



The Brown's Bronchial Troches  
Scarce Private Die Proprietary Stamp  
RS40e on Experimental Silk Paper

Brief History & Examination of Paper

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# John I. Brown & Son, Boston, MA.

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- In 1850, John I. Brown & Son originated Brown's Bronchial Troches. They also sold Vermifuge Comfits or Worm Lozenges and other preparations.
- Three private die stamps were prepared for their use:
  - ❖ RS39: 1¢ Black, issued Feb. 1863 to May, 1883. 2,272,088 printed on old paper, 783,925 on silk paper and 2,270,062 on watermarked paper.
  - ❖ RS40: 2¢ Green, issued Feb. 1863 to Oct. 1880. 6,728,931 printed on old paper, 3,931,931 on silk paper and 1,896,076 on pink and watermarked papers.
  - ❖ RS41: 4¢ Brown, issued Feb. 1863 to Oct. 1880. 35,015 printed on old paper, 32,250 on silk paper and 1,250 on watermarked 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.
- In 1865, Brown & Son entered into a limited partnership arrangement with Jeremiah Curtis & Son, known as Curtis & Brown, for the purpose of marketing medicinal preparations other than Brown's Bronchial Troches and Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, the leading Curtis product.



# The Brown & Son Private Die Stamps and the 2¢ Green used on a Troches Box



RS39



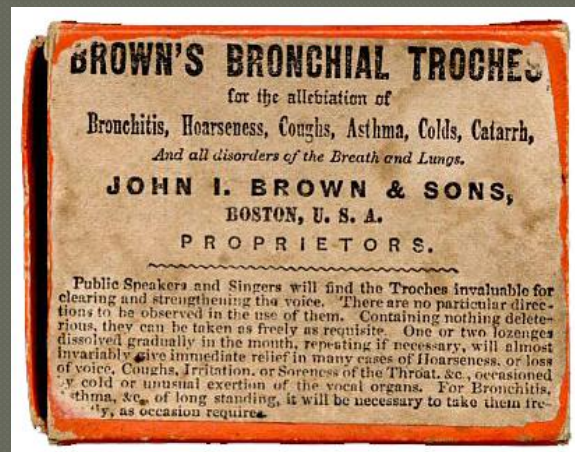
RS40



RS41



RS40 used to seal box, torn when open, fulfilling purpose.





# RS40e 2¢ Green on Experimental Silk Paper



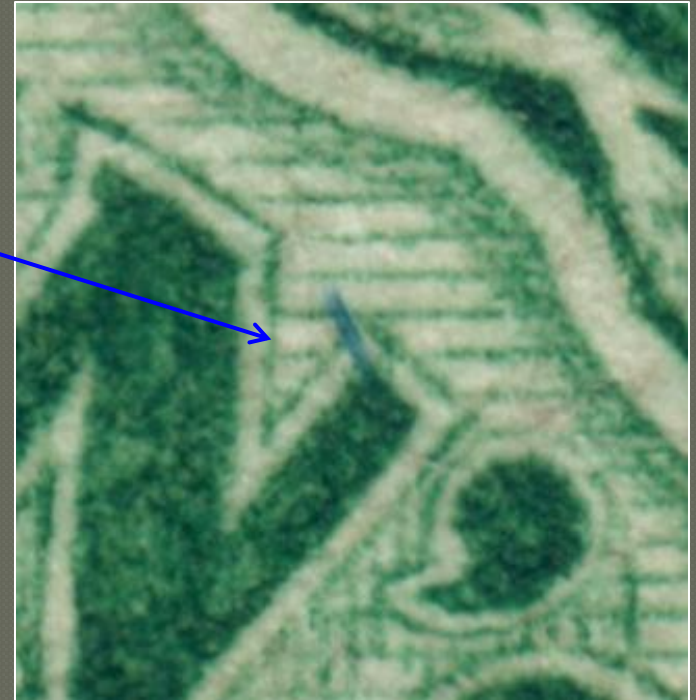
2¢ green, circular central disk shaded horizontally with fine lines and bordered by a reticulated frame, inscribed "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES." Similar disks at left and right with three-line inscriptions: "UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE" and "JOHN I. BROWN & SON, BOSTON, MASS." Numerals "2" at top and "TWO CENTS" below center. Design 61.5x23 mm as 72 stamps per pane.

# Highlighting the Short, Thin Blue (10) & Red (1) Embedded Silk Fibers on Reverse





# Highlighting the Short, Thin Blue & Red Embedded Silk Fiber (n=1) on Obverse



This example of RS40 was printed on experimental silk paper and exhibits the following characteristics:

- Thicker than old paper;
- Printed image bolder than on old paper;
- Whiter and more fibrous than old paper;
- Contains numerous short, thin blue (and red) fibers, embedded in the paper.
- **Conclusion:** a very rare copy of RS40e.

Single short, blue embedded silk fiber in the "N" of "BROWN'S"