

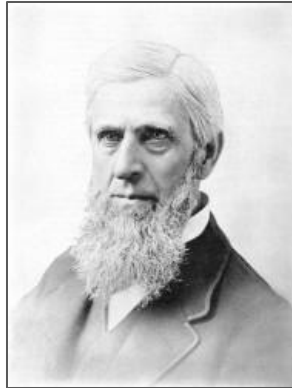
The C.B. Woodworth & Son Imperishable Perfumes The Uncommon Double Transfer on RT20

Brief History & Examination

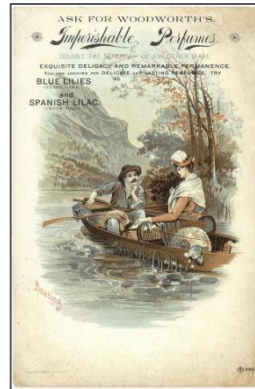
*by Dr. Charles J. DiComo, PhD
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C.B. Woodworth & Son, Rochester, NY

- ▶ Originally founded by Dr. Mitchel & Ezra Taylor in 1855 in Rochester, New York.
- ▶ Company acquired in 1856 by Chauncey B. Woodworth and Reuben A. Bunnell.



C.B. Woodworth



Trade Card



Garden Fragrance

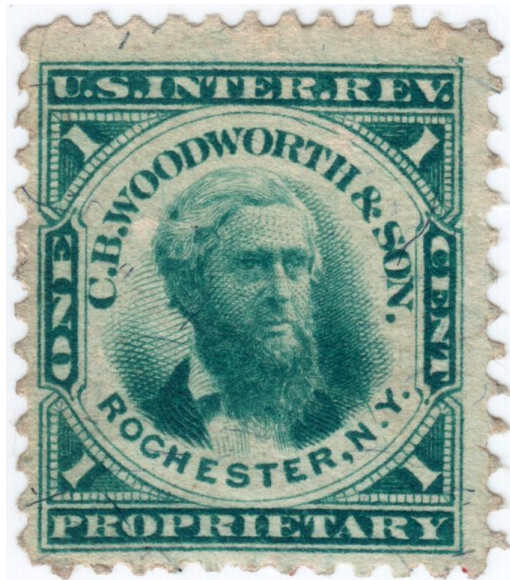


Advertisement

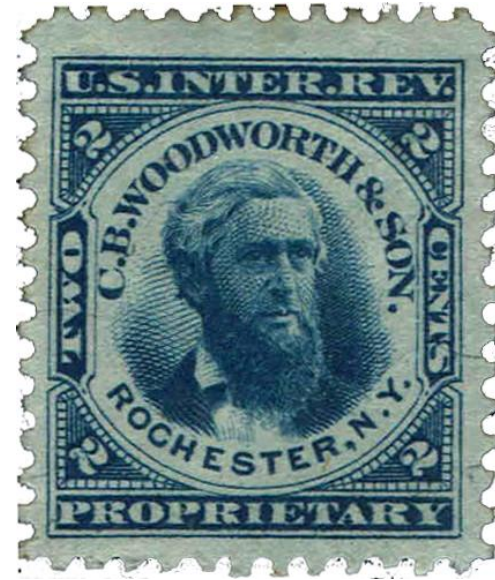
- ▶ They were among the earliest American perfume houses and produced perfumery, soaps and toilet articles and also glassware for perfumes and related products.
- ▶ By 1870, glass manufacture had stopped and the company reverted to perfumery, its motto being *'Nothing but the Best'*.
- ▶ An 1897 advertising card for its famous *'Blue Lilies'* fragrance shows that the company promoted itself as producing *'Imperishable perfumes, triple extracts and toilet preparations'*.
- ▶ Because the company was so successful, it was eventually acquired by French perfume house Bourjois, the first American perfume company to suffer this fate.

C.B. Woodworth & Son Private Die Stamps

- ▶ They used two denominations on their wares:
 - **RT20:** 1¢ stamp, green, issued March, 1872–March 10, 1883: 2,552,000 issued on silk paper and 4,453,703 on pink and watermarked papers.
 - **RT21:** 2¢ stamp, blue, issued late 1877– February 7, 1883: only 285,110 were printed, on silk, pink and watermarked papers.



RT20



RT21

RT20bt: Double Transfer, ~1.5 mm shift south



Normal Transfer

Double Transfer, Silk paper

1¢ green, silk paper, $\frac{3}{4}$ portrait of Chauncey B. Woodworth, surrounded by "C.B. Woodworth & Son." and "Rochester, N.Y." in arcs above and below. Framed by "U.S. Inter. Rev", "One", "Cent", and "Proprietary". Design measures 19x22 mm. Issued in sheets of 210 stamps.

Comparison of Normal Transfer vs. Double Transfer

Normal



Double



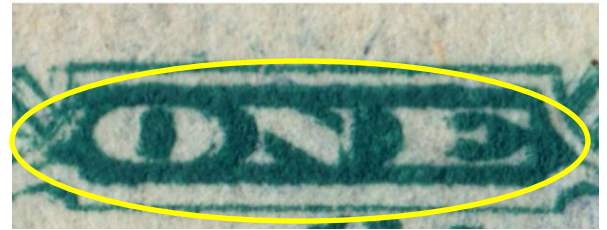
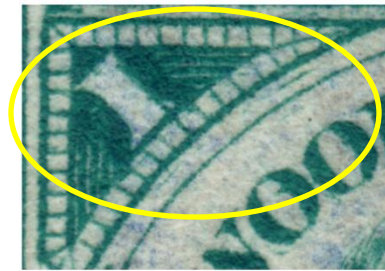
Normal



Double



Comparison" Normal (Top) vs. Double Transfer (Bottom)



Same Double Transfer; Different Paper



DT on Silk Paper
Plate Position Unknown



DT on Watermarked Paper
Plate Position Unknown

Summary

- ▶ C.B. Woodworth & Son were among the earliest American perfume houses and produced perfumery, soaps and toilet articles and also glassware for perfumes and related products.
- ▶ In the 1870's, they used two denominations of U.S. Private Die Proprietary Revenue stamps on their wares to pay the tax:
 - RT20: 1¢ green, printed on silk, pink and watermarked paper
 - RT21: 2¢ blue, printed on silk and watermarked paper
- ▶ A overall double transfer exists on RT20, with a 1.5mm shift south, the plate position is unknown.
- ▶ Two similar examples have been identified and described: one on silk paper, the other on watermarked paper.
- ▶ The search is now on to locate an example on pink paper.