an engraving of a statue of Ponce de Leon that still stands in St. Augustine, Florida. You’ll find this one on B-273, the 2005 FUN card. This progress proof was further along in the engraving process. The final product shows additional shading and the completion of the pedestal. Ponce was also completed in 1925.

I haven’t seen either vignette used on any BEP products, apart from the cards. Regardless, it’s interesting to study the transitional and finished vignettes, and consider that work on these two engravings may have been occurring at the same time!





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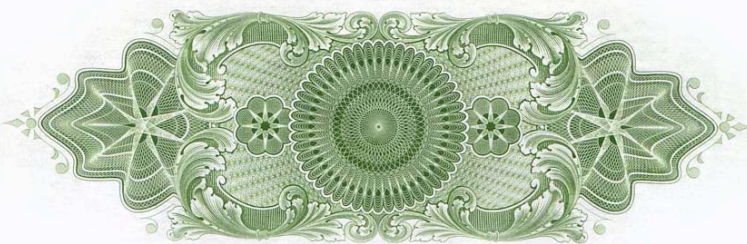
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On the cover: ABNC color
chart with demonstration
stamps (see p. 10).

Back cover: In-house holiday
cards, intaglio printed in the
1990s by Banknote
Corporation of America.

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Submission deadlines for ads, articles, comments, etc. are: **Dec. 1** (First Quarter issue); **March 1** (Second Quarter); **June 1** (Third Quarter); and **Sept. 1** (Fourth Quarter). Your cooperation in meeting these goals is appreciated. Editor.

Membership information and Dues (\$25/yr.; \$45/2yrs.; \$65/3 yrs.); **please inquire with Greg Alexander (SCCS1981@yahoo.com) regarding renewals.** Requests for back issues and information concerning this Journal, including submission of articles and advertising inquiries, should be addressed to the **Interim Editor.** Thanks!

Visit the SCCS website at www.souvenircards.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A. Stephen Patrick

Just weeks before the 2020 election, I pause to reflect on all the elegant engraved souvenirs produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and other security printers in days passed for nominating conventions, inauguration ceremonies, and presidential portraits. I've not seen any notice that the BEP has done an official engraved portrait of Donald Trump, or if they have a picture engraver left to do the job.

Since our summer edition, COVID-19 continues to dominate our lives. In July, despite precautions, I contracted the virus and spent a week in bed with loss of appetite, digestive problems, and taste variables. A week of antibiotics ridded me of the symptoms, but left me with a loss of 20 pounds. I'm feeling relatively normal now, except for a depletion in energy reserves. I urge you to mask up and continue with caution.

The good news is that the SCCS will soon be mailing the annual souvenir card to the members. **Mike Bean** declined to do this year's card, but luckily John Denune had an ample supply of intaglio prints of a female vignette done for the E.A. Wright Bank Note Co. in the 1960s by engraver John Wallace. He worked at the BEP for 16 years engraving stamps and the official portraits of Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford (shown above). Before that he engraved vignettes for over 100 stock certificates, including Mercury for Foote, Cone & Belding (below).

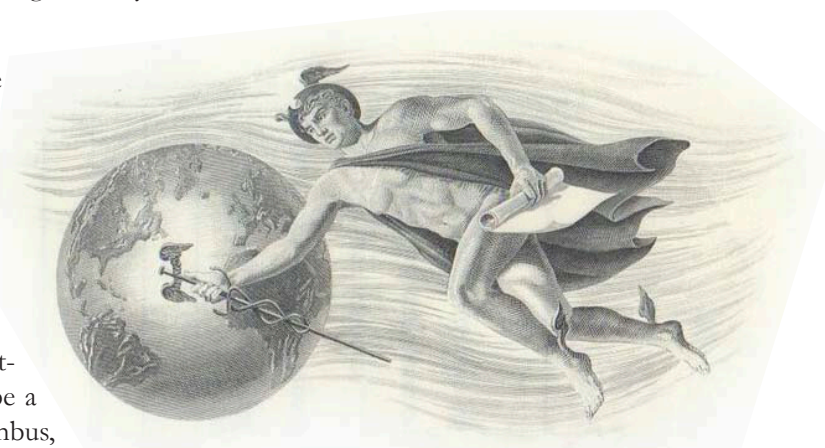
I met John Denune in 1997 at the Pacific '97 stamp show, when he was president of the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society (he still is). John created many CS&CSS souvenir cards that we now have posted on our website's Image Gallery. His son John Denune Jr. carries on the tradition of leadership in Christmas Seals, and I was privileged to be a guest at the Denune home in Columbus,

Ohio, during the 2018 APS stamp show.

After a board meeting on October 10, the FUN Board of Directors is still on course to hold their annual convention Jan. 7-10, 2021, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The SCCS will have a table at the show and a meeting with an educational presentation. The good news is that **Mike Bean** has been invited to bring his spider press, and he may be there to produce a souvenir card.

The last item concerns the renewal process for 2021. For expiring members, we will include a return envelope along the annual card, which you can return to our vice president, **Greg Alexander**. Our treasurer, **Bill Kriebel** still controls our bank account, but as long as he remains in assisted living away from his home, it would be nearly impossible for him to coordinate renewals. Greg informs me that he can also accept PayPal if members prefer to pay online. Email him at SCCS1981@yahoo.com for instructions.

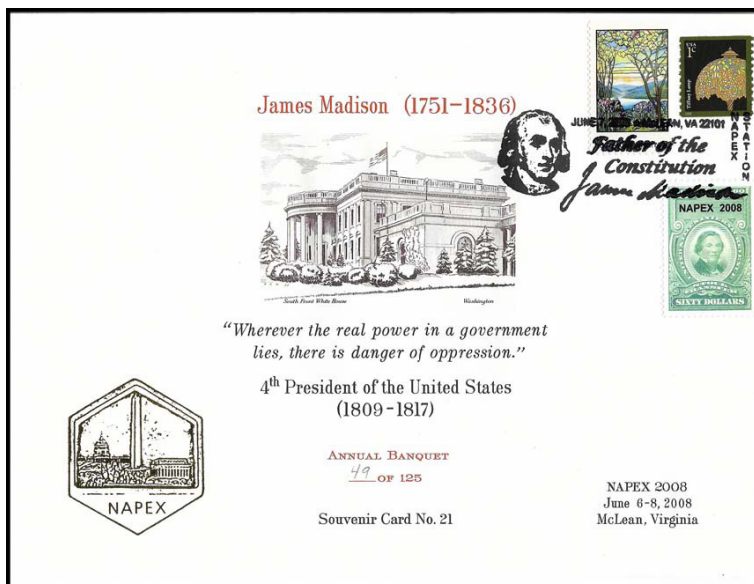
The renewal mailings will also include a small questionnaire relating to our hobby. We are interested in your opinions. You can mail your answers when you send your annual renewal. And, as always, you are welcome to share ideas and opinions with me at spatrick3@cfl.rr.com.



As I write, the last of the Society's annual souvenir cards were about to go in the mail and all paid-up members should receive them shortly. A few members who are mailed the printed version of the Journal should find their card tucked into this issue. If you have not received a card or yours was damaged in transit, please contact me at SCCS1981@yahoo.com. John Denune, president of the Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society, helped us with the printing this time. We had no official annual meeting this year, so we opted for a simple design. Since 2020 is the centennial of women's voting rights, a woman seemed an appropriate subject. But with all the attention this year on the coronavirus pandemic we decided against having a specific theme. We are planning to make our 2021 annual card something special, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the SCCS.

I'm happy to announce that we have posted another new gallery on the website! The NAPEX cards are now in place (all 32), thanks to the work of our webmaster **Rod Charlton II** — much appreciated Rod! Next in the hopper are the ASDA cards. **Hans Weber** is taking on this project, which is a BIG one — more than 300 card varieties. And we discovered that more than 20 cards have yet to be cataloged from 2008 onwards. It's a slow process but we'll get there.

Last issue, I included a Call to Action at the bottom of my Editor's Message — and it worked! At issue was the use of light weight paper rather than card stock on the annual duck cards issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Several members, including myself, contacted Duck Stamp Program Coordinator Suzanne Fellows to express our concern. She immediately responded and was very receptive to returning to heavier weight cards next year. Ms. Fellows was eager to get feedback on the duck stamp program and we gladly offered several suggestions for stamp shows where the program might want to have a presence, when things begin to open up again. Never underestimate the impact members can have when we collectively raise our voices. The more we reach out, the more new allies we may find for our hobby.



And speaking of duck cards, after posting the new gallery last quarter we have had other members contribute images to fill holes. We appreciate your help and will continue to update the galleries as new submissions arrive. One recent discovery was that the first duck card, D-1, was issued only with the stamp attached. The image we had posted was apparently a design prototype or proof; we will swap that out for the correct image.

The article on page 11 of our 2Q Journal also yielded some results. We have been searching for several unknown special issue "raffle" cards by ABNC. **Lee Quast** provided images for SO-145A and SO-140A. Just 20 of both specially embossed cards were issued and they were only available at their respective shows. This leaves SO-139A as the last unknown embossed card — the gray Postmaster Provisional from Anaheim ASDA 1995. Since all other SO cards from 1995 exist with embossed seals, it is almost certain that this one does, too. Keep an eye out!

This being our last issue of 2020, let me remind those of you whose membership expires this year to send in your dues for next year. You should have received a return envelope with either your annual card or the printed copy of this Journal. You may prefer to forget 2020, but don't forget to renew your membership before the end of the year!



I recently splurged on an attractive vignette proof of a battleship by the Bureau of Engraving & Printing. I actually bought it without knowing anything about it, but in short order I was able to dig up some background on the ship and identify where it was used.

The ship depicted is the USS Maine. Remember the Maine? In 1898 she exploded in Havana Harbor, killing 261 sailors — more than 70 percent of her crew. The cause of the explosion was uncertain at the time, but two competing New York newspapers, the *Journal* and the *World*, latched onto the story and used it to whip up anti-Spanish sentiment (and sell papers). Blaming Spain for destroying the ship with a mine, the U.S. soon began saber-rattling and within two months the Spanish-American War had begun. (Decades later, the likely cause was determined to be a coal fire that set off the ship's magazine.)

The vignette in Figure 1 was engraved by Marcus Baldwin for use on \$500 and \$1000 1898 three-percent government bonds, which helped fund the cost of the war. Both bonds are so rare that the only glimpse we are likely to get are the specimens shown in “An Illustrated History of U.S. Loans” by Gene Hessler (Figure 2). The \$1000 bond used the ship vignette in the upper left — but this bond is also interesting for

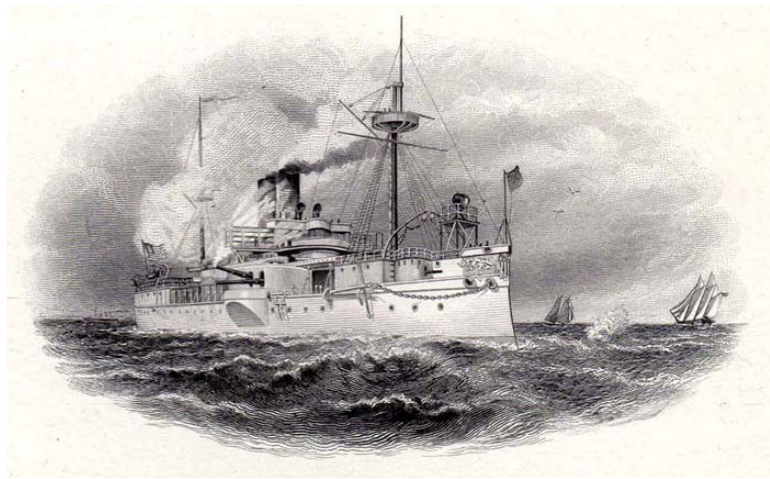


Figure 1.

other reasons. Two more prominent elements can be found on souvenir cards. The marine themed border on the left, also engraved by Marcus Baldwin, appears on B-296, issued at the 2010 FUN show (Figure 3). And the female figure with children in the lower right is a vignette known as “Motherhood.” It was featured on a union forerunner card, F-1999A (Figure 4).

Researching the history of the Maine got me thinking about more battleships that had been engraved by the BEP for currency and other purposes. There are several prominent ones among the Bureau and FB cards. After a thorough inventory of all souvenir cards with BEP engravings, I was surprised at how many were to be found.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

There are seven different battleship vignettes I was able to identify, aside from my proof of the Maine, which does not appear on any card.

First-to-mind for most collectors is probably the battleship from the back of the \$2 Series 1918 Federal Reserve Bank Note, commonly referred to as the “Battleship Note.” The back of this note appears on two cards, B-116 (Figure 5) and B-329. The ship depicted is the USS New York (Figure 6), commissioned in 1914. She saw service in both world wars and was then decommissioned and used as a test ship for two nuclear bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946.

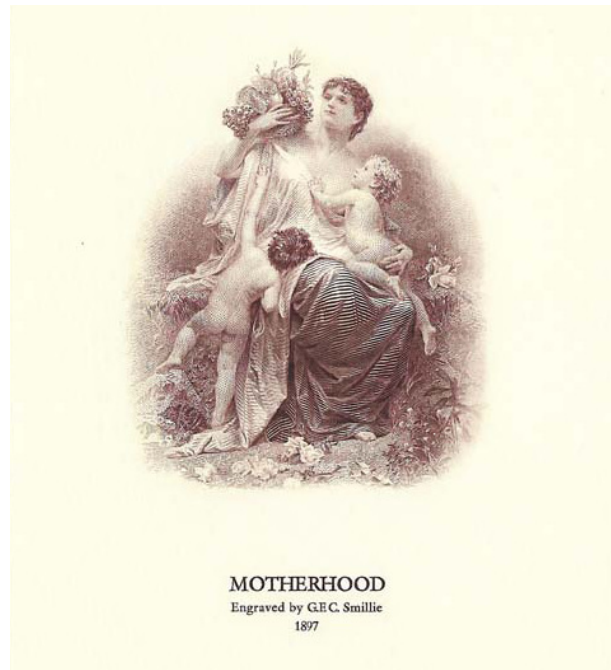


Figure 4.



Figure 5.

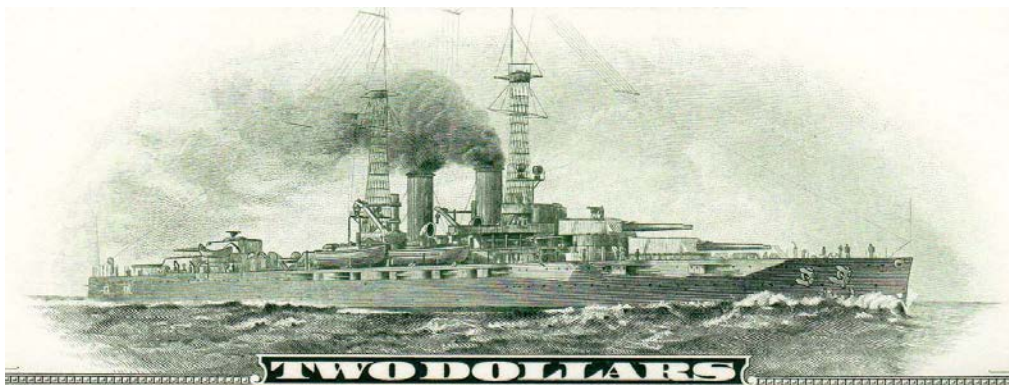


Figure 6.

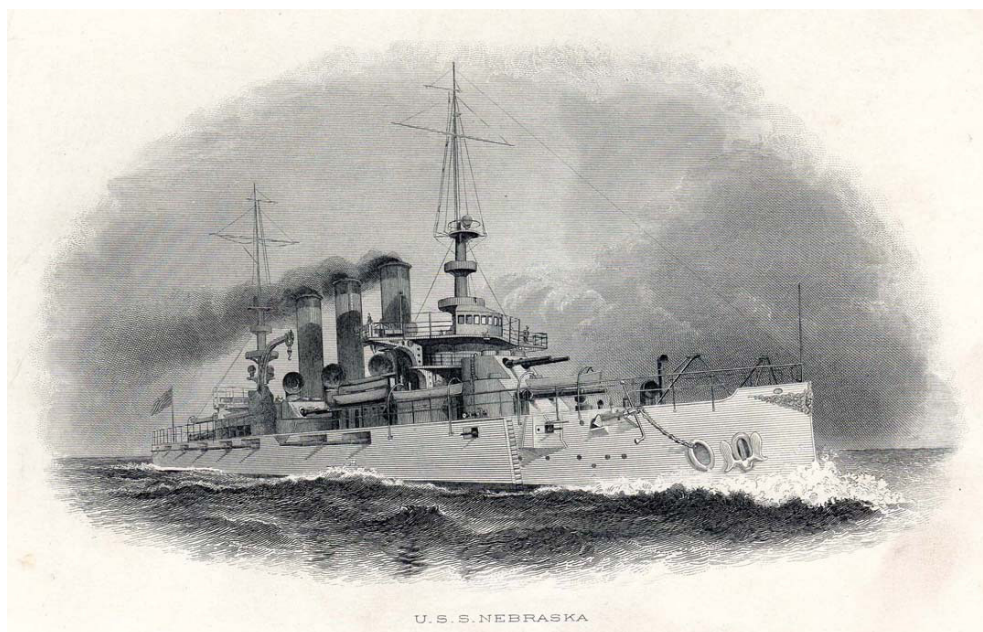


Figure 7.

The largest BEP battleship vignettes were those used for souvenir cards distributed at various world's fairs where the Bureau had an exhibit, beginning with the 1907 Jamestown Exposition. Shown on FB-1907A(c) is the USS Virginia, which presumably was in port for some time during the expo. This card proved so popular that the vignette was retitled the USS Nebraska (Figure 7) and used on cards for the 1909 Alaska-Yu-

kon Exposition in Seattle and the 1915 International Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.

At the competing 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego the BEP also had a presence. For this fair the Bureau engraved a newer class of cruiser, depicting the city's namesake, the USS San Diego (Figure 8). She appears on FB-1915C(a) and, a century later, on B-315.

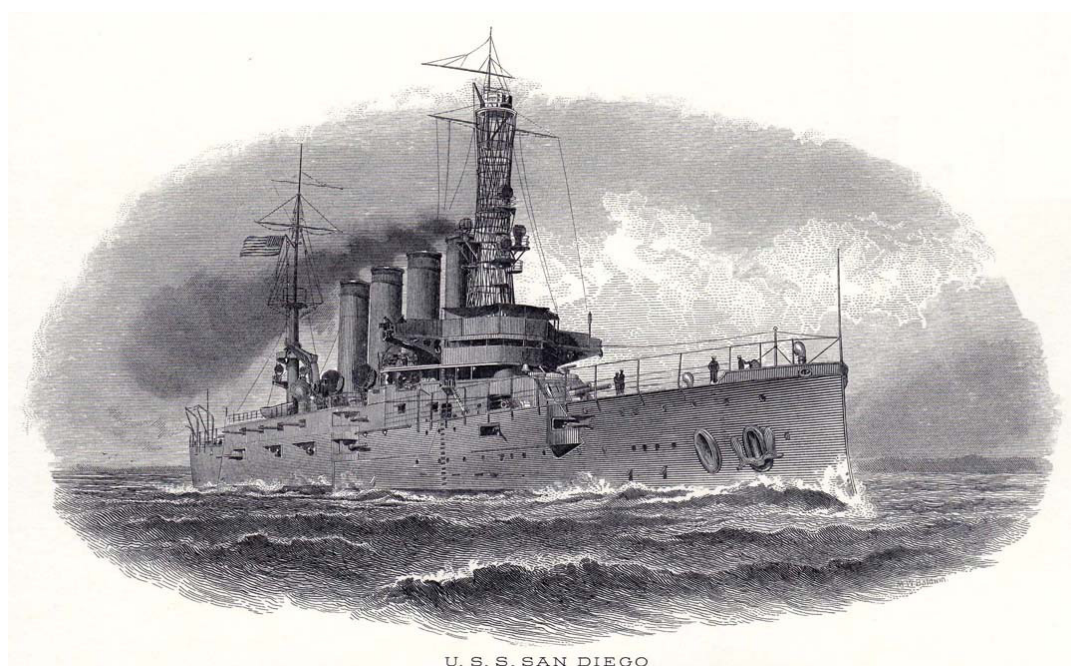


Figure 8.

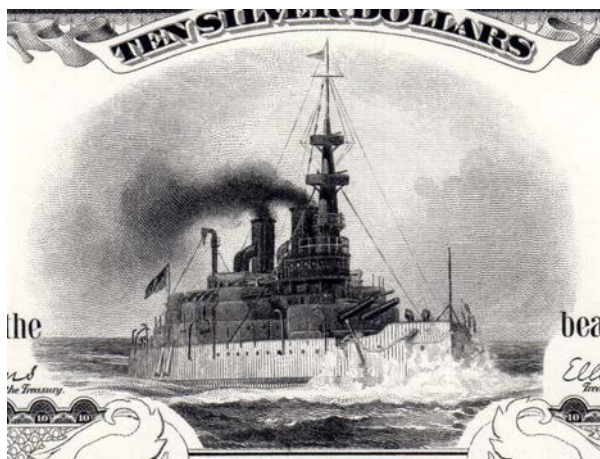


Figure 10.



Figure 9.

The USS Massachusetts can be found on B-182 (Figure 9). This card shows the ship as the central vignette on the initial essay for a \$10 silver certificate, series 1899. The design was later modified and, in 1901, became the iconic “Bison Note.” The engraving of the Battleship Massachusetts (Figure 10) was scrapped and can only be found on this card.

You may have noticed that, apart from the head-on Massachusetts, all the ships shown so far have a left-to-right orientation. Since naval confrontations at that time were generally on the Atlantic side, dreadnoughts were shown aggressively steaming to the East, towards Europe. But on B-275 (Figure 11), the USS California heads left, to the West (Figure 12). Why? This vignette was used on Honorable Discharge certificates for the U.S. Navy, so the ship was shown symbolically returning home.



Figure 11.

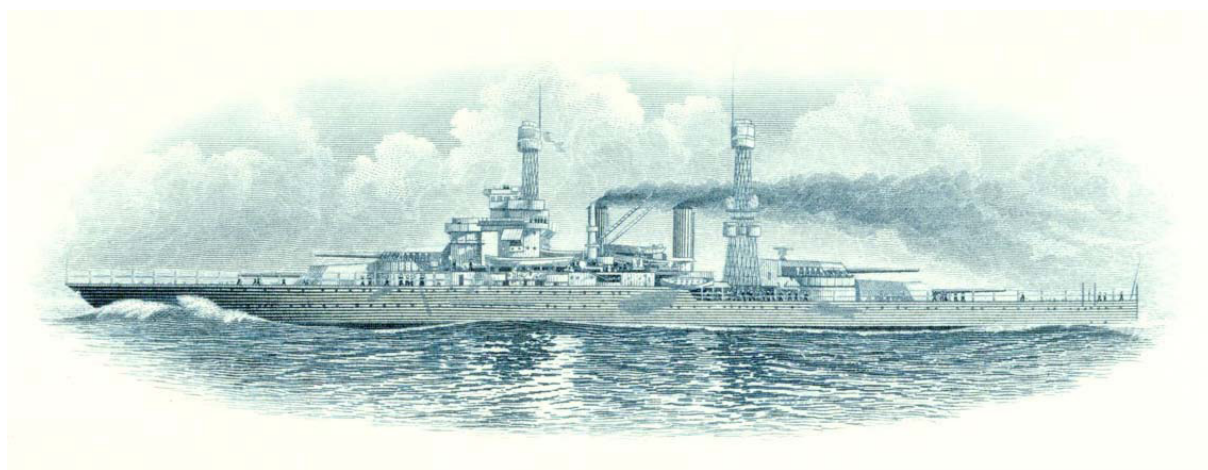


Figure 12.

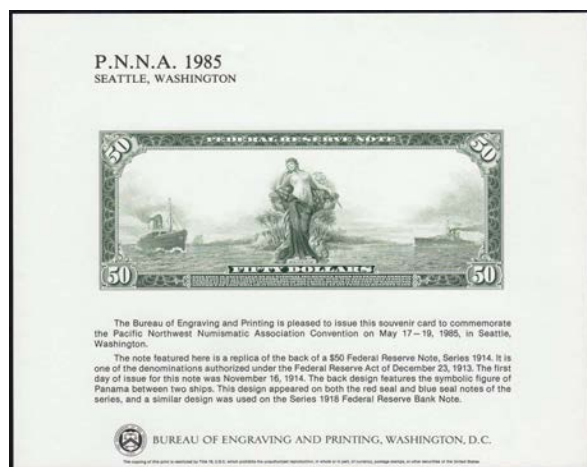


Figure 13.

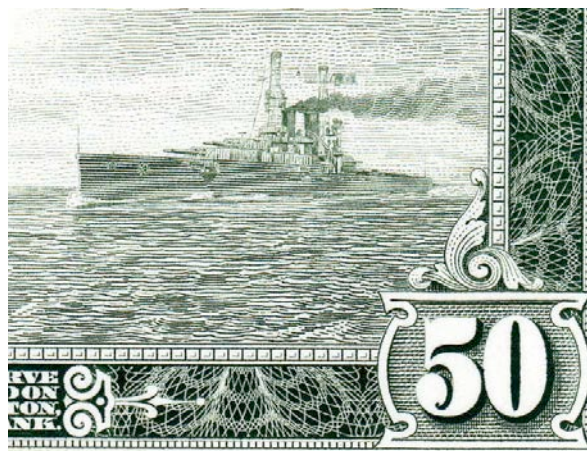


Figure 14.

The last two examples are small and could easily be overlooked. B-79 features the back of the Series 1914 \$50 Federal Reserve Note (Figure 13). The design features two vessels, symbolizing commerce and military, able to ply both Atlantic and Pacific oceans thanks to the Panama Canal. The battleship in the lower right is too small to clearly identify as a specific ship, but it appears to be a Wyoming Class cruiser (Figure 14). The USS Wyoming was launched in 1911 and decommissioned in 1947.

The final and smallest battleship vignette appears on the back of the Series 1902 \$10 National Bank Note. This note is featured on B-219 (Figure 15). The design is similar to the one above with two ships, signifying the Merchant Marine and the Navy, separated by a female figure. And what Navy ship best captured the patriotic spirit of 1902? You might need a magnifying glass but, if you compare the vignette in Figure 16 with Figure 1, you'll find that the Battleship Maine did make it onto U.S. currency.

It took until 1912 for the wreckage of the Maine to be refloated and removed from Havana Harbor. It was resunk in deep water, but before that the government offered pieces of the wreck to U.S. cities and sites willing to publicly display them. There are more than 20 enshrined around the country. The largest section is the ship's main mast at Arlington National Cemetery. Key West, which also has a cemetery plot for sailors from the Maine, displays the ship's forward gun turret at Mallory Square.

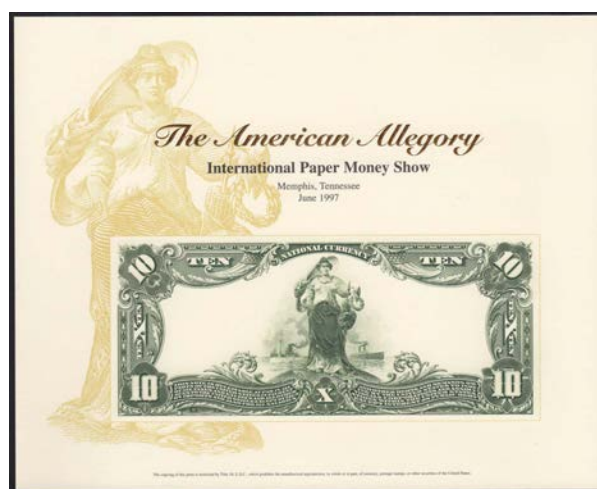


Figure 15.

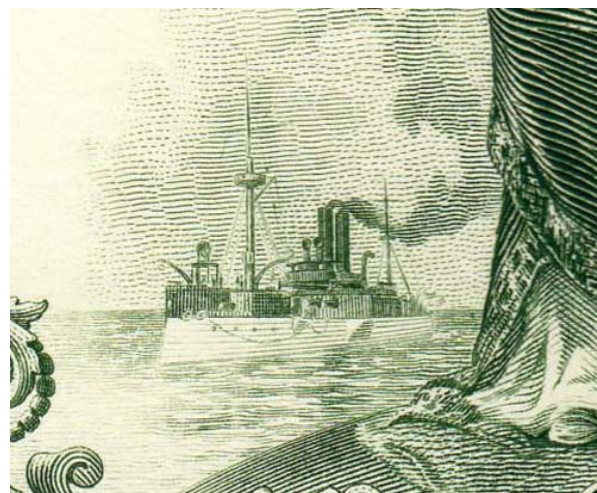


Figure 16.

It seems a forgone conclusion that the only souvenir card the Bureau of Engraving & Printing will issue in 2020 is the Mayflower card, released in January at the FUN convention, before the pandemic locked things down. And although the next FUN show is planning to move forward in 2021, it is not certain whether the BEP will attend.

In September, I spoke by phone with Kevin Brown, the BEP marketing manager, who told me much the same thing that he did back in May. Currently, the Bureau is focused almost exclusively on their core mission — keeping the presses going to supply the cash needed to keep the economy moving. They are being **very** cautious about COVID-19, taking all precautions and keeping many staffers out of the building. Kevin himself is working primarily from home. You can imagine the economic effect if there was an outbreak and the Bureau had to shut down.

The same thing is happening at the Mint. Consequently, the Mint/BEP ordering platform has been hamstrung, with many collector items unable to be shipped. Anyone who visits the Mint/BEP site will notice that many products are “currently unavailable,” including those in the Paper Currency and Engraved Print sections. Kevin explained they can’t risk bringing the people into the building who would normally facilitate the shipping, and they can’t outsource this because they’re not able to get to the products and move them elsewhere. The staffing shortage means that phone orders cannot be taken. Also, the BEP can’t allocate manpower to resupply collector items when they run out, so even when things return to normal it’s going to take a while for the supply chain to kick in again.

The BEP’s annual Veteran’s Day ceremony will be suspended this year, which means there will be no “insert card” printed for the programs. I was also disappointed to discover that some time in May the

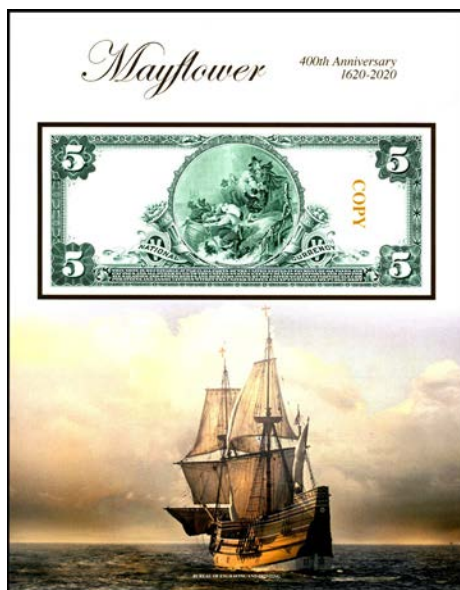
Bureau’s Historical Research Center was closed down for the foreseeable future, making research more difficult. Staffing the HRC is actually done by contract through Noll Historical Consulting. I haven’t been able to reach them either, so the firm may be temporarily out of commission.

Kevin did say that he hoped they could return to releasing new intaglio prints next year. The tentative plan is to move forward with cards that were already in the works. This would include a reissue of the Mayflower card for the broader public, probably using a different color ink to differentiate it from the 2020 limited edition. Also, the long-discussed WWII 75th anniversary

set of three cards, with some adjustment to the design. Because these will have missed the actual anniversary if released in 2021, some dates would need to be removed.

This is something members should consider. Do you think collectors will still be interested in cards with 2020 themes despite coming out a year late? Or would it be better to start over with a new theme for 2021? We would like to hear your opinions, which will be relayed to the Bureau and may help them decide how to proceed. Please let me know what you think by email (SCCS1981@yahoo.com) or on the short survey some members will get with their renewal notice.

This would also be an opportune time for collectors to consider themes and events worthy of commemoration over the next few years. What would you like to see the Bureau produce as part of their Intaglio Print Program? BEP marketing does listen to comments from our membership and has used ideas proposed by members in the design of their cards. If you have thoughts and suggestions, please take the time to submit them.



It has become increasingly popular to collect items associated with the printing functions, business operations, and promotional aspects of security printing companies. Collectors are undoubtedly aware of the attractive vignettes, counters, and lathework designs used on bank notes, bonds, and other security instruments. Security printers have known the value of showing these engraving and printing skills to clients and, for centuries, have produced promotional sheets, engraved advertising cards, and sample bank notes to demonstrate their mastery. To this day, security printers create these types of demonstration products and collectors eagerly seek them out, as evidenced by the 14th edition of *The Catalog of Printers Test Notes* and *North American Printers Promotional Sheets & Test Notes* books.

One sector of security printers' demonstration products often overlooked are stamps. As with bank note and bond samples, printers create specimen stamps to demonstrate their skills. These are broadly referred to as "dummy stamps" and are used for a wide range of purposes. In this article, the focus will be on a sub-category known as "demonstration stamps," which are used for promotional purposes and internal production tests within security printing firms.

Demonstration stamps usually have the printing company's name or the words "SPECIMEN" or "EXPERIMENT" engraved within the design of the stamp or stamp-like image. Genuine postage or revenue stamps overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN" or punched with security holes typically are not considered demonstration stamps. These are more closely associated with proofs and can be found listed in the Scott catalog. Stamps

commemorating an event, like a stamp exhibition or world's fair, are better defined as cinderellas and not demonstration stamps.

The pursuit of this article was borne out of an on-line discussion regarding these types of stamps in the Souvenir Cards & Security Engravings forum (the forum link you see on the SCCS website). It was noted there was extensive information available about test stamps, trial printings, and cinderella stamps, but not a lot of material about demonstration stamps created by security printers. It seemed these stamps warranted further research to fill the information gap.

Brief Overview of Dummy Stamps

Dummy stamps comprise a broad range of stamp types and usages. The most common ones are typically identified as "test stamps," which are intended



Figure 1. U.S. test stamps or "dummy stamps"

to evaluate the quality, performance, or reliability of equipment such as printing presses or vending machines. They include full stamp sheets, coil rolls, dummy booklets, and self-adhesive panes. In the United States, dummy booklets with the same booklet covers as those used in actual stamp production generally contain blank stamp panes, bogus stamps, or altered stamps that cannot be used on regular mail. Figure 1 shows examples of various types of test stamps.

A related use of dummy stamps is in the assessment of production methods and materials. Security printers evaluate different types of inks, papers, and printing processes to determine which work well together. For example, some inks will appear lighter or darker depending on the depth of engraving on the printing plate, the color of the paper, and the ability of the paper to absorb or repel ink. These evaluations are usually made using dummy stamp plates and may include the same plates used to produce promotional stamps and test stamps.

There are other uses for dummy stamps, as well. The definition provided by **Glenn H. Morgan** in his publication, *Dummy News*, probably defines it best: "Items that have the general appearance of being real, but which lack the capacity to function in the postal system." His publication provides a terrific and comprehensive examination of the dummy stamps of the

United Kingdom and can be found at www.stamp-printers.info.

Another tremendous resource is *Dummy News and Views*, a newsletter produced by the United States Stamp Society's Dummy Stamps Study Group. *Dummy News and Views* delves into the production of United States test stamps and their availability in the marketplace. The society was also instrumental in the development and expansion of the "Test Stamps" chapter in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. The newsletter and information about the society can be found at www.usstamps.org/dssg.html.

Demonstration Stamps of American Bank Note

The American Bank Note Company (ABNC) was the premier security printer within the United States, producing stamps, paper money, bonds, and many other security products during its term of business. Founded in 1795, it continues today as ABCorp, though its main focus is now security for credit cards and online financial services.

It must be noted that the ABNC demonstration stamps presented here include proofs and essays. Some enthusiasts consider these a separate category, but they are included here because actual examples were not available or were never printed.

ABNC's primary demonstration stamps comprise a group of seven engravings presented in a promotional booklet and distributed to prospective clients. The promotional booklet had the engravings printed on individual cards. These stamps have numerals, but no monetary unit. The stamps with their "denominations" are: Seated Liberty (1); Aviation specimen (2); Mercury as the god of wisdom, commerce, and trade (3); Education specimen (3);

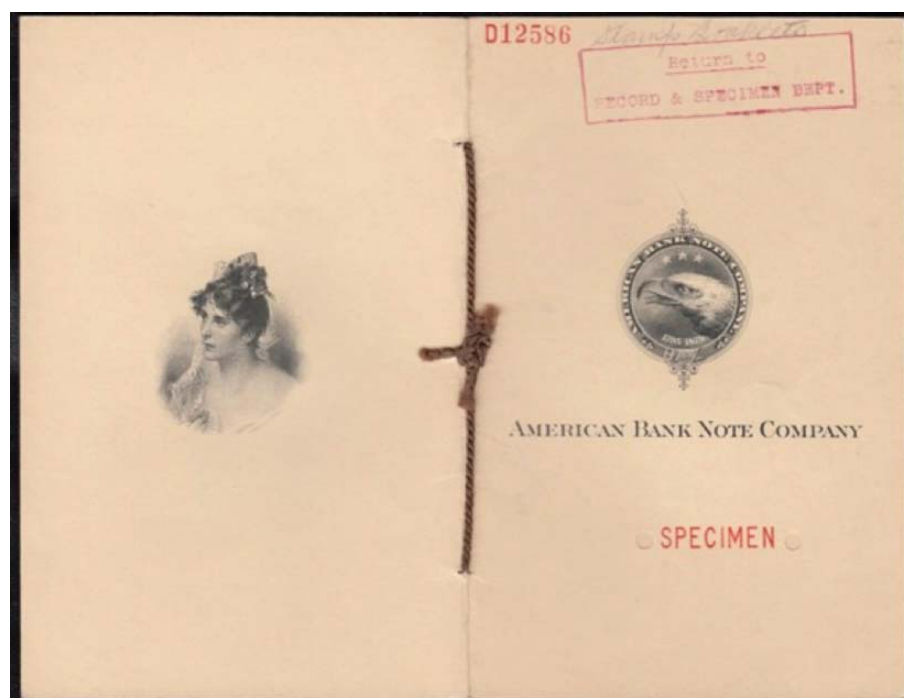


Figure 2.



Figure 3. Individual pages from ABNC demonstration stamp booklet

Rembrandt specimen (5); Taj Mahal specimen (5); and Communication specimen (25).

There is some indication the promotional booklet was produced in the 1930s, chiefly 1931, but it is unknown if the engravings were produced before that time. Known engravers are Edwin Gunn for the Seated Liberty stamp and Will Ford for the Education specimen stamp. Figure 2 shows a file specimen of the promotional booklet's front and back covers and Figure 3 shows the contents.

This booklet cover was also used for a promotional booklet distributed within Latin American countries with the text in Spanish and a single Rembrandt stamp affixed as a sample. Figure 4 shows this page from the booklet.

Proofs of the seven demonstration stamp engravings were also produced. Figure 5 shows three of these proofs. Some pages in the promotional booklet were also later punched as specimens, as shown in Figure 6.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7 (above) and Figure 8 (right), an illustration from the U.S. Scott Specialized catalog.

Several examples of these engravings were produced in an actual stamp format. A perforated version of the Rembrandt engraving was produced in brown (Figure 7). It is interesting to note that a crude black-and-white rendition of this stamp is shown as the example for a printing plate in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* (Figure 8).

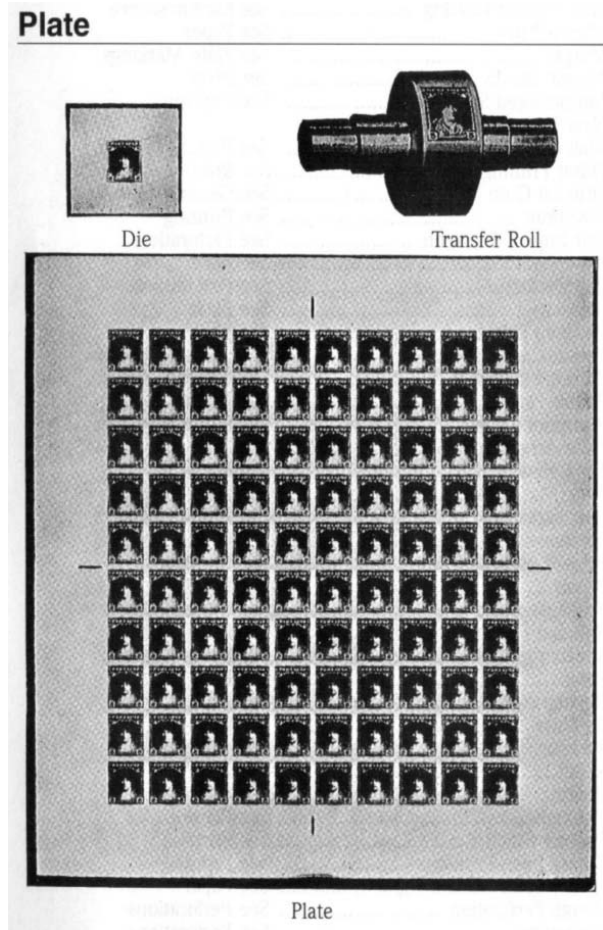
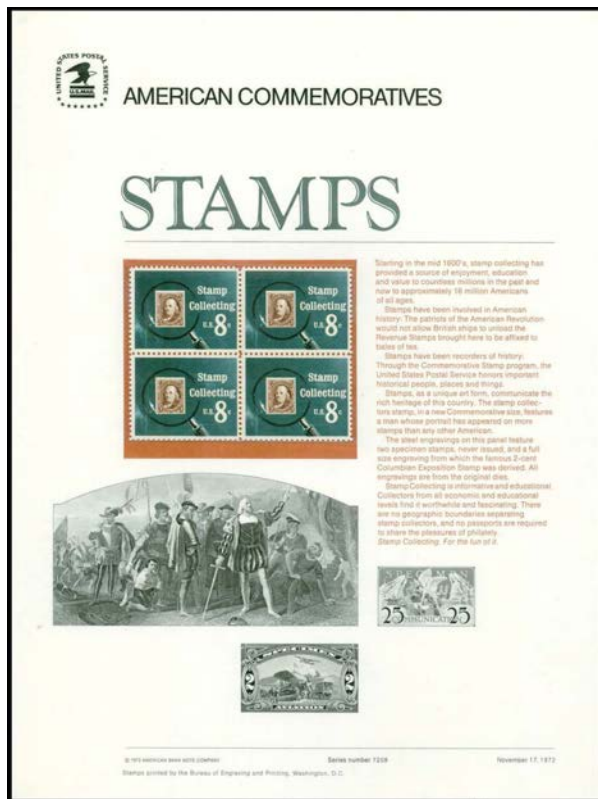


Figure 9: A full imperforate sheet of the Communication specimen stamps.



Figures 10 - 12. Collectors of USPS Commemorative Panels may recognize two ABNC demonstration stamps on CP-8. Intaglio prints of the Aviation specimen and Communication specimen stamps were used to highlight the panel for the 1972 8c Stamp Collecting stamp (Scott 1474).

Four of the demonstration stamp engravings were also used to produce a color chart. These types of charts show the various types of inks that are available and how they lay down on an engraved printing plate. These are useful for both the security printer and its clients to demonstrate how variations in the depth of the engraved plate will alter the appearance of a single type of ink. Typically, the color charts are bound together into a booklet of various colors. Figure 14 shows several of the color charts from a booklet (an orange chart is featured on this Journal's cover), and Figure 15 shows examples of the Education specimen stamp cut from pages of the color charts.

Color charts were also produced using a "Liberty in a Phrygian Cap" experimental stamp engraving. The original engraving of this "Liberty" was done by Alfred Jones for ABNC in 1894. The color charts feature "Sensitive Ink," which is a type of ink that will visibly show evidence of any attempted alteration to a stamp or other security document. Figure 16 shows



Figure 13. A version of the Mercury stamp was adapted for in-house use by ABNC, with the added inscription, "Property of."



Figure 14: Several pages from a color chart booklet featuring demonstration stamps.

Figure 15: Education stamps showing the wide range of ABNC ink varieties.



Figure 16.



Figure 17.

several examples of the color charts produced and Figure 17 shows a proof of the stamp on India paper attached to manila paper.

A series of imperforate stamp sheets featuring the “Liberty with Phrygian Cap” engraving were also produced showing variations in ink color and paper color. Figure 18 shows three of these sheets. It is likely other sheets exist with additional color combinations.

A stylized version of the “Liberty with Phrygian Cap” vignette, shown in Figure 19, was created as an embossed stamp-like item with the text showing “American Bank Note Co.” No information is known about this stamp and it may be unique. It was likely produced to show ABNC’s ability to print and emboss postal stationery.

Another Liberty Head design, this time without a cap, was produced in 1902. It is inscribed “EXPERIMENT” and used the numeral 3. This Liberty Head design was used for many ink and paper tests, most seemingly for internal use, as some versions of this stamp lack the company name. A proof of the Liberty Head experimental stamp with plate number is shown in Figure 20. Perforated color varieties of



Figure 18.

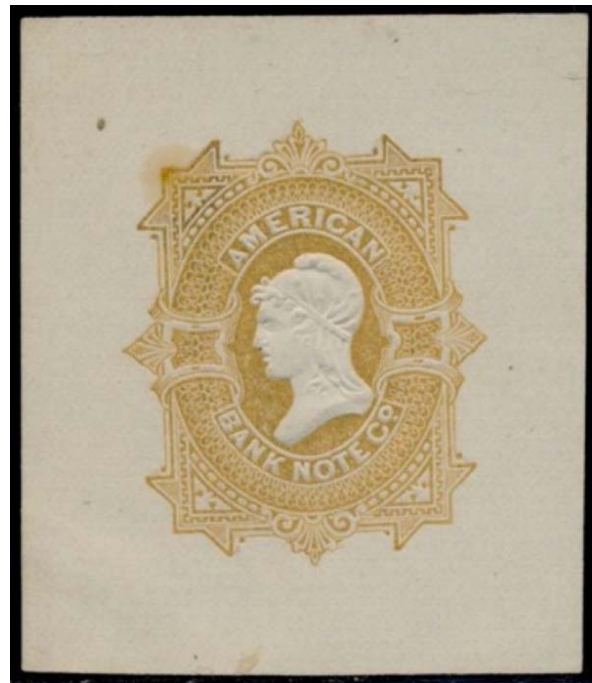


Figure 19.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.

the stamp are shown in Figure 21. The Liberty Head design was used again to produce a group of demonstration stamps with an oval frame bearing the text “American Bank Note Co’s Stamp” and lacking a numeral or denomination. There are many varieties of stamps with different ink colors and paper types. They are identified as variations of Essay 2-D in George Turner’s 1974 book *Essays and Proofs of United States Internal Revenue Stamps*. As the ones bearing the ABNC inscription are not intended for postal or revenue use, they are demonstration stamps rather than essays. These are shown in Figure 22 and with an ornate purple frame in Figure 23. They were subsequently produced as prospective Internal Revenue stamps and the essays of these are shown in Figure 24.

An interesting variation of Liberty Head design stamps falls somewhere between a demonstration stamp and a stamp essay. The stamps shown in Figure 25 bear the “American Bank Note Co’s Stamp” inscription but contain the word “Coupon” and have a monetary denomination within the design. They are identified as variations of Essay 2-Fa and Essay 2-Fb in Turner’s essay book. The stamps are presented in various colors on different paper types.

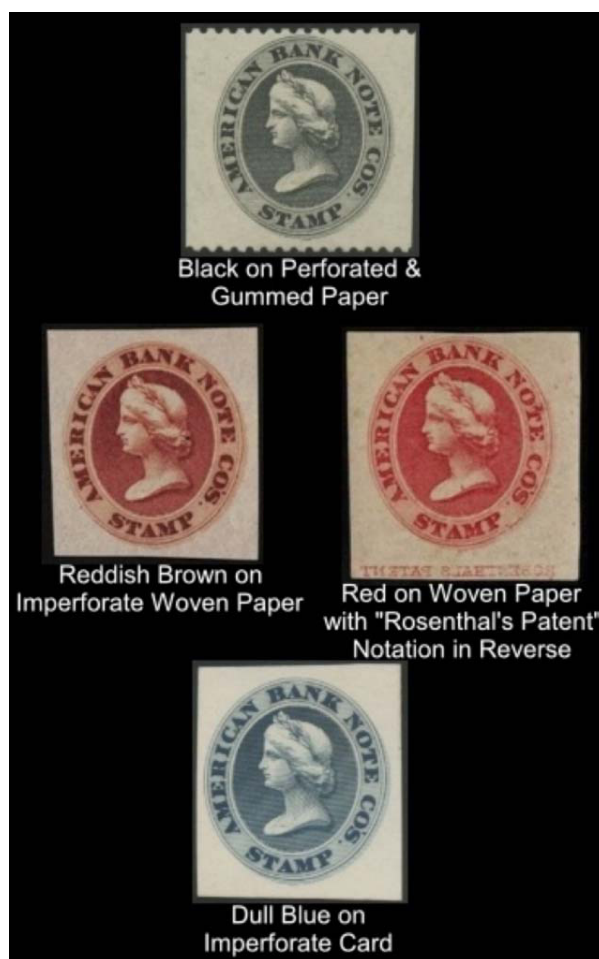


Figure 22.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.



Figure 27.

Another demonstration stamp produced by ABNC is the Roman Warrior specimen stamp of 1934. The figure is a miniature of a larger vignette that ABNC created for the American Express Company. The format is similar to telegraph stamps of the era, which typically had serial numbers. A proof of the stamp is shown in Figure 27. Color varieties of the rouletted stamp and a partial sheet are shown, respectively, in Figures 28 and 29.

A well-known vignette is ABNC's "Screaming Ea-



Figure 28.

gle," which served as a logo for the company. A green demonstration stamp featuring this design was produced with the word "SPECIMEN" and the numeral 3 in the engraving. Note the intricate detail showing ABNC's proficiency in engraving, especially considering the stamp design only measures 13mm × 15½mm. This was probably aimed at clients in need of small size revenue stamps for cigarettes, tobacco, liquor, and wine. Figure 30 shows an enlarged image of the imperforate stamp on India paper. For size comparison, Figure 31 shows a rouletted block of



Figure 29.



Figure 31 (above) and Figure 30 (right).

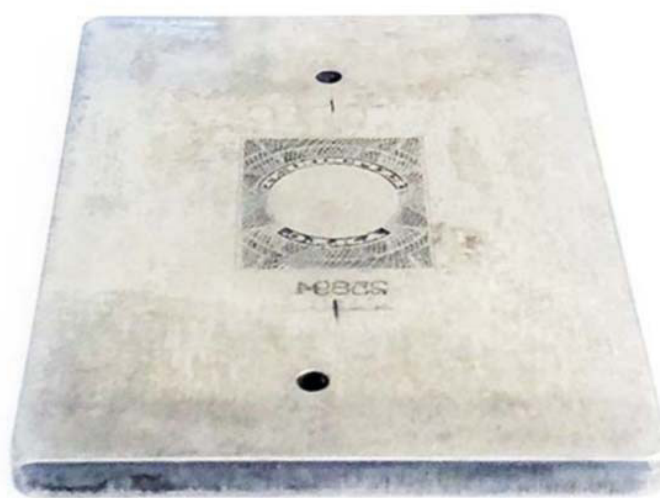
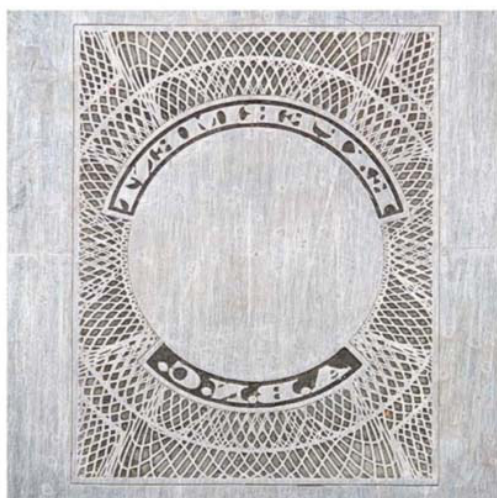


Figure 32 (above) and Figure 33 (below).

four next to a block of U.S. definitives.

The final ABNC item is a multi-colored demonstration stamp frame. It contains the text “EXPERIMENT” and “A.B.N.C.” engraved into the frame, but no central vignette or portrait. Two plates of the stamp frame were produced, one with the plate number 25893 and the other 25894. The plates measure $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$. Figure 33 shows two views of plate 25894 used to print this experimental frame.

There are many more demonstration stamps produced by other North American security firms, including some with links to souvenir cards. These will be covered in a later issue of the Journal.



For some time, the forerunner FSO-1873A has been the acknowledged champion souvenir card in the category of size. The card, celebrating the Centennial Memorial of American Independence, was printed by ABNC and measures 28" x 35". But one card with a similar theme may actually be a little taller.

The last time I was in Philadelphia, I visited the Declaration House at 7th and Market Streets, a historical reconstruction of the apartment where Thomas Jefferson lived during the time he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Administered by the National Park Service, the site covers much of the history from 1776, when Jefferson attended the Second Continental Congress.



Tucked away on the second floor is an enormous engraving that recreates the Declaration and its signatures, surrounded by a frame of state seals and topped by three portraits. At the time, all I could do was snap a photo, but later I was able to dig up more information about it.

The engraving was published by John Binns and printed by James Porter in Philadelphia in 1819. It measures 24" x 35¼" — not as wide as the ABNC card, but a hair taller. The impressive work was done by Philadelphia engraver John Vallance on what appears to be a single plate.

In his copyright application, Binns described the document as "A Splendid Edition of the Declaration of Independence. The Design in imitation of Bas Relief, will encircle the Declaration as a cordon of honor, surmounted by the Arms of the United States. Immediately underneath the arms, will be a large medallion

portrait of General George Washington, supported by cornucopiae, and embellished with spears, flags, and other Military trophies and emblems. On the one side of this medallion portrait, will be a similar portrait of John Hancock,...and on the other, a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence. The arms of 'The Thirteen United States' in medallion, united by wreaths of olive leaves, will form the remainder of the cordon, which will be further enriched by some of the characteristic productions of the United States; such as the Tobacco and Indigo plants, the Cotton Shrub, Rice &c. The fac similes [sic] will be engraved by Mr. Vallance, who will execute the important part of the publication at

the City of Washington, where, by permission of the Secretary of State, he will have the original signatures constantly under his eye."

While neither Binns nor Porter were involved in printing banknotes or securities, Vallance was. His brief bio in "The Engraver's Line" mentions that he came to Philadelphia in 1791 and did general banknote engraving, eventually becoming a member of Tanner, Vallance, Kearney & Co. He died in 1823 at age 53.

According to SCCS criteria, forerunner cards must be printed or engraved by govt. entity, printer's union, or security printing company. There might be a case made for inclusion of this card, although it seems not to mark a specific occasion, unless it was some odd anniversary of the Declaration signing. If it were to be designated a forerunner, it would become the oldest known example in the SCCS catalog.





MEMBERS' EXCHANGE

Membership

Wanted: Your free ad here! Contact the Acting Editor at **SCCS1981@yahoo.com** or by snail mail (see Board of Directors, page 1). Ads will be repeated four times, unless you request otherwise. There is NO charge.

3

Want to Trade, Buy or Sell: Assorted ASDA issued souvenir cards mint, SC and FDI from 1974 to 2010. Contact: **hhweber@att.net** or **Hans Weber, 6555 Rycroft Dr., Riverside, CA 92506-5314, 951-318-8684.**

C

For Sale: Washington Chapter One is offering computer-generated color cards. Send a SASE (55¢) for the full-color list. **John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309-0035**

C

BUYING selected BEP, ABNCo., USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir cards. Please see the "Buying

List" on my website www.kenbarr.com or write for a hard copy. (Selling, too!) **Ken Barr, P.O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152.**

C

For Sale: SO-164 Gross Gallery Opening Souvenir Card, mint, \$4 ppd. Send Check to Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005. For multiple copies contact **LCB1941@att.net**

C

Wanted: Philatelic Truck material wanted by exhibitor. Also: NPM Card (SO-164) signed and/or cancelled. Please contact: **Gregg A. Hopkins, Sr. at 602-954-8175 or In1stPlace@cox.net**

Wanted Trade or Buy: Assorted BEP, Veterans, SO, USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir or non-souvenir cards — Duck, Private, etc. Please contact **Fredemw@gmail.com** or **Fred Geissler, 11681 Kahns Road, Manassas, VA 20112.**

Souvenir Cards Available from Issuing Organizations

With FUN planning to move forward in January, we hope 2021 will begin to see some new souvenir cards released, but things may remain slow for some time. Many generic cards and back issues from previous events remain available at original prices.

American Philatelic Society

stamps.org; search for "Souvenir"

Available back issues: Most cards issued from 2011 to 2017 (APS-44 to 57), including show-cancelled and sets, from \$2 to \$8.

Ameri-Show Cards

www.souvenircards.org/gallery/Q/Q.html

Available back issues: 30+ intaglio card varieties are still available from past shows at original prices, most \$5 to \$10. Downloadable list on website.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing / U.S. Mint

catalog.usmint.gov/shop/engraved-prints

Available back issues: B-245 (MLK print) \$5/per card; B-279 (Cherry Blossom print) \$9.95/per card; B-320/324 (Defenders of Democracy) \$85/set of 5; \$20/per card. Some cards are out of stock while BEP focuses on currency production.

Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society

www.seal-society.org/literature

Available back issues: More than a dozen card varieties from past shows, ranging from \$2 to \$20. August 2020 APS cards are available for \$10/set, \$3.25 shipping at https://bit.ly/2020_CS.

Duck Stamp Cards

2020 duck stamp cards are now available online. Annual stamps and cards can be found at www.duckstamp.com; Artist commemorative cards are at https://bit.ly/2020_Duck_Card.

NAPEX

www.napex.org/souvenirs/

Available back issues: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows, many intaglio and/or show cancelled, from \$5 to \$8 per card. 2019 cards remain available; 2020 cards were not issued.

SCCS Washington Chapter #1

John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309

Available back issues: Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows; early cards intaglio, recent cards computer printed. Send large SASE for list.

FIRST CARD FROM MEXICO DISCOVERED

Greg Alexander

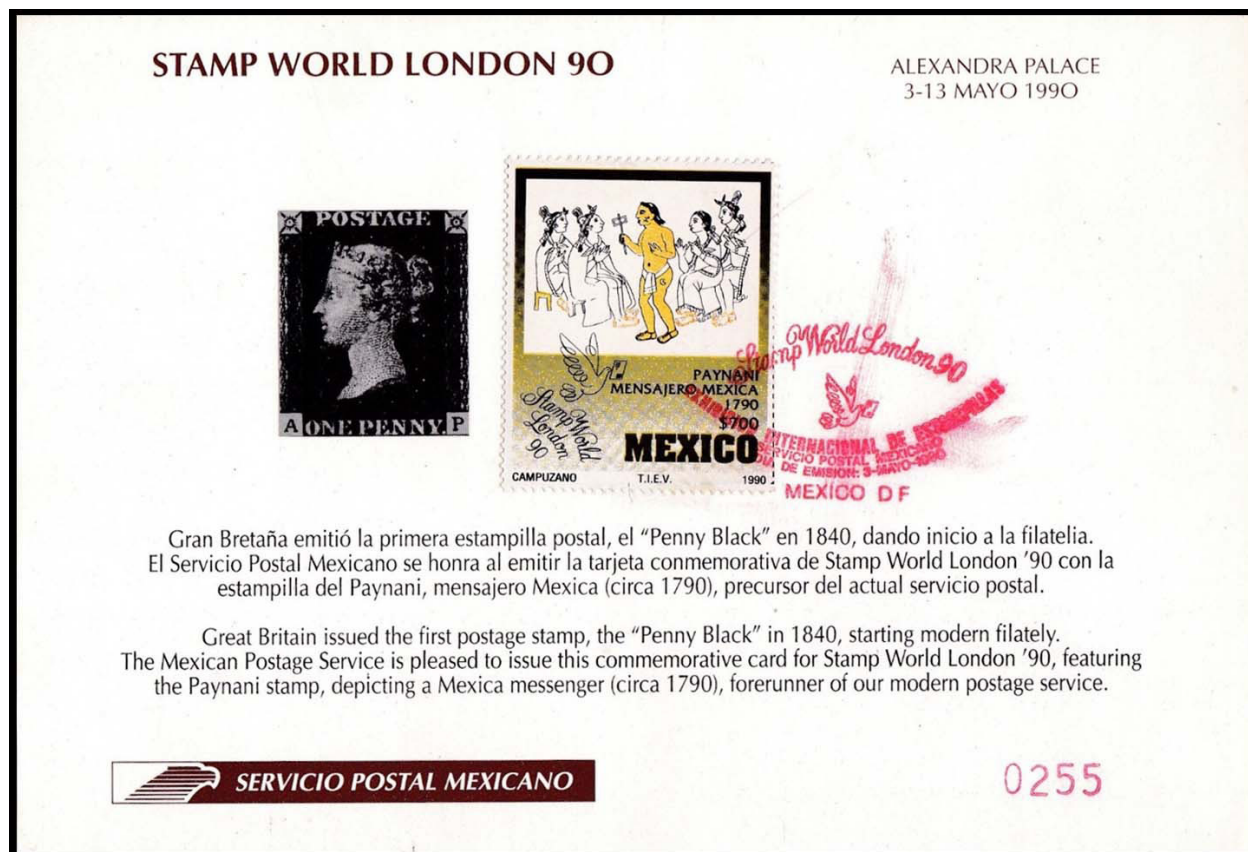
The SCCS numbering system includes souvenir cards that are engraved or produced by a govt. agency and printed by, or for, entities headquartered in continental North America. Up until this point, that has meant the United States and Canada, but we have long suspected that eventually a qualifying souvenir card would surface from Mexico — and it finally has.

It's a little surprising that it's taken 30 years to find an example, but here it is. The Mexican Postal Service issued the card (below) for the Stamp World London show in 1990. Like the souvenir cards issued by the USPS and Canada Post, this card is a legitimate souvenir of a philatelic event, even though the event itself was outside North America.

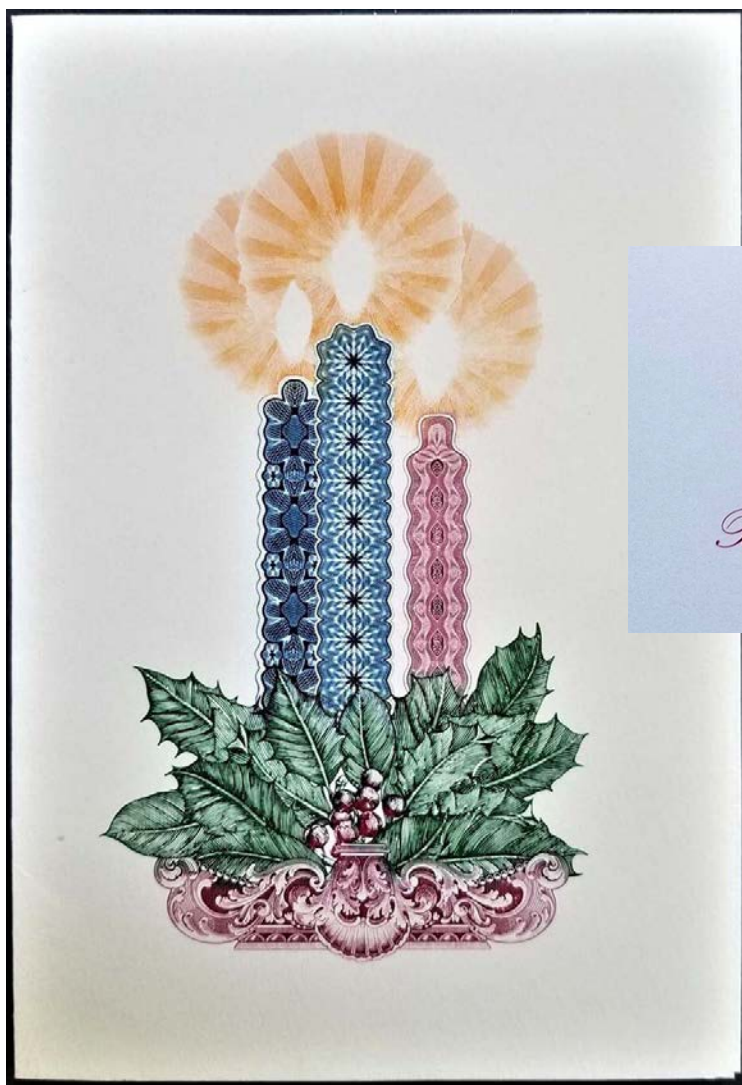
It's unclear whether all these London 90 cards were issued in a cancelled form, though it appears that they were all serial numbered. The Penny Black stamp is offset printed and the quality is not the best.

In 2008, the Mexican Postal Service was overhauled and rebranded as Correos de México. The Cataloging Committee has decided to designate this card as CM-1.

It seems likely that other souvenir cards from Mexico exist which meet SCCS cataloging criteria. If members can supply scans, we would welcome any additions to this new category of one.



CM-1



*Season's Greetings
and best wishes
from
Banknote Corporation of America*

