



# The “U.S. Proprietary Medicine Co.” RS243e on Experimental Silk Paper

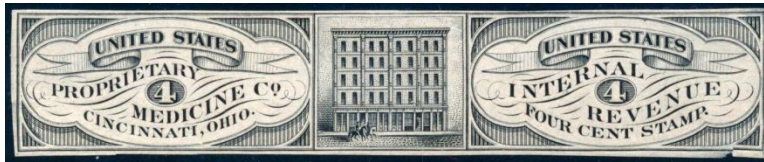
Brief History & Examination of Paper

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# The U.S. Proprietary Medicine Company

- ▶ Dr. C.W. Roback of Cincinnati, OH introduced a group of proprietary medicines in 1855, designating them as "Scandinavien" in 1857. A year later the designation was changed to "Scandinavian" and applied to Blood Pills and Blood Purifier. By 1866, Scandinavian Stomach Bitters had made an appearance.
- ▶ In 1866, the U.S. Proprietary Medicine Co. of Cincinnati took over the business, where "Dr." Roback was listed in City Directory as "Manufacturer of Fine Cut & Smoking Tobacco."



- The 6¢ stamp (RS244) was issued Apr. 24, 1867 for use on Stomach Bitters through June 1868. 63,622 were issued, all on old paper.
- The 4¢ stamp (RS243), used on bottles of Blood Purifier, was issued May 14, 1867 to July 1875. 192,968 were printed on old paper and 38,750 on silk paper.
- Some were printed on Experimental Silk paper, which exhibit minute pieces of silk thread (blue or red) widely scattered within the paper, sometimes only one (1) fiber

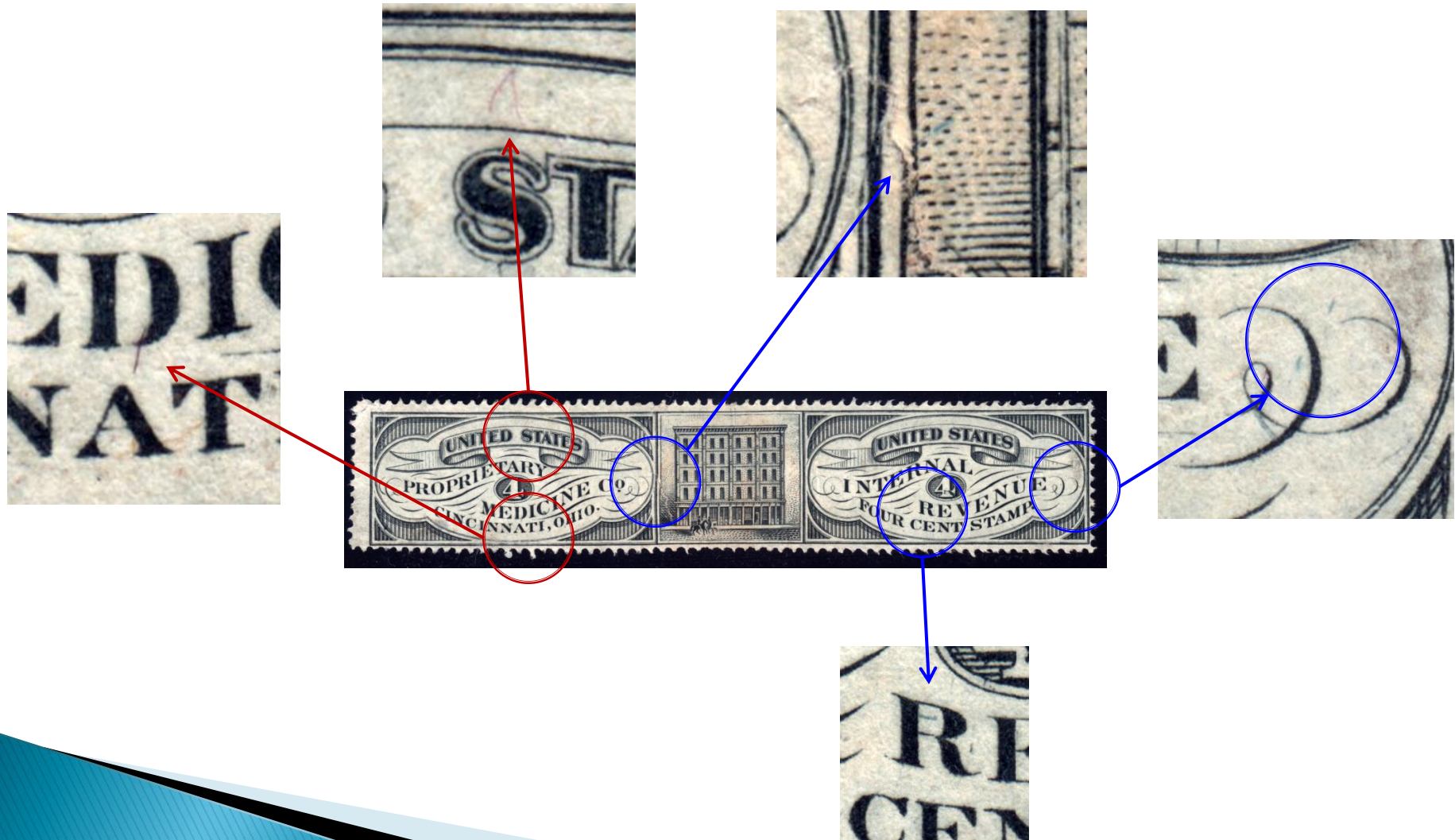


# The 4¢ Stamp of 1867 Used on Bottles of “Blood Purifier”



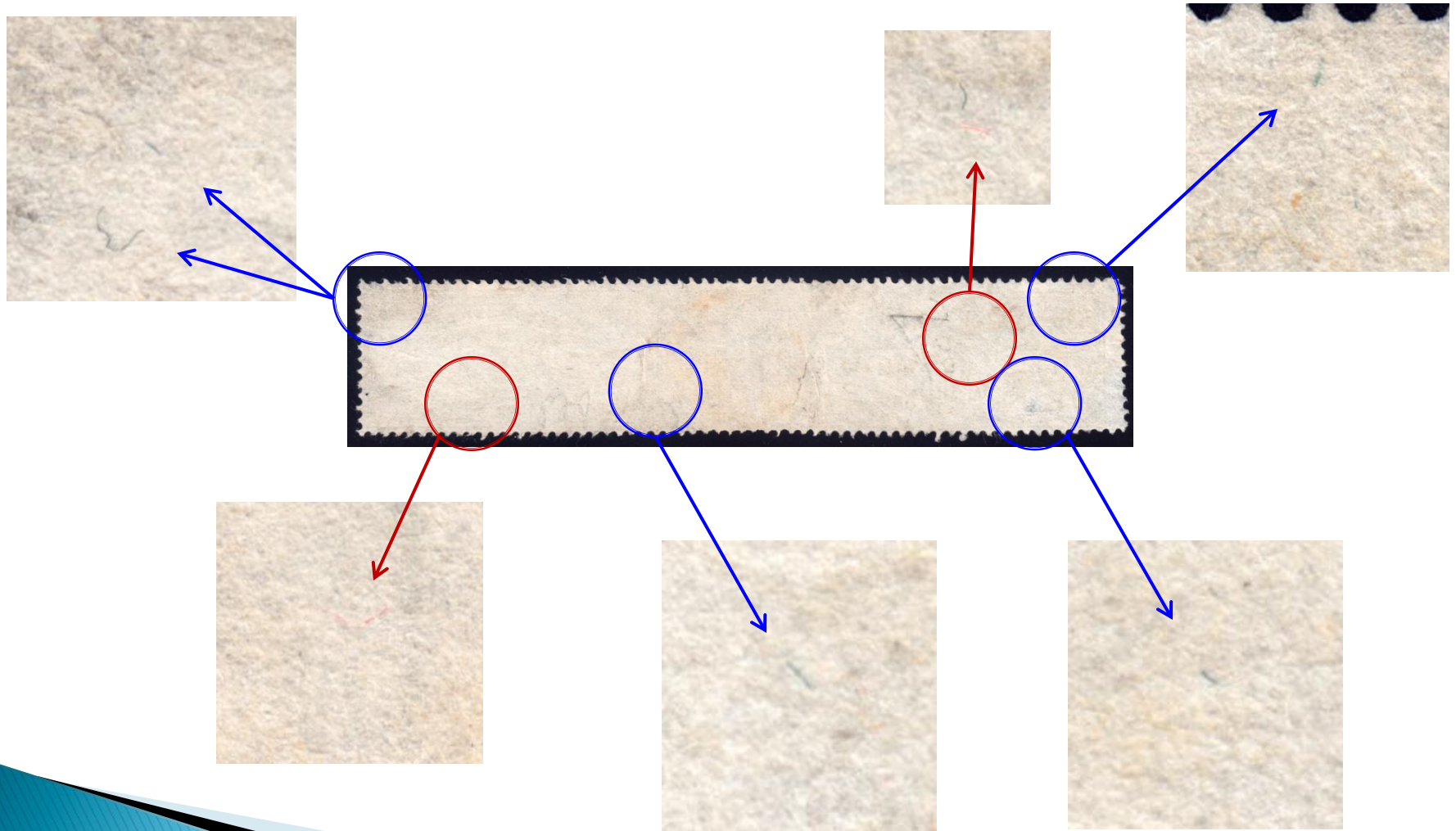
4¢ black, 105x21 mm, central image of 5 story building with 2 men on horseback, flanked by “*United States Proprietary Medicine Co, Cincinnati, Ohio*” and “*United States Internal Revenue Four Cent Stamp*”. At first glance, appears to be on old paper (RS243a). You can see faint circular stain in the center of the reverse of the stamp where it was adhered to bottle top and flaps fell along the sides.

# After closer examination, the stamp is on Experimental Silk Paper – Obverse





## After closer examination, the stamp is on Experimental Silk Paper – Reverse



# Summary

- In 1855, Dr. C.W. Roback of Cincinnati, Ohio introduced a group of proprietary medicines named “Scandinavian Blood Pills” and “Scandinavian Blood Purifier.”
- At right is Wrapper RS245 (greatly reduced) used for packaging the Scandinavian Blood Pills.



- ▶ In 1866, the “United States Proprietary Medicine Company” of Cincinnati took over the business and issued 2 private die proprietary medicine stamps with the same design:
  - RS244 - 6¢ stamp issued on old paper
  - RS245 - 4¢ stamp issued on old and silk paper (used on Blood Purifier bottles)
  - Both stamps can be found on experimental silk paper
- ▶ Experimental Silk paper contains minute pieces of red or blue silk thread widely scattered within the paper, sometimes there only being 1 fiber.
- ▶ Through careful searching, an RS245e was identified, with minute red and blue fibers dispersed throughout, seen on the obverse and reverse.

Happy Hunting!