

FOREIGN ENTRIES ON U.S. STAMPS, PART I REGULAR ISSUES, OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE DIE MEDICINE STAMPS

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The term “foreign entry” conjures up exotic but imprecise images of errors made in the production of engraved stamps. In reality, close scrutiny of these rarities wherever they occur—in regular issues, Officials, Private Die Medicine stamps and Revenues—reveals several distinct processes at work. Some are simple: a careless error by the siderographer in entering the wrong image or incompletely removing all traces of a correct but imperfect entry. Others are more dramatic: an entire used plate imperfectly resurfaced or a relief on the transfer roll being rocked in too far, adding a ghost image on a neighboring position.

The overriding objective of this article is to assemble and to catalog all known varieties of foreign entries found on United States stamps, something that has never been done before. Table 1 provides a complete listing and thumb-nail description of known U.S. foreign entries, most listed in Scott, some not. A significant portion of these foreign entries—more than 50 percent if counting by plate positions rather than Scott numbers—fall in the Revenue group. The first three columns in Table 1 provide description, Scott number and plate position for the stamp that shows the foreign entry. The next three columns provide similar information about the stamp that is the source of the foreign entry. And the last column indicates whether the item is listed in the Scott specialized catalog.

An important subordinate objective is to explore the technical causes of the various types of foreign entries. In many cases, the reasons for these foreign entries are not haphazard but reflect aspects of engraving and print production that have been explored in painstaking detail on early classic U.S. issues. Thus, the study of foreign entries, while an interesting pursuit in its own right, actually helps carry on the research of renowned experts in this field, including Elliott Perry, C.W. Bedford and Richard Celler. Their findings, particularly in the complex “guide relieving” process of laying in a plate, will be discussed in depth in the second part of this article with specific reference to foreign entries on Revenue stamps.

An article devoted to cataloging foreign entries provokes the immediate question of why none has been written earlier. As collectible objects, foreign entries are not unknown entities and have obvious virtues that appeal to collectors—they are often rare, visually interesting and expensive. A drawback is that they are defined by features that can be very small and difficult to discern, although these deficiencies are less daunting in the modern era of high-resolution digitization.

Most likely, foreign entries lack popularity simply because they are not well known or well understood. This article is an attempt to remedy that situation, showing that foreign entries are often hidden in plain sight. In fact, more than 80 percent of the stamps discussed and illustrated here were collected (unidentified) from online stores or auctions over the past five years, including at least five items of which fewer than ten copies are known.

TABLE 1. FOREIGN ENTRIES ON UNITED STATES STAMPS

Description	Scott #	Position of FE	FE Source	FE Scott #	FE #	In Scott?
10¢ 1861 (Type I)	62B	94R4	90¢ 1861	72	1	Yes
2¢ Washington	332/344/349 353/375	37UL5299	1¢ Franklin	331	1	Yes, 384 also possible
2¢ Washington	467/485/505	74UL7942, 84UL7942, 18LR7942	5¢ Washington	466/504	3	Yes, as color error
12¢ Agriculture	O6	8	15¢ Post Office	O53	1	Yes
2¢ Executive	O11	40	6¢ Agriculture	O4	1	Yes
6¢ State	O60	1, 11	1¢ Executive	O10	2	Yes
6¢ State	O60	21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91	6¢ Executive	O13	8	Yes
24¢ State	O65	66, 76	90¢ Justice	O34	2	Yes
1¢ Express	R1a,c	23, 64, 66, 100, 108, 141, 150, 210 plus 2 undeter- mined (Plate 1E)	2¢ Express	R9	10	Yes (Position 66)
1¢ Express	R1f	below 210, Plate 1E	2¢ Express	R9	1	Yes
1¢ Playing Cards	R2c	28	2¢ Revenue (undetermined)	R5/R7/R9/ R11/R13/ R15(?)	1	Yes, but mistakenly as R1c
2¢ Certificate	R7a,c/R8c	60, 67, 68, 70, 112, 183, 185	1¢ Revenue (undetermined)	R1/R2/R3/ R4(?)	7	Yes
2¢ Express	R9a,c/R10c	68	1¢ Revenue (undetermined)	R1/R2/R3/ R4(?)	1	Yes
2¢ Proprietary	R13/(R14?)	undetermined	2¢ U.S. Inter. Revenue	R15	1	No
\$1 Lease	R70	17, 30	\$1 Revenue (undetermined)	R66-R69/ R71-R76(?)	2	No
60¢ U.S. Inter. Revenue	R116/R142	18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 31, 34, 51, 69, 75, 85	70¢ U.S. Inter. Revenue	R117	11	Yes (no positions)
\$1.50 U.S. Inter. Revenue	R120	12	\$1.00 U.S. Inter. Revenue	R118	1	Yes
2¢ Demas Barnes	RS22a	undetermined	1¢ D.S. Barnes	RS15/RS18	2	Yes (one)
2¢ Merchant's Gargling Oil	RS179b,d	1	3¢ American Match Co.	RO11	1	Yes
1¢ Dr. E.L. Soule	RS226a/ RS227a,b,d	1	1¢ X. Bazin (unissued)	RT1	1	Yes

First three columns show description, Scott number and position of the stamp bearing the foreign entry. "FE Source" and "FE Scott #" columns designate the design and Scott number of the stamp that was the source of the foreign entry; a question mark indicates the exact source is not known. "FE #" column indicates the number of plate positions showing foreign entry. The final column designates whether the foreign entry described is listed in the Scott specialized catalog.

What is a foreign entry?

Let us begin by offering a new, simplified definition that encompasses all of the cases recognized in the Scott specialized catalog as well as those that clearly match the general criteria that underlie Scott's definition: A foreign entry occurs when the design of another stamp appears on a finished plate.

This new definition is sorely needed. In the introduction section of its specialized catalog, Scott defines the term as follows: "When original transfers are erased incompletely from a plate, they can appear with new transfers of a different design which are entered subsequently on the plate." This definition, as serviceable as it has seemed over the years, actually excludes nearly half the foreign entry positions listed in the Scott catalog, when foreign entries in Revenue stamps are taken into account. The literature on these plate varieties has not helped; foreign entries have been described variously as "double transfers," "double entries," and "foreign reliefs."

Regular issues

Foreign entries appear in only three regular issues. The first, the **10¢ Washington Type I (Scott 62B)**, printed by the National Bank Note Company in 1861, is the earliest of any U.S. foreign entry—and the only foreign entry found on a 19th century United States postage stamp. Chip Gliedman's February 2019 *Chronicle* article illustrated in detail remnants of Scott 72, the 90¢ Washington that was erroneously entered and incompletely erased.¹ He detailed the discovery of the foreign entry by one A. Krassa in 1922 and its identification as Position 94R4 by dealer Philip H. Ward, Jr. from a mint block of four he owned, the same block that was sold as part of the Gross collection in 2018. The mistaken entry occurred because the 90¢ Washington relief was positioned next to the correct design on the transfer roll and the siderographer entered the wrong relief. Figure 1 illustrates some of the foreign markings on the 10¢ Washington and their sources on the 90¢ stamp.



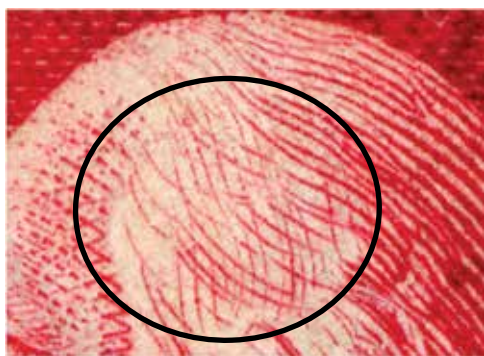
Figure 1. At left, Position 94R4 of the 1861 10¢ Washington Type I (Scott 62B), showing the foreign entry of the 90¢ Washington relief mistakenly entered on the plate and then insufficiently erased. Arrows on the 10¢ image point to six of the many design elements that survive in this position from the underlying 90¢ impression. Most easily recognized are "the Cornstalk" (designated "A") and the "V" at bottom center ("B").

The second regular issue foreign entry, in the **Series 1908 2¢ Washington**, came about when the siderographer entered the 1¢ Franklin instead of the 2¢ Washington value in one position on plate 5299. The result was striking. Errant marks appear throughout the “TWO CENTS” lettering in the bottom value label and Washington’s bust displays an overlay of Franklin’s hair cascading down to his ear. These details are presented in detail in the various images in Figure 2. The “TWO CENTS” value label shows evocative traces of a ghostly “ONE CENT” beneath, but the most striking evidence of the foreign entry is Franklin’s vertical hair lines on Washington’s head.

Because this plate was used in many perforation configurations, the error appears on multiple Scott-listed stamps: 332 (double-line watermark, perforated 12); 344 (double-line watermark, imperforate); 349 (double-line watermark, perforated 12 horizontally);



Figure 2. The foreign entry at Position 37UL5299 on the 2¢ Washington stamp of 1908 shows remnants of a mistakenly entered and poorly erased 1¢ Franklin (331). Unerased portions of “ONE CENT” show clearly in the “TWO CENTS” value label, and vertical strands of Franklin’s hair appear on Washington’s head. The 2¢ stamp shown here is the imperforate Scott 344, but plate 5299 was widely used and the variety can be found on perforated and coil stamps as well. See Table 1.



375 (single-line watermark, perforated 12); and 384 (single-line watermark, imperforate). This final variety is not listed in Scott but is documented by Johl,² who fails to mention that Plate 5299 was also used for 353 (double-line watermark, perforated 12 vertically).³ It is thus entirely possible that copies of this appealing foreign entry lie undetected on this not-uncommon coil.

Johl provides a full description of the process that led to the creation of the foreign entry on these stamps:⁴

It seems that the transfer man, in making up plate No. 5299, made an erroneous entry with the ONE CENT RELIEF, discovered his error, eradicated it as best he could and then transferred the proper TWO CENTS RELIEF in the same position, leaving, however, sufficient lines of the 1¢ entry so as to produce a most interesting variety. This occurred in the upper left pane and is the fourth stamp under the plate number “5299.”

A description of this “double entry” is provided in a 1968 article by Walter A. McIntire in *The United States Specialist*. This article includes C.W. Bedford’s account of its discovery together with detailed illustrations of the error.⁵

The third instance of a foreign entry on a regular issue is surely the best known of all: three positions of the **2¢ Washington (467, 485, and 505)** that show an uncorrected 5¢ value in red instead of blue. Figure 3 shows an example of Scott 505 flanked by portions of 499. In this case the 5¢ relief was inserted where a damaged but correct entry had been erased, resulting in what is sometimes referred to as an error of color. This stamp thus represents a foreign entry in the broadest meaning of the term, where the incorrect entry is the final one. Kevin G. Lowther’s breathless account of the creation of and fallout from this error may be found in a series of 2012 articles in *The United States Specialist*.⁶



Figure 3. The well-known 5¢ “red error” of 1917, in which an incorrect 5¢ entry replaced a correct but damaged 2¢ entry. The stamp shown here (along with portions of adjacent 2¢ values) is Scott 505, perforated 11. This same foreign entry can also be found on perf 10 stamps (467) and imperforate stamps (485).

Official stamps

Over the past several decades the *Chronicle* has documented all of the foreign entries found in Official stamps. Alan Campbell’s 1997 article described the first, Position 40 of the **2¢ Executive (O11)**, which was re-entered over an incompletely erased image of the 6¢ Agriculture (O4).⁷ In this article Campbell traces the discovery and characterization of this constant plate variety as a foreign entry by Admiral C.V. Combs. Figures 4A and 4B show top and bottom images that highlight some of the 6¢ Agriculture remnants that survive on the 2¢ Executive stamp.

In 1998, Ralph Ebner documented the bottom six stamps in the first column of the **6¢ Department of State (O60)** as foreign entries of the 6¢ Executive (O13).⁸ Then in 2005, George Sayers identified the top two stamps in this column as foreign entries not of the 6¢

Executive but of the 1¢ Executive (O10) and called out Position 31 as an additional foreign entry.⁹ Finally, in 2021, I characterized and illustrated Positions 21 and 31, the remaining positions in that first column, as further foreign entries of the 6¢, not 1¢, Executive.¹⁰ Figure 5 demonstrates a representative example of each foreign entry type, Position 11 (1¢ Executive) and Position 41 (6¢ Executive), together with the source marks from the underlying stamps.

One might question how two different entries came to lie beneath the final 6¢ State

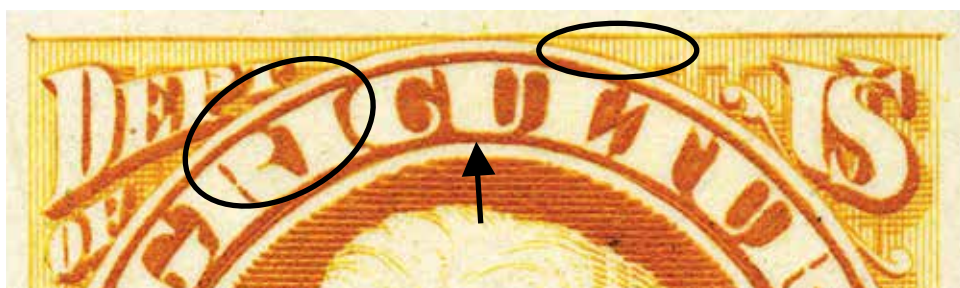


Figure 4A. Top section of Position 40 from a 2¢ Executive card proof (O11P4) showing traces of the underlying 6¢ Agriculture stamp (O4P4).



Figure 4B. Bottom section of Position 40 from the same 2¢ Executive card proof (O11P4) showing traces of the underlying 6¢ Agriculture stamp. The features don't perfectly align, due to distortion caused by the hammering out of the plate.

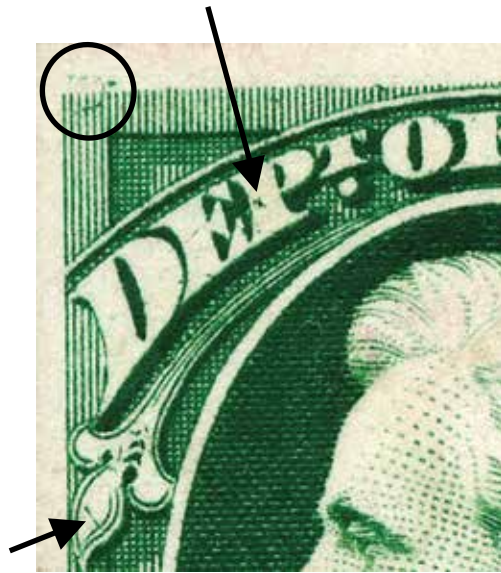


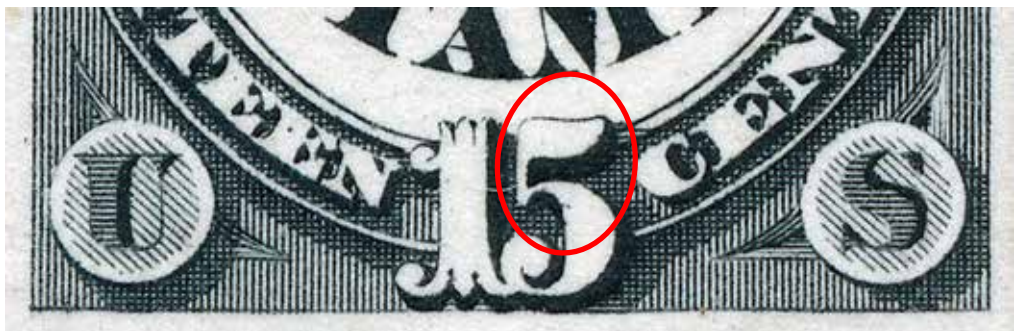
Figure 5A. The first column of the 6¢ Department of State stamp is especially rich in foreign entries. The top image shows the upper left quadrant of a 6¢ State card proof (O60P4) from Position 11, with a comparable section of the 1¢ Executive stamp (O11P4) shown below it. Representative elements from the underlying Executive stamp are indicated. A decorative pearl from the Executive stamp hovers eerily over the upper left corner of the State stamp.

Figure 5B. Upper right quadrant of another 6¢ State (O60P3) from the first column (left edge) of the plate, Position 41. Arrows on the green State stamp designate just a few of the design elements surviving from the underlying 6¢ impression. Remnants of the top right corner and frameline of the Executive stamp show clearly in the right margin of the State stamp. Similar marks appear in the other seven positions of Column 1, all of which show foreign entries of the 6¢ Executive.

image. The siderographer could hardly have rolled in the wrong relief on this plate repeatedly and the transfer roll did not contain multiple reliefs of the same image, as earlier regular issues and Revenues often did. Instead, the answer seems to be that the plate was first used for ten positions of the 1¢ Executive and then set aside when problems with the entries became evident. Then the very same process took place with eight positions of the 6¢ Executive on the cleaned plate. Finally, the 6¢ State was successfully entered on the once-more refurbished plate, uniquely leaving remnants of two different foreign entries.



Figure 6. Top and bottom segments of a contrast-enhanced India proof of the 12¢ Agriculture (O6P3) showing traces of the incompletely erased 15¢ Post Office (O53P3) entry. The pale color of the Agriculture series makes it difficult to discern foreign entry marks, but the curved line in the top-center frame panel above “AGRICULTURE” is usually visible in this variety. Elements of the “5” in “15” are also discernable.



In 2012 George Sayers made another discovery—a foreign entry of the 15¢ Post Office (O53) at Position 8 of the **12¢ Agriculture (O6)**. Enlarged annotated scans of the foreign entry remnants appear in his *Chronicle* article.¹¹ Figure 6 illustrates several foreign entry marks visible on the 12¢ Agriculture and their sources on the 15¢ Post Office. Note that some marks are slightly displaced from their expected positions, an effect that puzzled Sayers until he recognized that the cause was the hammering out of the plate in refurbishing the position. A large portion of the “5” of the 15¢ Post Office can be readily discerned over the “2” of the “12”—once you know what to look for. Hats off to Sayers!

The latest Official foreign entry to appear was in the **24¢ Dept. of State (O65)**, where the 90¢ Justice (O34) sits beneath two neighboring positions (66 and 76). My 2020 *Chronicle* article illustrates how this single entry, straddling two positions on the plate, corresponds with marks that Scott had listed as various types of plate damage.¹² This foreign



Figure 7. 24¢ Department of State (O65) from Position 76 (at left), showing the foreign entry, atop Winfield Scott's head, of the numeral from the 90¢ Justice stamp (O34). The foreign entry is shown greatly enlarged at upper right, and shadowing in the numeral that was its source is shown in the partial image (from a plate proof) at lower right.

entry seems to have been purely accidental—the transfer roll, which contained two different reliefs, having dropped onto the plate with the 90¢ Justice situated above it. Figure 7 shows the full 24¢ State stamp from Position 76 with the foreign entry (a partial “90”) atop Winfield Scott’s head, along with an enlargement of this striking feature and a portion of the 90¢ Justice stamp from which it derives.

Private Die Medicine stamps

While it was producing the first series of Revenue stamps, the printing firm of Butler & Carpenter also created Private Die Proprietary stamps for use on a variety of products, from the prosaic (like matches) to the curious (like patent medicines). As revenue generators for financing the Civil War, these stamps were much more valuable to the Union cause than the more familiar documentary stamps. The government provided the stamps but allowed the product maker freedom to customize the design, which led to a multitude

of quaint stamps and nettlesome customers. Unlike Revenue stamps, which were likely to be retained on the documents they had been applied to, Private Die Proprietary stamps were specifically designed to be destroyed—that is, they were labels or wrappers that were torn when the cork was removed or the box or package opened. Thus, they were initially not uncommon, being produced over a 15-year period, but were usually destroyed or discarded. Those that survive are likely to be in poor condition.

Longstanding research has uncovered foreign entries in three Private Die Medicine stamps. The first is the **2¢ Demas Barnes (RS22)**, a stamp for use with Barnes' line of exotic but assuredly efficacious nostrums: Mexican Mustang Liniment, Heimstreet's Hair Coloring, Lyon's Magnetic Powder, Royce and Esterly's Dentifrice, and Hagan's Magnolia Balm. Two other Barnes stamps, a 1¢ and a 4¢, were also produced for use on different-sized bottles but feature no foreign entries.

The first versions of these stamps (Scott RS15-20) showed the firm name as a signature ("D.S. Barnes," left image in Figure 8). But when Barnes directed the printer to substitute a bigger and clearer "DEMAS BARNES" in 1864, Butler & Carpenter first proposed re-entering only the name on the 157 total stamp positions, but ultimately decided to re-engage the plates. It is easy to see why re-engraving rather than re-entering the new name made sense: the D.S. Barnes signature touches or cuts into the frame line above it, making it impossible to burnish out the signature fully. The 1¢ proof at left in Figure 8 shows this clearly. Thus, for economy and to ensure that all entries on the plate were identical, the previous D.S. Barnes plates were resurfaced and freshly entered, as Carpenter recounted in a letter to Barnes of September 27, 1864: "Even in the small alteration of the 1¢, 2¢ and 4¢ plates recently required we found our best and only safeguard in reengraving the plates. These stamps, be kind enough to remember, in order that they be facsimiles of each other, in short, the same thing exactly, are first cut on a die and that die by transferring prepares the plate. Only in this way can exactitude be secured and steel plate engraving furnished at moderate rates. Now to alter a plate requires the work to be scraped out very carefully, hammered up to a level and reentered from a new die."¹³

At this point, this stamp's history becomes particularly interesting. A 2¢ plate variety was known for some time but was misidentified as a double transfer.¹⁴ Then, a decade or so ago, the Scott specialized catalog listed and illustrated a foreign entry of the 1¢ D.S. Barnes on the new 2¢ value.¹⁵ At approximately the same time (2009), the Philatelic Foundation certified a single foreign entry (PFC 480,781) on this same stamp design. However, these are two different positions from the same plate. Figure 8 shows examples of each, together with a proof of the 1¢ value (RS18) which was the source of the foreign entry marks.

The 1¢ plate, which for an unknown reason was employed for the revised 2¢ value, was not fully cleaned, leaving elements of the previous design to show through on the new 2¢ stamps. The version listed and illustrated in Scott (center stamp in Figure 8, which I have designated as Type 1) shows *pentimenti* of the 1¢ stamp. Figure 9 shows enlarged details of the resulting foreign entry, with red ellipses indicating the locations of the two most recognizable 1¢ remnants. These are: concentric curved lines through and above Barnes' head (representing the bottom segments of the circular frame surrounding the bust in the 1¢ value); and portions of the "ONE CENT" lettering from the top of the circular frame. The "O" and the "NT" from "ONE CENT" are quite clearly defined (see the enlargements in Figure 9), and appear just above the word "LINIMENT." These marks do not align vertically with the 2¢ stamp because the 1¢ stamp is shorter; but the stamps are the same width.

The certification of the PF version (Type 2) describes this stamp as having a "strong foreign entry at top," but does not reference a foreign entry source. From the character of the markings on the stamp it is clearly a foreign entry and not a double transfer. Unfortunately, the only available image of the Type 2 stamp is not sufficiently data-intensive for massive

TYPE 1

TYPE 2

RS18 PROOF



Figure 8. At right, two different foreign entries on the 2¢ Demas Barnes Proprietary Die Medicine stamp (RS22), showing remnants of incomplete erasure of the 1¢ D.S. Barnes stamp (RS18), shown in proof form at left. The first example (Type 1, at center) is the one illustrated in the Scott specialized catalog. Type 2, at right, shown courtesy of the Philatelic Foundation, is a scan of PF certification #480781. The most obvious identifying marks are: Type 1—curved frame lines through forehead; Type 2—horizontal line through “LINIMENT.” See the detailed enlargements in Figures 9 and 10.

enlargement. Even so, the images in Figure 10 should be detailed enough to provide at least a suggestion of what is at work here. The horizontal line through “LINIMENT” on the 2¢ stamp (right image in Figure 10) is a remnant of the top frame line from the 1¢ stamp. These two elements are outlined in red ellipses in Figure 10. Additional marks show above and to the right of “COLORING,” at each end of “MAGNETIC POWDER, in the last “S”

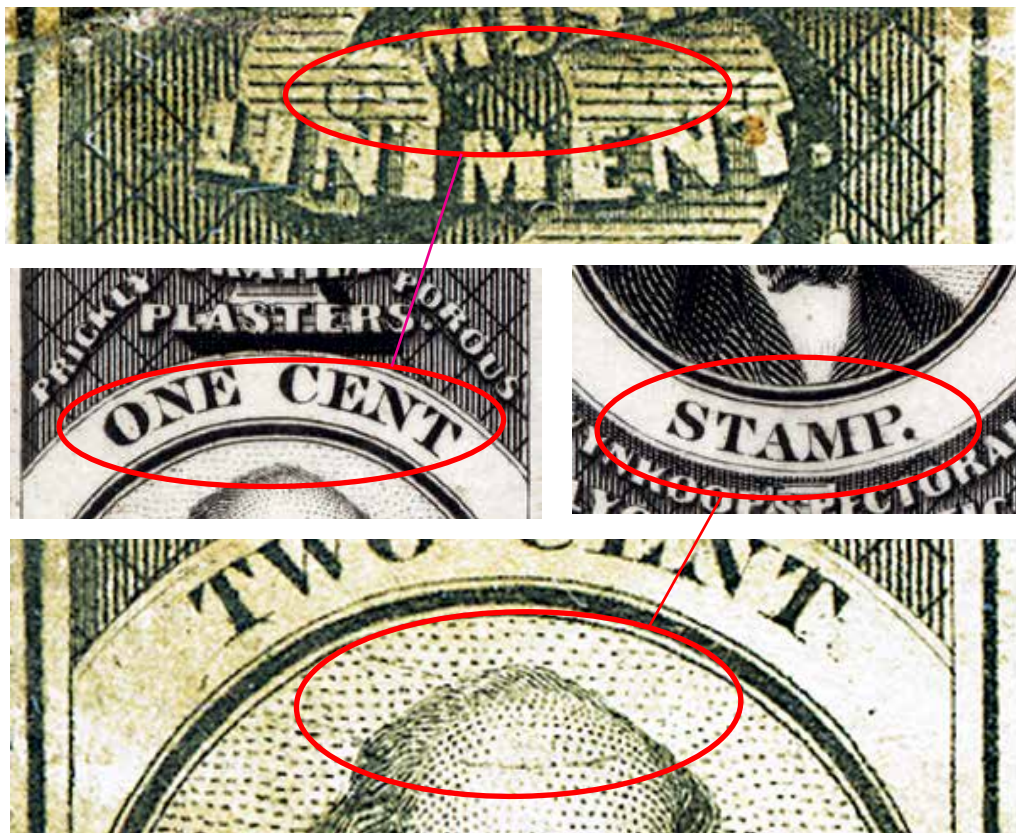


Figure 9. Details of the Type 1 Foreign entry on the 2¢ Demas Barnes stamp (RS22) and their source, the 1¢ D.S. Barnes stamp (RS18). In the image at top, a faint hint of "ONE CENT" appears above the word LINIMENT. The "O" and "NT" are especially evident. In the bottom image, two curved lines are incised into Barnes' ample forehead; they are remnants of the curved framelines above and below the word STAMP.



Figure 10. Detail of the Type 2 foreign entry (image at right) on the 2¢ Demas Barnes stamp (RS22), showing (outlined in red) horizontal lines through "LINIMENT" that are remnants of the top frame line from the underlying 1¢ stamp (left image). Other elements from the 1¢ design show above and to the right of "COLORING" and at each end of "MAGNETIC POWDER." It is also possible to identify remnants of the italicized text "Proprietary Articles of" in the "COLORING" text.

of “HEIMSTREET’S” and elsewhere, all markings caused by an incomplete erasure of the underlying 1¢ D.S. Barnes stamp (RS18). It is even possible to identify remnants of the italicized text “Proprietary Articles of” behind the letters in “COLORING.”



Figure 11. The most dramatic foreign entry in all U.S. philately: the 2¢ Merchant’s Gargling Oil stamp (RS179b), showing a portion of the 3¢ American Match Co. stamp (RO11). The entire left edge of the ornamental frameline, along with decorative corner flowers and even some eagle feathers, hovers over the desert vignette.

Figure 11 presents the “jewel in the crown” of all foreign entries, the **2¢ Merchant’s Gargling Oil (RS179)** over the 3¢ American Match Co. stamp (RO11). This is the most dramatic foreign entry in all U.S. philately, positioned perfectly on one of the handsomest stamps of its time. Figure 11 shows the source (American Match Co.) stamp at top, an enlargement of the portion of the stamp that provided the foreign entry, and the Merchant’s Gargling Oil stamp itself. Despite the product’s dubious name, this stamp was in use for nearly 14 years, during which time Joseph R. Carpenter & Co. (successor to Butler & Carpenter) and the National Bank Note Company (which took over the Medicine stamp contract in 1867) used several different paper types. Scott lists the foreign entry as RS179b (silk paper) and RS179d (Watermark 191R), although it is not impossible that it could occur on old paper (RS179a), experimental silk paper (RS179c) or pink paper (RS179e).

How could such an error occur? A plausible scenario is described in a 1934 article in *Stamps*: “Through some accidental means, or negligence, the transfer roll came in contact with the plate in course of production, and no effort was made to correct the blunder.”¹⁶

The impression is clear and full, which argues against a poorly erased plate. The

reliefs of both stamps were apparently on the same transfer roll—production of the Merchant’s Gargling Oil plate in 1869 coincided with that of the 3¢ American Match Co. (RO11) plate. Incidental contact, rather than an over-advance of the transfer roll in entering the Merchant’s stamp, was the likely cause.

The foreign entry on **Dr. E.L. Soule’s 1¢ Oriental Sovereign Balm Sugar Coated Pills (RS226a and RS227a,b,d)** appears at Position 1 of a 12-position plate and occurs on four different listed stamps, varying by combinations of the company’s address, ink color and paper type. This item is actually a wrapper, collected preferably untrimmed, typically found with scissor cuts on the sides to allow the wrapper (which includes a stamp image) to be folded around the box of sugar-coated pills that it accompanied. The visual elements in Figure 12 illustrate aspects of this. A full, unfolded wrapper is shown at upper left, and at upper right is a photograph of a reconstruction showing how the wrapper originally enclosed its product. At the bottom of Figure 12 is an image of part of the stamp portion of the wrapper, below a black-and-white image of the Proprietary Die Perfume stamp (RT1) ordered by X. Bazin but never issued. Remnants of this stamp show on the Soule label and a few of the common points are encircled and correlated in the two images. The spectral “PHILADELPHIA” beneath “SUGAR-COATED” is definitive, leaving no doubt that the foreign entry is from the X. Bazin stamp.

A 1994 article by Andrew P. Ferry in the *American Revenuer* describes the discovery details in full, including the fact that of the three X. Bazin designs printed and destroyed by Butler & Carpenter (1¢, 2¢, and 3¢), the foreign entry is the 1¢.¹⁷ This identification is not trivial and relies on extremely close examination of the three stamps, of which proof images exist. Scott lists the E.L. Soule foreign entry merely as the design of RT1 (Position 1), but RT1 is a 2¢ stamp, the only one of the three denominations that ever managed to circulate as a stamp. Scott says that the stamp was never placed in use, which is true of all three denominations. Nearly a year after the stamps were approved and printed, Butler & Carpenter wrote Bazin for clarification of his intent, pointing to the cost of producing the stamps. When Bazin failed to request the stamps, B&C re-used the 1¢ plate for the E.L. Soule wrapper.¹⁸

This stamp exists in two basic Scott numbers because of an address change on one of the end panels. The company’s removal from “160 Fulton Street cor. Broadway N.Y.” to “60 West Genesee St. Syracuse, N.Y.” was not accompanied by the creation of a new die and the laying in of a new plate. Instead, the Fulton Street address blocks were burnished out and re-entered with the Syracuse address by use of a lay-down, an intermediate dies containing only the replacement image. If a new plate had been prepared, the foreign entry markings would be absent from the clean plate and thus would not be found on the Syracuse as well as the New York wrappers.

Rarity and availability

Like most constant plate varieties, foreign entries are uncommon, even rare, because they occur in just one or a few locations on a given plate and the number of stamps printed may have been small to begin with. The 10¢ Washington Type I over the 90¢ Washington (Scott 62B), for example, was printed on a 200-position plate in a quantity of 500,000 per Brookman.¹⁹ Thus, a maximum of 2,500 copies of the foreign entry were printed. Today, five or six examples are known. The also rare 2¢ Washington over 1¢ Franklin (332 var.), on the other hand, was printed in massive quantities—Johl records over 15 billion 2¢ Washingtons of the 332 type delivered, making it among the most common stamps of its time. The issue here is how many plates were produced (No. 5299 is one of 266 plates made for this one denomination) and how few of these commonplace stamps were saved. The perforated 5¢ red error (467 and 505), by contrast, was promptly recognized as an error and became, as Johl predicted, less of a rarity.²⁰

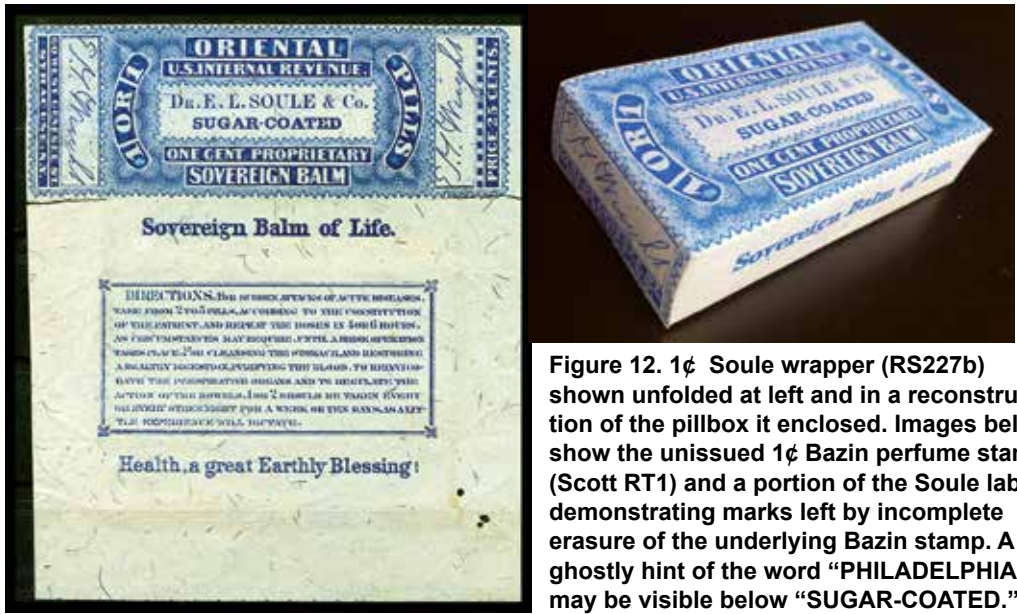


Figure 12. 1¢ Soule wrapper (RS227b) shown unfolded at left and in a reconstruction of the pillbox it enclosed. Images below show the unissued 1¢ Bazin perfume stamp (Scott RT1) and a portion of the Soule label demonstrating marks left by incomplete erasure of the underlying Bazin stamp. A ghostly hint of the word “PHILADELPHIA” may be visible below “SUGAR-COATED.”



Considering Officials, all but one of the five known foreign entry types (O60 featuring two different source stamps) have been discovered in the past three decades. These stamps all occur on 100-position plates the number of stamps issued from these plates (even in comparison to other Officials) was low. Based on the number of stamps reported by the Postmaster General to have been delivered to the departments, we can calculate that the total quantity of foreign entries initially distributed was 821 for each of the ten positions of the 6¢ State, 513 for the 12¢ Agriculture, 138 for each of the two positions of the 24¢ State, and a mere 51 for the 2¢ Executive—although for all these designs, Special Printings and card, India, and Atlanta trial color proofs also exist.²¹ Each of the five Atlanta color varieties is necessarily unique.

In Private Die Medicine stamps, foreign entries are extremely scarce, despite their use over extended periods of time, owing largely to their self-destructing design and the fact that Medicine stamps have never been more than a niche collecting interest.

Conclusion

Because they offer their unarguable virtues of exoticism and rarity, foreign entries deserve a certain prominence as a collecting area. Perhaps this preliminary cataloging of those that are known will help spur new collector interest.

For students of stamp production, on the other hand, foreign entries provide a rare window into practices and challenges for the 50-year period when intaglio printing, the *métier* of Rembrandt and the early bank note printers, combined art and craft in producing handsome stamps with the practical purpose of thwarting counterfeiters. Each foreign entry tells its own story and invites us to examine the pitfalls of engraving, plate-making and printing, thereby posing questions about practices that may not have been documented previously. At the same time, they make the achievements of the artisans who created stamps during this time appear all the more remarkable.

As noted at the outset, foreign entries on Revenue stamps, and their relationship to the complex “guide relieving” process of laying in a plate, will be discussed in depth in the second part of this article, to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Chronicle*.

Endnotes

1. Chip Gliedman, “The 10¢ 1861 Type I Foreign Entry,” *Chronicle* 261 (February 2019), pp. 47-51.
2. Max G. Johl, *United States Postage Stamps, 1902-1935*, Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1976, pg. 150.
3. *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog*, ed. Kim Johnson, Joliet, Ill., United States Stamp Society, 2020, pg. 28.
4. Johl, *op. cit.*, pg. 140.
5. Walter A. McIntire, “The One Cent Error of 1908, Double Entry,” *The United States Specialist* (December 1968), pp. 431-438.
6. Kevin G. Lowther, “The 1917 ‘Red Error,’ Parts I-III,” *The United States Specialist* (February 2012), pp. 55-62; (May 2012), pp. 208-214; (June 2012), pp. 280-284.
7. Alan C. Campbell, “Plating the Official Stamps,” *Chronicle* 175 (August 1997), pp. 199-203.
8. Ralph Ebner, “The 6¢ Foreign Entry Variety,” *Chronicle* 178 (May 1998), pp. 138-149.
9. George G. Sayers, “Foreign Entry and Erasure of the 1¢ Executive in the 6¢ State Position 11,” *Chronicle* 208 (November 2005), pp. 307-315.
10. Charles H. Buck, “Filling an Inside Straight: Foreign Entries in Positions 21 and 31 of the 6¢ State,” *Chronicle* 269 (February 2021), pp. 65-72.
11. George G. Sayers, “1873 Official Stamps: Foreign Entry of the 15¢ Post Office Design at Position 8 of the 12¢ Agriculture Plate,” *Chronicle* 234 (May 2012), pp. 168-170.
12. Charles H. Buck, “Discovery: Foreign Entry of the 90¢ Justice Design on the 24¢ State Plate,” *Chronicle* 266 (May 2020), pp. 180-186.
13. Butler & Carpenter Archives, letter from Butler & Carpenter to Demas Brown, September 27, 1864 [found in <https://www.revenuer.org/butler-and-carpenter-archives.asp>].
14. The stamp is actually listed in Scott as RS22a, the “a” referring to the paper type (“old paper”)—the only paper variety on which the stamp is known.
15. Actually, Scott cites RS15 or RS21, which should read RS15 or RS18, stamps from the same plate differing only in

- color. RS21, a Demas Barnes, not D.S. Barnes stamp, is a highly unlikely source, given the history of changes to these stamps recorded in the Butler & Carpenter correspondence.
16. Quoted in Henry W. Holcombe, *Patent Medicine Tax Stamps*, Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman Publications, 1979, pg. 372.
 17. Andrew P. Ferry, "Discovery of Bazin Foreign Entry on the New York Soule wrapper (RS226a)," *American Revenuer* (October 1994), pp. 228-232. The foreign entry and its source were identified by Norbert Eich, associate of renowned revenue scholars George Turner and Morton Joyce, in a remarkable feat of research.
 18. Butler & Carpenter Archives, letter from Butler & Carpenter to X. Bazin, December 7, 1863 [found in <https://www.revenuer.org/butler-and-carpenter-archives.asp>].
 19. Lester G. Brookman, *United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century* (New York: H.L. Lindquist Publications, 1966, Vol. II), pp. 44-48.
 20. Max G. Johl, *op. cit.*, pg. 182.
 21. John N. Luff, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, New York, The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., 1902, pp. 280, 283. ■