



# THE H.H. WARNER & CO. "SAFE REMEDIES" MAJOR DOUBLE TRANSFER OF CENTRAL VIGNETTE ON THEIR U.S. PRIVATE DIE PROPRIETARY SIX-CENTS MEDICINE STAMP #RS258dt

## Brief History & Examination

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# H.H. Warner & Company, Rochester, New York



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- Hubert H. Warner, founder of the Warner Observatory for the study of astronomy, was the founder of Warner's Safe Remedies of Rochester, NY. The office building which it occupied was shared with his business that sold fire and burglar proof safes. Mr. Warner surely had a sense of humor in issuing his "Safe Remedies" – and his private die stamp designs reflect this.
- All the Warner private die stamps were printed on watermarked paper in brown ink.
- Warner's Safe Kidney & Liver Cure sold for \$1.50 a bottle, requiring 6¢ stamps:
  - #RS255d: small 6¢ stamp issued first - 340,000 printed/delivered June 14, 1881.
  - #RS258d: large 6¢ stamp issued second - 3,260,000 printed Nov. 1881 to May 1883.
- Warner's Safe Rheumatic Cure and Safe Nervine were introduced bit later, and sold for prices that required stamps of one, two and four cents:
  - #RS254d: 1¢ issued September 1882 to May 1883 - 2,651,810 printed.
  - #RS256d: 2¢ issued September 1882 to mid-1883 - 102,000 printed.
  - #RS257d: 4¢ issued September 1882 - 60,000 printed.
- On July 1, 1883, the taxes for use on proprietary medicines was repealed.



Warner's Safe Kidney &  
Liver Cure, Rochester NY



# The H.H. Warner & Company Private Die Stamps

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#RS254d: 1882-1883



#RS255d: 1881



#RS256d: 1882-1883



#RS257d: 1882



#RS258d: 1881 - 1883

# RS258dt Major Double Transfer of Central Vignette

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6¢ strip design measuring 95x18 millimeters, issued in brown in panes of 60 stamps on watermarked paper.

Features a central vignette of a safe, its door bearing an image of a native gathering herbs in a desert, inscribed SAFE above and REMEDIES below, in colored block letters. This is upon a horizontally-lined ground of a central tablet bordered at its ends by a curved label of color between two colorless lines; at left PROPRIETARY; at right U.S. INTER. REV.

Extended out at left and right on a ground of crossed lines is NOT GENUINE IF STAMP IS BROKEN and READ CAUTION ON LABEL. The design terminates with curved label of color inscribed SIX CENTS and 6, followed by colored, block capital letters H.H.W. & CO. on a white background.



# An Unusual Double Transfer of the Central Vignette

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#RS258d: normal transfer of central vignette



#RS258dt: double transfer of central vignette.

The design shift (west and south) is seen in the center left of the vignette. It is most prominent in PROPRIETARY, the horizontal lines, all the letters of REMEDIES, the palm tree, the left and right hands, the lower left herbs near the ground and the left wheels and outer frame line of the safe.

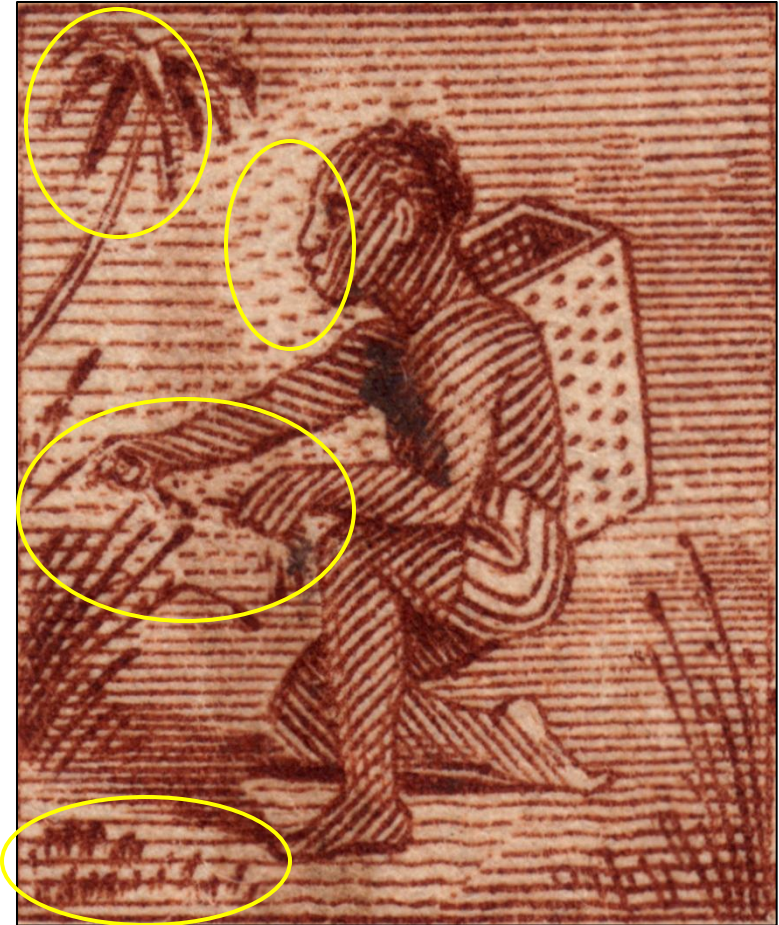


# Comparison: Normal (NL) vs. Double Transfer (DT)

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Normal transfer of central vignette.



Doubling of palm fronds, the face, left and right hands, the lower left grasses and horizontal background lines.



# Comparison: Normal (NL) vs. Double Transfer (DT)

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DT



PROPRIETARY doubled, the horizontal lines & lower frame of tablet into white space above & below.

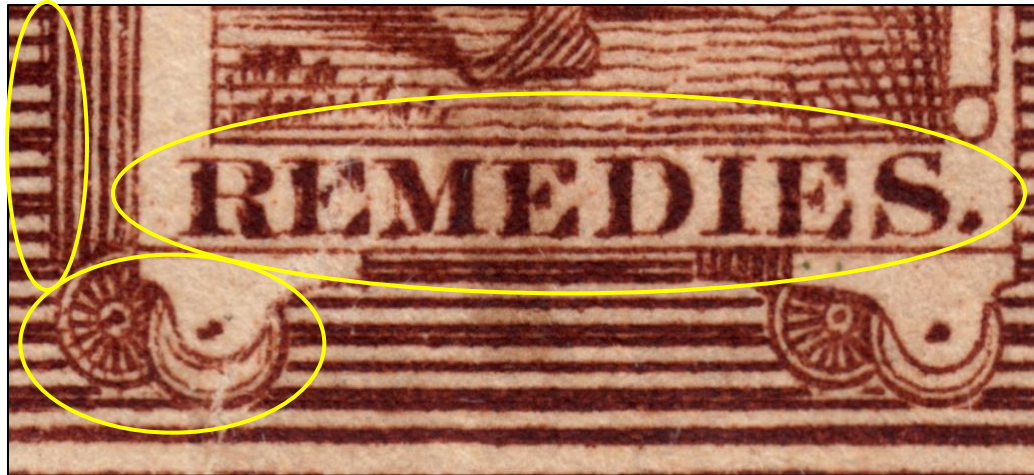
NL



# Comparison: Normal (NL) vs. Double Transfer (DT)

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DT



Doubling of  
REMEDIES.,  
the left axle,  
the lower left  
wheels on safe,  
the left outer  
frame of safe.

NL





# Comparison: Normal (NL) vs. Double Transfer (DT)

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NL



DT



Enlargement showing lower left wheels shifted.

DT



Enlargement showing all the letters of REMEDIES shifted, most pronounced at left in "REMED".

NL





# Conclusion



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- Hulbert Harrington Warner (1842–1923) was a Rochester, New York businessman and philanthropist who made his first fortune in the 1870's by selling fire- and burglar-proof safes. It is estimated that he and his sales agents sold 60,000 safes worth an estimated \$10M at that time (~\$268M in present day dollars).
- Warner made his second fortune from the sales of patent medicine, with his first acquisition the formula for a nostrum Craig's Original Kidney Cure from Dr. Charles Craig of Rochester, NY.



Warner's Safe Diabetes  
Cure, Rochester NY

- In the 1880's, he had engraved and printed five private die stamps to seal the bottles containing his Warner's Safe Kidney & Liver Cure, Rheumatic Cure and Nervine nostrums.
- A major double transfer can be found on just one stamp from this series, denoted as #RS258dt.
- The 6¢ strip stamp is unique as far as private die strip stamps are concerned, in that this major double transfer occurs in the central vignette, whereas most other DTs identified on strip stamps occur on the extreme left or right end or both.
- An the search continues; might the 2¢ and 4¢ strips exhibit a similar double transfer of their central vignette?