THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

SCRIPOPHILY

ENCOURAGING COLLECTING SINCE 1978

No.98 - AUGUST 2015

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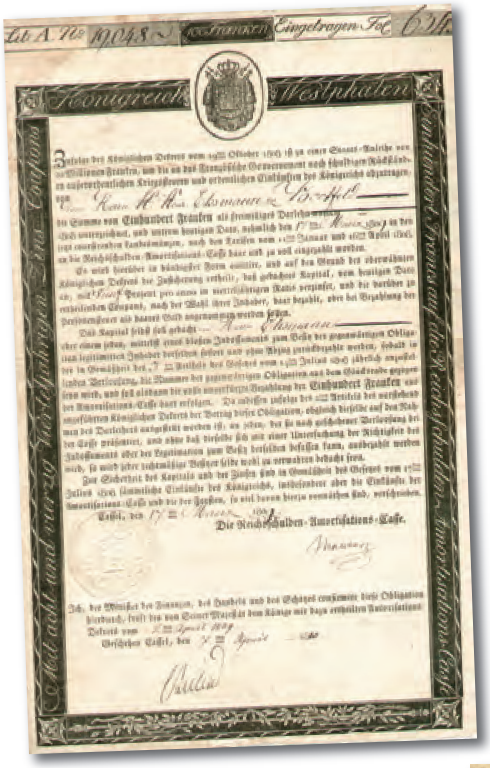

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Anticipating a Computerised World

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AUGUST 2015 · ISSUE 98

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YOUR IBSS AUCTION CATALOG ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE!

Fresh material, high quality. Check it out... Four 18th Century certificates (lots 16, 57, 211 and 218), popular Chinese bonds (lots 26, 27), very early American Express certificate (1st capital increase, lot 198).

The journal of the
INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

Membership subscriptions

1 Year Membership:
£20/$32/€25

Advertising rates

Single issue advertising rates:

- Cover page £450
- Full inside page £300
- Half page £150
- Quarter page £75
- One-eighth page £40
- One-eighth page listing specific certificates for sale/purchase £30

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The IBSS 2015 Annual General Meeting was held in London on 28th May. Fifteen members were present including several from Continental Europe who were in London for the Spink auction and IBSS Bourse on the following days and who made significant contributions to the discussion at the meeting notably on the subject of Society auctions.

Attendees at the AGM were, left to right, Gilbert Lamblaut, Lucien Lévy, Silvio Mariniello, Andreas Reineke, Vivienne Lamblaut, Mario Boone, Mike Veissid, Adrian Gorka, Philip Atkinson, Steve Maier, Andrew Litherland, Volker Malik, Martin Zanke, Joachim Wallrabenstein and David Riley

FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

The loss for the year was £1,673. According to outgoing Treasurer *Martin Probyn*'s report, this loss was the result of some significant one-off website development costs. The Society would have made a small profit, excluding these one-off costs, as a result of significant savings in both printing and postage costs. He noted that 2015 should at least give a breakeven result.

The Membership Secretary, *Philip Atkinson*, reported a further small reduction in the Society's membership. Current membership at the date of the AGM was 441 compared with 461 at the date of the 2014 AGM. Forty-six members had failed to renew their memberships but the Society has welcomed seventeen new members so far this year. The USA continues to be the country with the largest number of members – currently 147 – with the UK in second place with 115 members and Germany in third place with 58 members. The Society's membership currently stretches across thirty-two countries.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON SOCIETY ACTIVITIES IN 2015

The Chairman, *Andreas Reineke*, opened his report with comments about the now improved financial situation of the Society, notwithstanding the continuing slow decline in membership. The development of the Society's website, a strongly needed one time investment, was the reason for the loss in 2014, but hopefully will be a major source of new members. The Chairman expressed his special thanks to Martin Zanke for undertaking the major task of developing the new website.

The usual three issues of *Scripophily* had been sent to members in 2014. This will be repeated in 2015 together with an updated version of the Directory of Members. In addition the Chairman elect, *Martin Zanke*, noted that a questionnaire about the way forward for the Society would be included with December's issue of *Scripophily*. It is very important that members respond to the questionnaire – else we are going forward in a vacuum.

In relation to the Society's activities over the past year the Chairman noted that *Scripophily,* led by Chief Editor *Max Hensley*, is still regarded as the leading scripophily magazine in the world and is now the only printed journal for scripophilists. The Society held its usual breakfast this year at Bob Schell's show in Washington in January and will hold its annual breakfast meeting in Europe at Mario Boone's Auction and Bourse in Brussels at the end of October. The monthly London collectors meeting has continued to be held at Spink's London office during the last year and the London Bourse continues to be held annually in late May – the only sole scripophily bourse held in the UK.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking all the Committee members and IBSS members who have contributed to the Society over the past year, singling out *Mike Veissid* and Spink, *Martyn Probyn* and *Philip Atkinson* for special mention. He also extended a warm welcome to the new Committee Member - *Franky Leeuwerck*, the new Treasurer - *Steve Maier* and the new Chairman - *Martin Zanke* and wished the Society all success in the future.

Left to right, Salvatore Mariniello (who helps with auction reports), new Treasurer Steve Maier and new Chairman Martin Zanke

SOCIETY AUCTIONS

Andrew Litherland, the Auctioneer, reported that although auction proceeds in 2014 had slightly exceeded those in the previous year he now has a problem of lack of material for auctions this year. He would be seeking material from some of the dealers at the IBSS Bourse on 30th May and solicits consignments from the membership. ***Auction catalogues will be available only online from December this year.***

The agenda items requiring approval by the members present – the Report of the 2014 AGM, the 2014 Accounts, the reappointment of the current Independent Examiner, Nico Vermeiren, and the appointment of the nominated Officers and Committee Members – were passed. The full list of Officers and Committee Members is shown on page 1 of this journal.

The AGM concluded with a vote of thanks from the new Chairman, Martin Zanke, to the retiring Chairman, Andreas Reineke, for everything he has done for the IBSS during his six years as Chairman and for his willingness to remain on the Committee and continue to assist the Society.

Philip Atkinson, Secretary

PETER DUPPA-MILLER

We have received word that Peter Duppa-Miller has passed away. His involvement with the IBSS began when he became Secretary in 1988, moving on to Membership Secretary in 1996 and then Chairman (and Membership Secretary) from 2000 to 2005 and finally resigning as Membership Secretary in 2006. His collection of gold mining company shares (several thousand pieces, mainly pre 1910 from Australia, South Africa and the USA) will be sold at auction by Spink.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2014

31.12.13		31.12.14
£		£
	Accumulated Fund	
13,997	Brought Forward	13,210
(787)	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(1,673)
£ 13,210	**Accumulated Fund carried forward**	£ 11,537
	Represented by:	
5,810	Bank deposit accounts	7
8,458	Bank and cash balances	12,296
801	Debtors and prepayments	1,311
10,976	Investment in Govt. Stock at cost	10,976
£ 26,045	**Total Assets**	£ 24,590
	Liabilities	
7,110	Unexpired subscriptions	6,695
5,631	Creditors and accruals	6,332
94	Taxation	26
£ 12,835	**Total Liabilities**	£ 13,053
£ 13,210	**Net Assets**	£ 11,537

I have examined the Society's accounts for the period ended 31 December 2014 and after having reviewed all supporting information, I can conclude that the accounts give a true picture of the state of affairs at the 31st December 2014 and of the period then ending.

Nico Vermeiren,
Auditor
13 April 2015

Approved in General Meeting 28 May 2015

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

2013		2014
£		£
	Income	
7,476	Subscriptions	7,611
65	Donations	30
5,185	Advertising	4,087
-	Sales of publications	59
2,002	Auctions commission and premium	2,056
-	Bourse and meeting fees	-
473	Interest received (gross)	132
(129)	(Loss)/gain on foreign exchange	(228)
3,006	Gain on redemption: Government Stock	-
18,078	**Total Income**	13,747
	Expenditure	
10,753	Journal & indexes production costs	8,159
-	Scripophily Library production costs	-
1,159	Directory & supplements production costs	-
3,932	Postage and Packing	2,463
1,129	Auction catalogues and other expenses	906
337	Stationery and committee expenses	445
172	Bourse and meeting costs	469
861	Paypal/Bank/Credit card charges	939
300	Web/Internet expenses	1,961
94	Taxation	26
58	Provision for accountancy	52
70	Award	-
£18,865	**Total Expenditure**	£15,420
£(787)	**Surplus/(Deficit) for Year**	£(1,673)

MILLS TO WITHDRAW FROM AUCTION REPORTS

I am sad to say that Brian Mills has declared his intention as of the December issue to stop assembling and editing our auction reports after literally decades of devoted labours for the IBSS. Brian takes initial reports from a group of helpers and edits them into the coherent whole we see in every issue. Brian will continue to attend to Spink UK reports and the Top 100 list, but that is it. We're happy to report that Franky Leeuwerck has agreed to take this on, but he will need volunteers in some areas and particularly on the Chinese auctions. Our hats are off to Brian for his service to the Society.

Max Hensley

IBSS ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that we already reach people from more than thirty countries through the Society's Facebook page? To name a few of the less obvious scripophily locations: Montenegro, Malaysia, Peru and Pakistan. Members who have not visited our FB page yet, open up your browser and go to http://www.facebook.com/Scriposociety. 'Like' the page and you will stay updated automatically in your FB newsfeed.

Here are a few numbers from our May 2015 FB page statistics. The number of 'likes' received from visitors has steadily grown to more than 140. In May 2015, 7% of our fans (people who liked the page) were women, 90% were men. Compare this with the overall Facebook gender statistics for May: 46% women versus 54% men. In the older age categories, from 35 years onwards, there are vastly more men compared to general FB statistics. These statistics make it official – we need to attract more women and 'juniors' to our Society.

When we speak of 'post reach' we mean the number of people who have seen our posts in their news feed. About 35% of the people reached were women, with 7% of them already having liked the page. About 64% men were reached, and almost all of them, about 90%, have already liked our page. In the younger age categories (up to 35 years) the number of people reached is rather evenly spread between men and women. An obvious challenge for our Society is in making them fans, and subsequently members.

One of our most successful posts was on 10th May 2015, announcing *Scripophily* issue 97: that reached 141 people. The post received 28 post clicks from people's news feeds and 19 likes, comments or shares.

Liking, commenting, sharing on Facebook is a powerful tool to reach a broad audience. Let me clarify this with a small illustration. I live in Ypres, a small Belgian town of about 30,000 inhabitants. I am the only IBSS member living in Ypres. Yet the FB statistics reveal that eleven other people from Ypres were reached in May. Well, make it eight if you subtract my wife and children who are FB friends with me.

So here's the message to fellow members:

1) 'Like' our FB page, and
2) 'Share' a post from our page occasionally.

In no time, we will be able to reach thousands of people.

Your Facebook Editors Franky Leeuwerck and Martin Zanke

SOCIETY INCREASES EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Our last bulk email distributed in late July was labelled 'IBSS Newsletter'. This represents the start of a new communication medium for those of our members who have provided us with email addresses.

These Newsletters enable us to fill the long intervals between issues of our printed journal. We can advise members of auctions and other events that could not be timely covered another way. Our newsletter will not have a regular issue schedule but will be sent out as necessary. We offer an 'unsubscribe' option, but before going there please be patient with us for a while. We promise not to overdo it!

Coincidentally, our first and next newsletters are sponsored ones. That means the main content is determined by an advertiser and clearly recognisable as such. Advertisers pay for this service in the same way they would pay for an ad in *Scripophily*. This helps us keep publishing the paper version of the journal.

Advertisers interested in using the sponsored newsletter should contact Martin Zanke.

CHICAGO AND NORTH PARK MINING CO

An 1881 black and white certificate in this company disappeared from the J Levine auction in Scottsdale Arizona on or about 2nd July 2015. Anyone offered this certificate, or who may have obtained it inadvertently, is asked to contact Mr John Johnson by email at jjohnson@jlevines.com. A reward is offered for its return.

EDHAC CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

EDHAC, the 'First German Historic Shares Club', is the oldest scripophily society in the world. On 18th July club members celebrated its 40th anniversary at EDHAM (the first historic shares museum) at Kürnbach in an area of rural south-west Germany well known for its wine. The event started with the EDHAM AGM, followed by a speech from EDHAC chairman Joachim Wallrabenstein, who honoured several long-time members, three of whom had been there from the very beginning. This was followed by an auction conducted by Scriposale with some good-quality lots, especially Americans (*see Auctions*). The day ended with a celebratory dinner at a nearby wine-producing estate.

CIFRÉ SHOP TO CLOSE

The world's only scripophily shop, Numistoria in Paris, will shut its doors at the end of September. Its owner, Françoise Cifré, had, together with her late husband Guy Cifré, opened the shop in the 1970s. It was ideally located in the heart of Paris, very close to the Paris Bourse and in an area with several coin and banknote shops. A dealer will turn it into a coin shop. We regret the closure of what we believe to be the world's sole shop focused entirely on our hobby. Françoise told us she will continue her successful online shop www.numistoria.com. As a matter of fact, this online shop was recently fully redesigned.

To the best of our knowledge, the only other scripophily shop was Keith Hollender's in London in the 1980s. That shop is long gone however.

THE ANDERSON MOTOR CO

The **Anderson Motor Co** arose from the 1886 **Rock Hill Buggy Co** founded by John Gary Anderson and his father-in-law, Adley D Holler. The Anderson Motor Co hand made high-end cars in Rock Hill, South Carolina, from 1916 to 1925. The company sold the touring car for $1,650 and the sedan for $2,550 at a time when $345 - $760 would buy a mass-produced Model T Ford. But the Anderson was in general carefully made and came in a range of colours. The car also used an aluminium engine block which ran quite well for hundreds of miles before blowing up. By 1926 the high price and engine problems forced the company into bankruptcy

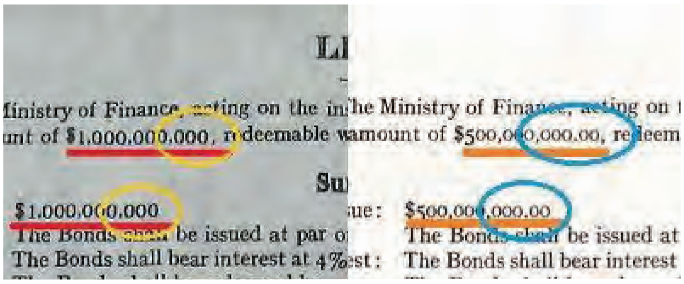
Anderson Motor Co was one of the few automobile manufacturers to produce cars in the south before the mass migration of auto makers starting in the 1980s. Anderson's 1920s marketing pitched its southern location in Rock Hill, South Carolina. This certificate is signed by William Adlai and John Wesley Anderson, sons of the founding father John Gary Anderson

Anderson Motor Co stock certificates were issued as common stock in green/black (this example is the only one known), preferred shares in brown/black (serial numbers P698, P4120 and P1493) and a 'first preferred' class for which no scripophily record can be found. Capitalisation initially was $1.5 million and then some time after June 1924 was raised to $3.265 million. Preferred certificates are known with either one of these capital amounts. Despite being scarce, these are well within the budget of the regular collector.

To learn more about the company read the *Autobiography of John Gary Anderson* (2nd Edition), Reprint Company, Spartanburg SC 1997.

Anderson autos are extremely rare with only eleven known to exist despite thousands being manufactured. This 1921 Model C touring car, now on display at the Historical Center of York County (of S Carolina), was sold to the museum for $60,000 by a Michigan family that had owned it for over 50 years. The radiator cap is emblazoned with the company motto (also found in part on the stock certificate): 'A Little Higher in Price but Made in Dixie'

$100,000 DENOMINATION CHINESE 1937 LIBERTY BOND PRINT INCONSISTENCIES



Legend with the amount of issue.
Conventional text right, the text of the newly offered bond left

Helge Krebs reports a previously unknown 1937 Chinese Liberty Bond with the stunningly high face value of $100,000. It was reportedly sold through eBay Germany on 27th March 2015 for €10,000, and certified by a previously unknown Swiss certification service named 'SWISSBEN'. The larger denomination bonds of this series have been favorites of speculators, so the appearance of an even higher denomination at this late date is remarkable.

The new bond raises a number of questions:

- The denomination is not listed on the back like all other 1937 Liberty bonds.
- All known 1937 Liberty bonds have an amount of issue of $500,000,000.00. This one doubles this to $1 billion and omits the .00 found on other bonds.
- The zeros in the amount of issue are as large as the 1. In other denominations the zeros are smaller than the 5, like "o" in bond.
- In other denominations the ones are written as I, whereas the new one uses a modern "1".
- The word "the" is missing in the coupon text, as in "on [the] last day of eight months".

Krebs says, "You can draw your own conclusions, of course, but I respectfully submit that securities printers are rigorously trained to avoid such mistakes – especially if they were to print just one more denomination." Krebs contacted the eBay lister, who was vague and claimed that the bond was given to him on commission.

This is what the Disney Corporation is now handing out to new shareholders, in lieu of the discontinued iconic share certificates. Thanks for the memories

JOINT COMMUNICATION BY HWPH, SPINK, AND THE SCRIPOPHILY CENTER

HWPH (Germany), Spink (UK) and The Scripophily Center (Belgium) have decided to start using a uniform rarity key in all their auction catalogues for lots with start prices in excess of 500 Euros/British £/US$.

According to the auctioneers, this should bring more transparency to collectors and assist them in their bidding decisions. “As such, we believe the use of a single rarity classification around the globe would be an important stimulus for the scripophily market as a whole. The German auction house FHW already uses rarity codes, be it only for German pieces. We have now decided to take this rarity classification system on a global level and invite herewith all scripophily auctioneers to use it as well in their future catalogues.”

The 500 cut-off was elected because, according to the auctioneers, it is “too time-consuming (and next to impossible) to have reliable rarity codes for each single share or bond.” Also, they believe “it is a more important information tool for collectors buying the more expensive certificates (few collectors will let their buy-decision depend on it for a lowly priced item). So the 500 mark is seen as both a useful and practical starting point.“

Here is the Rarity Key System in detail:

R12 = only one piece known	R5 = 101 - 250
R11 = only two pieces	R4 = 251 - 500
R10 = 3-5 pieces	R3 = 501 - 1.000
R9 = 16 - 10	R2 = 1.001 - 5.000
R8 = 11 - 25	R1 = more than 5,000 pieces
R7 = 26 - 50	
R6 = 51 - 100	° = uncertain, eg R9°

In a key caveat, the auctioneers point out that “while it is important to give collectors a correct guiding, it is of course based on the auctioneer’s ‘best effort’, we cannot provide certainty. Logically, the reliability of the system will over time get increasingly better and more precise.”

The auctioneers end with an appeal, “One final note: we are convinced that misguiding collectors would in the end bring a negative result for both the collector and the auctioneer so we ask every auctioneer wishing to use this system, to apply it with the utmost care and responsibility.”

RARITY GUIDES - NOT PERFECT YET

A few years back Scott Winslow gave a very entertaining IBSS Breakfast talk on the ‘10 Biggest Lies in Scripophily’. Leading the list was ‘It’s the only one!’ That would be an R12 under the auctioneers’ system. The new system is a good step towards reducing confusion among the auction house classification systems. I just wish they could do more. Of course, rarity does not correlate directly with price. That takes demand too. But rarity is a key determinant of price.

Numismatics has used rarity scales for some time. The first was the Sheldon system, used mainly for US large cents, then there was the Scholten system from the 1950s and Q David Bowers‘ Universal Rarity Scale. In my opinion Sheldon’s system is best because it is based on an objective criterion, the appearance rate. These systems were anecdotal and dependent upon limited data sets. The same problem afflicts scripophily for the most part. Numismatics has moved on, and so will scripophily.

US numismatics auctioneers no longer use any ‘R’ classification system. Instead, they use the ‘population reports’ from grading services. There are two major coin and paper money grading services in the US (PCGS and NGC) and an ever increasing number of better coins pass through their hands. Collectors and professionals submit coins and paper money for them to grade for a fee. Records kept since their inception in the 1980s are on-line for free to people who sign up. On NGC’s website I find, for example, 94,505 1879S silver dollars distributed among the various grades. If you ever had any doubts about the merits of stock and bond collecting, look at these coin populations and then compare prices with scripophily.

The ‘pop reports’ are a great improvement but not perfect – newly graded ‘raw’ coins are being continually added to the populations. Plus, people ‘crack out’ high value coins from the plastic containers and resubmit them hoping for a higher grade, thereby adding to the population report. Plus, you have to check two services.

What does all this have to do with rarity guides in scripophily? The coin collectors have been at this problem for a long time, and their experiences can be instructive for scripophily. Scripophily lags numismatics but the same focus on crowd-sourced data would be highly beneficial to the hobby.

Serious catalogues have been produced with rarity indications (as opposed to price estimates): Drumm/Henseler on Russian city and railroad bonds, Wilhelm Kuhlman on Chinese foreign bonds, the Ball catalogues for Confederates, DeGood on Michigan mining. These are ‘opinion’ rarity schemes that do not disclose appearances. For that we had the Whaco database and the Kürle databases, and Terry Cox’s database on North American rails.

Coxrail is unique in that it is timely (unlike paper guides it is updated continuously) and it is crowd-sourced (354 individual contributors so far) in which volunteers add information. Unlike Whaco and Kürle, it is offered free to users. This is the ideal appearance-type rarity ranking – free of charge, timely and well-supported. It solves all the rarity designation problems except hoard appearances – and this is unavoidable.

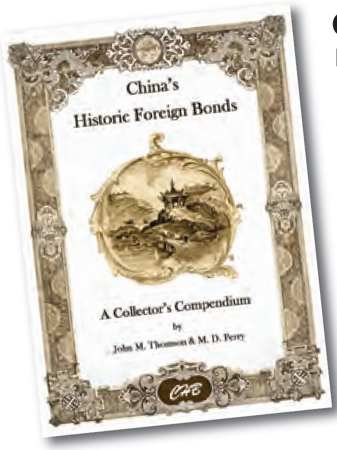
Collectors and non-auctioneer dealers are reluctant to make their ‘home brew’ databases public because rarity knowledge gives them a buying edge. They will, however, often share their collections (see the NGC ‘Registry Sets’) and of course dealers are happy to share their current inventory. This leaves scripophily database management up to auctioneers, or saints like Terry Cox. A combined auctioneer database would include price and descriptive information and would be the most useful step that could be done for scripophily. This is not to detract from the auctioneer’s initiative but it falls far short of scripophily’s needs.

Max Hensley

Cie. Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez, 3% obligation de F500, Series 2, 1885. Almost all Suez Canal pieces are rare to extremely rare, varying from R12 to R8, and this particular issue was at least R10 until a few weeks ago when a group of 50 were discovered, bringing the rarity now to R6

Courtesy Mario Boone/Scripophily Center

BOOK REVIEWS



China's Historic Foreign Bonds

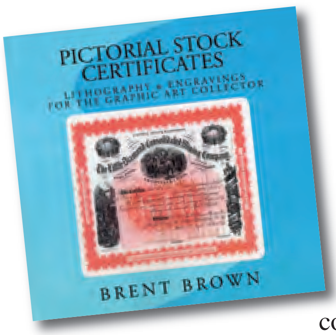
by John M Thomson and MD Perry

This book is an unparalleled resource for those interested in the history of China's foreign loans ca. 1860 – 1949 and the bonds issued under those loans, although the authors disclaim writing a 'history book'. That is too modest. The momentous events in Chinese history that transpired during this period were integral to China's foreign borrowing, and the authors have done a nice job of tying the two strands. For example, we learn the history of the 1913 Reorganization bonds and their roots in the dependency of the Yuan Shi-kai dictatorship on foreign support only 4 years after Sun Yat-sen's overthrow of the Manchu dynasty to free China of foreign influences. Ironically, far from freeing itself from foreign influences, it only freed itself from foreign capital while embracing the philosophies of Marx and Engels. But the 50 years it took to sort that out is littered with financial detritus. Organizing and presenting this financial wreckage is what this book is about.

One innovation was replacing the pioneering Kuhlman reference codes with a more informative classification system of their own devising. While precise, the new system is unfortunately too complex for easy use, the same problem presented by the Coxrail system. There is no price or rarity information. While both rarity and price will change as time goes on everyone would understand this. But not having a starting point is unfortunate.

The authors do not attempt to cover government-to-government bonds or bonds in private transactions. Still, with detailed information and images for approximately 200 individual issues over 258 pages, there is plenty for the Chinese bond enthusiast to appreciate. Each of the bonds is photographed in full colour with detailed information on its financials and history.

John M Thomson and MD Perry, *China's Historic Foreign Bonds*, Hong Kong, 295 pages, published as an eBook on the website of China's Historic Bonds, www.chinahistoricbonds.com, ISBN 978-988-14303-0-4 US$25



Pictorial Stock Certificates – Lithography and Engravings for the Graphic Art Collector

by Brent Brown

The publication of *Art of the Market* (Bob Tamarkin and Les Krantz) in 1999 opened the door to appreciating the artistic merit of vintage securities. Many of us collect scripophily for that reason. Now, thanks to enthusiast, dealer and IBSS member Brent Brown, another can be added.

Unlike *Art of the Market*, a hard cover project with fine graphics displays and extensive text commentary, Brown's book is a thoroughly modern effort – a self-published book featuring about 75 of the author's favourite certificates, one to a page, with brief commentary on the facing page. Some certificates are unusual, others are common, but all share in their graphic appeal. There are even a few things that are not stocks or bonds. This won't awe the advanced scripophily collector with rarities, but certainly could hook the browser with an innate interest in prints and graphic art. The image and paper quality is good. In keeping with the art book ethic, there is no price or rarity data.

Amazon.com (search books under 'Pictorial Stock Certificates'). 163 pages. $34.95 although as usual there are some discount options. Or for multiple copies wholesale contact the author in Las Vegas, NV, 702-570-5878, pictorialstocks@yahoo.com

AN EARLY IBM PREDECESSOR COMPANY

My showcase is an early **International Business Machines Corporation** certificate. Before IBM went by that name, the company was called the **Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co** (C-T-R). C-T-R was formed in 1911 as a merger of four companies: **Tabulating Machine Co**, **International Time Recording Co**, **Computing Scale Co of America** and the **Bundy Manufacturing Co**.

These companies manufactured a wide range of products, including employee time-keeping systems, weighing scales, automatic meat slicers, and punched card equipment. It was the latter category that turned IBM into the multinational that we know today. In 1924 the company changed its original name into IBM. At that time the four founding companies were still operating as individual operating companies and C-T-R was only the holding company. Only in 1933 were all four business integrated into one company.

The name 'International Business Machines' was already used by C-T-R's Canadian subsidiary, the International Business Machines Co Ltd, founded in 1917. Adopting this new name was actually making a bold statement: "we make machines for doing business". How more abstract can a name be? Clearly IBM had a vision about the future of business.

The illustrated certificate dates from before 1924, and could be one of the first issues of C-T-R. The original name, Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co, is fully printed on the certificate, but it was relabelled as IBM (silver overprint). I include a detail of the name, scanned at 600 dots per inch, where you can distinguish 'TABULATING' in the background. Also the original paper was printed with a 'Shares $100 each' text (just below the company name at the left), but also that was overprinted with silver.

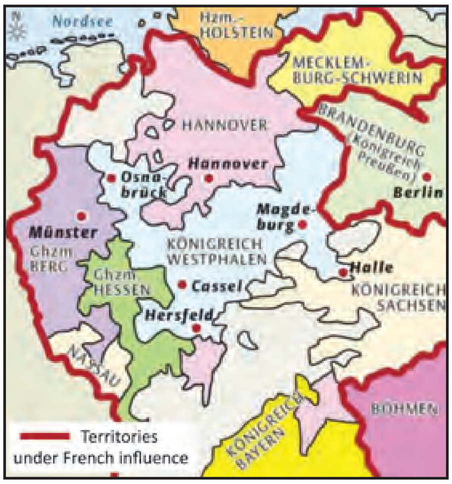
Franky Leeuwerck

The Bonds Issued Under the Forced Loans of Jérôme Bonaparte

— Hans-Georg Glasemann —

In 1978 Emil Grössel published an interesting piece on the bonds of the Kingdom of Westphalia.[1] Grössel describes the founding and public finances of this kingdom created by the French Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte. It existed as a quasi-vassal state from 1807 under the Treaty of Tilsit until the People's Battle of Leipzig in 1813.

King and Queen of Westphalia, Jérôme Bonaparte and Katharina



The Kingdom of Westphalia

Kingdom of Westphalia

The 'Royaume de Westphalie' stretched over parts of seven current federal states of Germany and an area of over 40,000 km² (about 10% of Germany today). It was inhabited by 1.9 million people.

After having brought half of Europe under his rule Napoléon Bonaparte (1769-1821) created this entirely new state, which was politically and militarily completely under French control. It was intended to be a 'reform and model state' based on progressive principles that would serve as a model for other German vassal states, including abolition of patrimonial jurisdiction and serfdom and introducing free trade, separation of powers, equal rights for the Jews and the French 'Code Civile'.

The new dominion was created by Napoléon for his younger brother Jérôme (Hieronymus) Bonaparte (1784-1860), 23 years old at that time. Although Jérôme was not averse to a lavish lifestyle – popularly he was called 'King Lustigk' ('lustig' = funny) – he led some reforms in his kingdom. Officially there were two languages in the kingdom, French and German. As the old guilds vanished and the royal court grew, crafts and trades developed at least in the urban centre of Kassel. The reforms, however, were only of limited success as the ongoing monetary and human needs of the Napoleonic wars bled the country dry. The finances of the kingdom were wrecked through constant contributions to France and the practice of Napoléon Jérôme of giving taxable domains to French officers as gifts.

Forced Loan

Grössel reports very thoroughly about the loans, the extensive collection actions of the state, the attempts of citizens to dodge the exactions and the efforts to achieve compensation for the defaulted bonds after 1813:

The heavy financial burden of the state budget was a problem in many countries in this war period and the young kingdom was quickly in financial distress. The overall debt was calculated at around 112 million francs in 1808 and the Westphalian Minister of Finance, Count von Bülow, was running out of options. The king tried to borrow more than 20 million francs in Holland, but the attempt failed due to the insufficient credit worthiness of the country. The financial situation became so dire that only one solution remained – a forced loan. Three 'Classen' forcible bond series were issued and forcibly placed: in 1808 the first bond totalling 20 million francs, in 1810 the second bond of 10 million francs and in 1812 finally the third bond of 5 million.

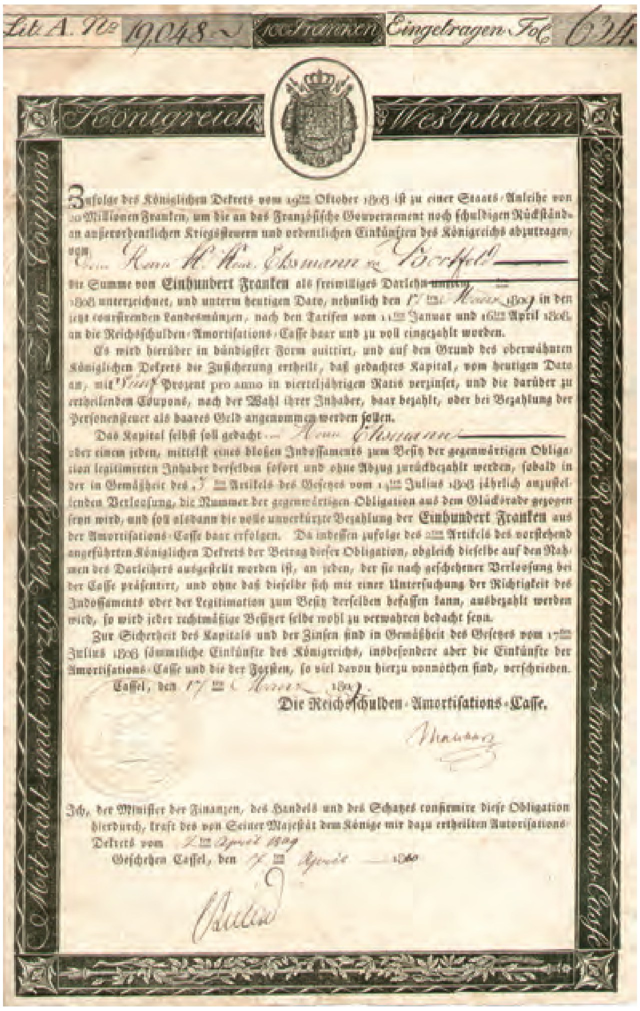
All citizens, cities, municipalities, villages, the nobility and religious institutions having assets of more than 5,000 francs were called to loan money to the government by buying its bonds 'voluntarily'. The amount of government bonds to be forced on segments of the population was set according to ability to pay. Citizens and institutions with assets of from 5,000 to 10,000 francs were required buy 100 francs worth, from 10-20,000 francs the requirement was 200 francs and so on. Purchasers were given an interim receipt, which was later replaced by the bond with interest coupons. Citizens and institutions trying to evade the forced loan were threatened with imprisonment and expropriation.

The interest payable on the bonds depended in part upon the subscription date and ranged from three to six per cent per year. There was no binding repayment plan but a repayment lottery was planned between 1812 and 1816. The bonds and the quarterly coupons were to be treated 'as good as money' for the owners, meaning the government gave them legal tender status. However, by 1811 coupon redemption was already in arrears and interest certificates (vouchers) were issued in place of cash interest. Moreover, after 1812, redemption of the bonds themselves was in arrears. Some large organizations were able to buy state property (domains) with the overdue obligations.

Even with forcible confiscations a total of only 19.9 million francs was raised. When the decline of Napoléon was obvious in 1813 after his defeats in Russia and at the Battle of Leipzig, the dream was over for Jérôme's kingdom after only six years.

Jérôme went into exile. The Kingdom of Westphalia was broken up and the original constituent territories restored. Westfalia became the Rheinish province and part of Prussia. Prussian Elector Wilhelm I – displaced by Napoléon in 1807 – returned to Kassel and re-established the old feudal order. The Elector vaguely promised at the Congress of Vienna (1814) to take over at least part of Jérôme's remaining debt obligations. For the bondholders this debt redemption was just a paper promise but it got the reconstituted states off the hook quickly.

[1] Emil Grössel "Die Obligationen der Zwangsanleihen Jérômes" (The bonds of forced loans of Jérôme) has 21 pages (available online in German at www.booklooker.de; 4.50 Euro).


Lit. A. No 19,048 100 Franken Eingetragen Fol. 634.

Königreich Westphalen

Zufolge des Königlichen Dekrets vom 19ten Oktober 1808 ist zu einer Staats-Anleihe von 20 Millionen Franken, um die an das Französische Gouvernement noch schuldigen Rückstände an außerordentlichen Kriegssteuern und ordentlichen Einkünften des Königreichs abzutragen, vom Herrn Elsmann

die Summe von **Einhundert Franken** als freiwilliges Darlehn unterzeichnet, und unterm heutigen Dato, nehmlich den 17ten in den jetzt coursirenden Landesmünzen, nach den Tarifen vom 11ten Januar und 16ten April 1808, an die Reichsschulden-Amortisations-Casse baar und zu voll eingezahlt worden.

Es wird hierüber in bündigster Form quittirt, und auf den Grund des oberwähnten Königlichen Dekrets die Zusicherung ertheilt, daß gedachtes Kapital, vom heutigen Dato an, mit Fünf Prozent pro anno in vierteljährigen Ratis verzinset, und die darüber zu ertheilenden Coupons, nach der Wahl ihrer Inhaber, baar bezahlt, oder bei Bezahlung der Personensteuer als baares Geld angenommen werden sollen.

Das Kapital selbst soll gedacht Herrn Elsmann oder einem jeden, mittelst eines bloßen Indossaments zum Besitz der gegenwärtigen Obligation legitimirten Inhaber derselben sofort und ohne Abzug zurückbezahlt werden, sobald in der in Gemäßheit des 7ten Artikels des Gesetzes vom 14ten Julius 1808 jährlich anzustellenden Verloosung, die Nummer der gegenwärtigen Obligation aus dem Glücksrade gezogen seyn wird, und soll alsdann die volle unverkürzte Bezahlung der **Einhundert Franken** aus der Amortisations-Casse baar erfolgen. Da indessen zufolge des 2ten Artikels des vorstehend angeführten Königlichen Dekrets der Betrag dieser Obligation, obgleich dieselbe auf den Nahmen des Darleihers ausgestellt worden ist, an jeden, der sie nach geschehener Verloosung bei der Casse präsentirt, und ohne daß dieselbe sich mit einer Untersuchung der Richtigkeit des Indossaments oder der Legitimation zum Besitz derselben befassen kann, ausbezahlt werden wird, so wird jeder rechtmäßige Besitzer selbe wohl zu verwahren bedacht seyn.

Zur Sicherheit des Kapitals und der Zinsen sind in Gemäßheit des Gesetzes vom 17ten Julius 1808 sämmtliche Einkünfte des Königreichs, insbesondere aber die Einkünfte der Amortisations-Casse und die der Forsten, so viel davon hierzu vonnöthen sind, verschrieben.

Cassel, den 17ten 1809.

Die Reichsschulden-Amortisations-Casse.

Ich, der Minister der Finanzen, des Handels und des Schatzes confirmire diese Obligation hierdurch, kraft des von Seiner Majestät dem Könige mir dazu ertheilten Autorisations-Dekrets vom 1ten April 1809

Geschehen Cassel, den 17ten April 1809

5% bond of the Kingdom of Westphalia, 100 Franken, 1809

Defaulted Bonds

Most of the bonds and coupons, ie those that were not redeemed up until 1813, remain in default to this very day. The battle for compensation for defaulted bonds reached its peak in 1842, when the remaining debt of Jérôme was pegged at 16.4 million francs. The successor German states firmly stated at the Berlin Conference, "that none of the governments feel obliged to serve the forced obligations of Jérôme." With this official final ruling all hope for any compensation for defaulted bonds faded.

The bonds and coupons that were paid in the years 1809-1813 were destroyed by local authorities immediately. In the state archives in Marburg, Kassel and Merseburg there are still many interim receipts of the three forced loans, but very few bonds or full coupon sheets. Only rarely do bonds from private collections surface.

The Bonds of 1808-9 are ornate certificates with a decorative border and seal. The bonds of 1810 and 1812 are rather unadorned utilitarian documents – plain with a short text. All of these bonds are now popular in numismatic and scripophily markets.

Speculation

Grössel finally writes, "As in all money matters speculations emerged that these pieces can be redeemed." In 1975 the Hessian State Archive in Marburg received an inquiry whether Jérôme's bonds could find such recognition. The State Archives referred to the regulation of the electors of 1814 and the decisions of the Berlin Conference of 1842, and concluded that the valuation of Jérôme's forced loans is now probably a matter of the antiques trade.

Some 200 years after the Kingdom of Westphalia, speculators for a while were paying large sums for these bonds, but that has died away. Indeed bond valuations are indeed just a matter for the antiques trade!

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No 155 MUNIFICENCE IMPÉRIALE F. 2000.

ACTION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DE WESTPHALIE DE DEUX MILLE FRANCS.

Dotations de 4e et 5e classes.

Société de Westphalie.

This company was formed to commercialize estate properties (as described by Glasemann). These shares were sold at F2000 each in exchange for one year's revenue from an estate. The Rulle estate (and this share) was allocated to André Burthe (1772-1830). He was an important soldier under Napoleon, rising to the rank of General de Brigade and granted a Baron title. ***Courtesy Mario Boone***

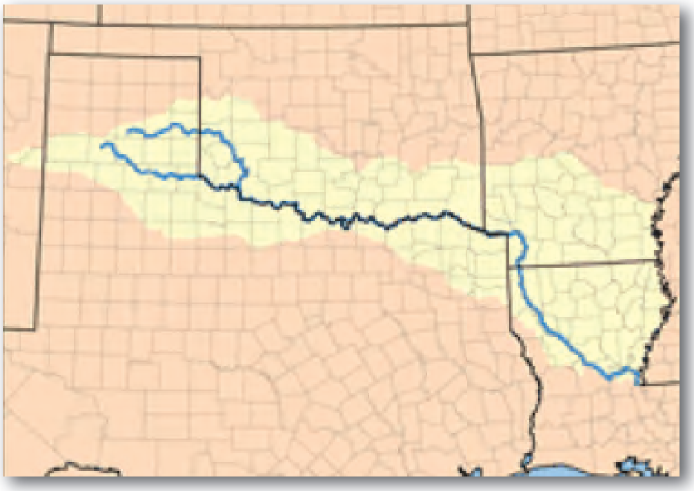
RAFTING SCRIPOPHILY

MAX HENSLEY

The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines a ‘raft’ as (1) a collection of logs or timber fastened together for conveyance by water or (2) a floating cohesive mass. Surprisingly, both types of rafts were the subject of company businesses.

COHESIVE MASS

How could a “floating cohesive mass” be interesting to a corporation? Well, it would be if the mass was obstructing river transportation.



The Red River (above) drains much of northern Texas and Louisiana. It is slow-moving and choked with red silt and trees ripped from its muddy banks during floods. These trees accumulated on sand bars to form rafts (below left) that eventually choked the river unless something was done to remove them. When the trunks become stuck in the river bottom they become ‘snags’. These were notorious navigation hazards on America’s inland waterways during the steamboat era. They required specialized ‘snag boats’ (below right) to lift and remove them. The rafts were even worse since they were essentially a bank-to-bank, top-to-bottom mass of snags and trapped logs.

The original Red River ‘Great Raft’ was over 100 miles of tangled logs, trees, vines and mud that had been accumulating in the river bed for hundreds of years. It blocked steamboat traffic, which was becoming increasingly important in the 1830s. In addition to blocking the Red River, the huge accumulations of debris backed the river up and formed a series of lakes that flooded rich farm land.

Captain Henry Shreve, a Mississippi River steamboat pioneer (the namesake of Shreveport, Louisiana), undertook the job of clearing the Great Raft for the US Government in the 1830s, finally finishing the job in 1841. The Civil War and the harsh Reconstruction period in Louisiana and Texas ended Red River maintenance. The raft reconstituted itself and presented even greater problems than it had in the 1830s due to population and economic growth along the upper Red River.

By 1871 the Louisiana legislature had become upset with the failure of the US Government to clear the raft so it chartered the **Upper Red River Raft Co** (illustrated) to do the job, starting at the foot of the raft at Hurricane Bluffs, Louisiana. The company was to remove the raft and then maintain the river for 25 years during which it was authorized to charge tolls on portions of the river it cleared. It is likely that the prospect of having to pay tolls to the Raft Co was unacceptable to steamboat operators and pressure must have been brought on the Federal government to take care of the problem. That same year the US Government began clearing the river again and finished the job by 1873. It is unclear whether the Upper Red River Raft Co ever did any work on the river.

Certificates from the Reconstruction Era (1866-1877) in the former states of the Confederacy are very unusual because capital was scarce and the economy there was moribund. This one was a venture to remove the Red River logjam, or raft, that accumulated during the Civil War and Reconstruction

COLLECTION OF LOGS OR TIMBER FASTENED TOGETHER FOR CONVEYANCE BY WATER

The Red River Raft was a problem, but other log rafts were *not* problems – they were assets. They were like domestic animals and needed ‘round ups’ to collect them. Many 19th century logging companies harvested timber from land along navigable waterways. It was easier to use the river to transport logs and wood products such as railroad ties than it was to build logging railroads into the these often inaccessible spots.

Railroad ties were the main products transported by free-floating ‘drives’ or in spiked-together rafts. The ties were hacked out of white oak by hill people, brought to the riverside and sold for about 10 cents each to tie companies. The buyers branded the ends of the ties for identification. After drying so that the ties would float they were placed loose in the river to make drives, or spiked together to make rafts.

When they reached their destination something was needed to catch the logs or ties so they didn't continue on down the river. The drives and rafts were so large (500 or more ties at a time) that it would have been impossible to pull the ties out as they passed by, so instead they were corralled behind floating moveable 'booms' of chained-together logs that blocked the river at relatively quiet pools or eddies. The ties could then be removed from the river as desired.

The company whose stock is illustrated at the right was organized to collect logging products that were floated down the Elk River in West Virginia. The **Elk Island Boom Co** installed a dam and boom on the Elk River at the town of Braxton Court House, W VA. The only other boom company certificate known to the author is one for the **Mississippi Boom Co** in St Paul, Minnesota, which maintained a boom on the Mississippi River.

Eventually these 'booming' businesses failed because the booms unreasonably blocked river navigation (see *State v Elk Island Boom Co*, SE Reporter 590 (1896)). Also, the heavy load of dumped logs and ties caused damage during floods and high water, and fishermen blamed rafting for destroying fish spawning grounds. By 1920 they had been mostly banned by legislation. But like many other truncated Darwinian off-shoots of industrial commerce, they left their memories behind as stock certificates.

For more on the fascinating story of Captain Shreve's incredible raft clearing project, see Edith McCall's *Attack on the Great Raft,* found on-line for free at AmericanHeritage.com.

EMBOSSED BRITISH REVENUE STAMPS

— JOHN THOMSON —

Image shows a specimen British revenue stamp for face value one shilling and nine pence, dated 22nd November 1886

Image shows a British revenue stamp for face value two shillings and six pence, dated 27th March 1890

Image shows a British revenue stamp for face value ten pounds sterling, dated 19th December 1919

Many documents of scripophily interest have embossed revenue stamps superimposed upon the documents and it is worthwhile to consider the relevance of such embossed stamps as they not only validate the authenticity of the documents, but also give an indication of a date, as in many cases the revenue stamps contained the date when the stamp was embossed upon the document.

Stamps Act of 1694

In the United Kingdom, the first impressed duty stamps were used following the introduction of stamp duty as detailed in the **Stamps Act of 1694**. The Act was *"An act for granting to Their Majesties several duties on Vellum, Parchment and Paper for 10 years, towards carrying on the war against France"*. The duty ranged from one penny to several shillings on a number of different legal documents including insurance policies and documents used as evidence in courts. It raised around £50,000 a year and although it was initially a temporary measure, it proved very successful as a tax raising instrument.

Within the United Kingdom, successive Acts of Parliament, such as the **Stamp Duties Management Act 1891** and the **Stamp Act 1891** contained much of the operative law on stamp duties. Since those times, impressed duty stamps have been widely used until recently to collect the taxes. The system was very successful and was adopted throughout the British Empire. It was also mirrored by other countries.

In earlier years, the tax was enforced by making the documents unenforceable in court if they had not been properly stamped. The tax rates varied from year to year depending upon the fiscal policies of the government and tax rates set in the Annual Budget. Generally the rate was either a fixed amount per document or *ad valorem* whereby the tax varied according to the value of the transaction being taxed.

It is of particular interest that the British **Stamp Act of 1765** had a direct bearing upon the American Revolution as the American colonies had the related taxes arbitrarily imposed upon them. The proposition that a British Parliament could impose a direct tax upon the American colonies without their consent or representation was met with outrage and open hostility. It was widely believed in colonial America, that only their own legislature could take such action. Civil unrest and riots followed in many of the colonies when efforts were made to collect the tax. *'No tax without representation'* became the battle cry of dissent. This action was the spark that ignited the independence movement and which later led to the American War of Independence.

Methods to Stamp Documents

There were generally two specific methods to stamp a document. The first method was the use of **impressed duty stamps** which were created by embossing a stamp on to a document using a metal die to indicate that the required tax had been paid. The specific dies would be held by a Stamping Office of the Inland Revenue Department and used with different types of stamping machines. Such dies usually had three "date-plugs" which could be changed and these date plugs allowed the day, month and year to be varied and then recorded on the stamp.

In 1857, the principal UK Stamping Office was established at Somerset House in London (see overleaf) and three large halls were set aside for the purpose. By 1901 the Stamping office, employed approximately 250 people.[1]

Two of these halls used large scale Recording Presses[2] which had an audit trail, ie the machines recorded the total number of stamps each day and the operator was required to account for the cash payments received on a daily basis. Indeed, some of the machines had locked money-boxes either attached to the machine or located nearby, whereby the operator of the machine would have deposited all cash received through a slot on the top of the lock-box.

The third room used ordinary fly-presses whereby the operator had complete control over the dies used on the machine, but usually such operators were subjected to scrutiny by supervisors who would hand over the die at the onset and collect it back again once the stamping of documents have been completed.

Over-Embossed Stamps

The second method was to affix adhesive stamps which had been printed in a similar manner to postage stamps and to then cancel such stamps by means of an **over-embossed stamp**.

Over-embossing dies are sometimes confused with impressed duty stamps as they appear similar. But they are not revenue stamps and were only used to cancel and fix the underlying adhesive revenue stamp. Although they appear similar, they normally do not have any denomination recorded on the die and merely show the date. The value of the tax is indicated by the denomination of the adhesive stamps. However there were exceptions and in some cases over-embossing dies have been adapted to include a value and to serve as stamps, for instance in places such as Penang, Singapore and Malacca.

In the early use of embossed revenue stamps, the embossing was done without ink, but later the stamping dies were all used with ink or foil to stamp the impressions onto documents.

A five cent adhesive Hong Kong revenue stamp which has been cancelled by an over-embossed stamp, dated 28th December 1905.

Embossed Stamps Replaced by Franking Machines

In recent years, the Inland Revenue Departments of various countries have switched to electronic franking machines as a means to record stamp duty paid on various documents and the use of revenue stamps has consequently declined. There does not appear to be a specific transition date for the switch to electronic franking and the indication is that it was phased in gradually over a period of years.

Image shows adhesive Malay Straits Settlement revenue stamps of 25 cents and $2 denominations. These stamps have been cancelled by use of an over-embossed stamp from the Singapore Stamping Office, dated 12th February 1940

Central Court of Somerset House, London

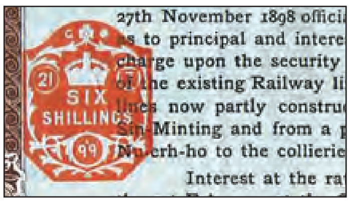
Somerset House is a large Neoclassical building in central London. The building was originally the site of a Tudor palace, and was designed by Sir William Chambers in 1776.

The principal occupier is Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and the building housed the main Stamping Office for issue of British revenue stamps. The Stamping Office has been located in Somerset House since 1857.

1 Report Upon Stamping of Documents, Published by Thomas De La Rue & Co Ltd, dated October 1901.

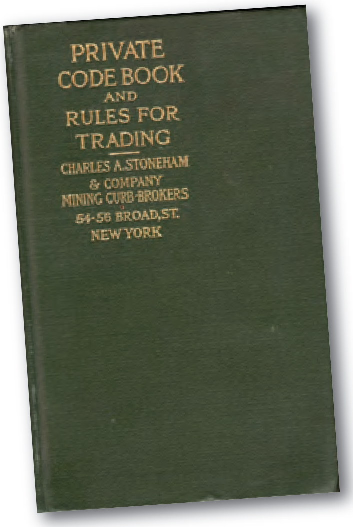
2 Thomas De la Rue recorded that there were fifty-two steam-power presses in use in the Stamping Office at Somerset House as of October 1901.

1899 Chinese Imperial Railway Loan bond for £100 (Kuhlmann reference: 90). It has two Six Shillings Embossed Revenue Stamps super-imposed on the left-side of the document. Both Revenue Stamps are dated 21st July 1899



Charles A Stoneham & Co Mining Curb Brokers

Max Hensley



An example of the company's undated (c1913) handbook, entitled *Private Code Book and Rules for Trading,* came my way. It's an interesting snapshot of mining stock brokerage practices in the early 1900s.

The Stoneham firm, founded by broker *Charles A Stoneham* in 1903, specialized in Curb Market mining stocks. It was located at 41 Broad Street in New York City adjacent to the Curb Market. The Curb Market for stocks and bonds was a roped-in enclosure where a few hundred brokers negotiated stock transactions in the open air. The Curb Market eventually found respectability as the American Stock Exchange and was merged with the New York Stock Exchange, but in the early years of the last century, this was a rough-and-tumble stock 'exchange'. The elites of the New York Stock Exchange had their railroads, utilities and serious industrial concerns. The Curb was the place for 'action', sometimes merging into rank gambling, but because of the low share prices and excitement also appealed to the growing American middle class. This also meant, however, that the clientele was not particularly sophisticated and were serviced without the ethical standards of our modern regulated markets.

The Curb Market c1915 with brokers surrounded by order chit litter.

Brokers behind a rope, signaling orders to brokers' offices such as Stoneham's in the buildings above the Market

For example, *Financial World*, August 1, 1914, reported that Stoneham was pushing **Calaveras Copper Co** and opined that the shareholders "have about as much chance to make any money in any investment with which Charles Stoneham has any connection as a snowball has in keeping its form in Hell".

Charles A Stoneham c1930

Stoneham rode the boom in middle class stock ownership. His vehicle was the Curb Market and his adept promotional efforts. By 1916 the brokerage had 150 employees and 10 US branches and a Toronto office. It reported more than 10,000 clients and $2 million of securities in its vaults. But the post WWI recession in 1921 and the decline in the speculative mining business led to the failure of the brokerage.

While Charles Stoneham was later charged with mail fraud and perjury, he beat the rap. Always good with his timing, he bought the New York Giants baseball team in 1919 for $1 million and went on to pursue a career in professional sports team ownership capped by the Giants' powerhouse performance under his guidance. He passed away in 1936.

First and foremost, the firm's *Private Code Book* was a marketing document, although it is written in restrained, decorous and soothing language. This is surprising when one considers the firm's reputation for flamboyant stock jobbing.

While the ostensible purpose of the book was to provide codes to maintain confidentiality of communications and to save on telegraph charges, the book as a whole has the flavor of a secret society, ie an exclusive regime in which only the 'players' can participate. In the 1960s US boxed cereal companies lured children into 'secret' clubs by putting 'secret decoder rings' in their cereal boxes. A similar exclusive appeal was used by Stoneham & Co to promote its mining stock business.

Office boy signaling orders to the brokers on the street

The book provides code words for standard brokerage instructions like buying, selling, and other communications. For example, "Buy 100 shares of Goldfield Consolidated order good for today only" would be telegraphed as ACCURSE DUMPY POMADE. Some ciphers are quite obscure. For example READING means "stock pool will be renewed for one year longer". A cipher for "Panic! Everyone to the lifeboats!" could not be found.

The 'secret society' aspect was reinforced by individually hand numbering the book, this one being 10912. They were probably handed out to new clients. It is difficult to understand how code confidentiality was maintained if over ten thousand of these were made available. But no matter. It was all about the process.

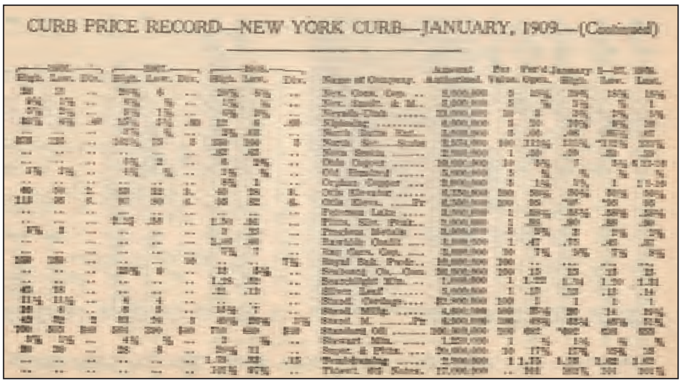
The Code Book also contains three years of price records for the New York Curb Market, a 1906 compilation of ore shipments by Cobalt, Canada, mines, and research reports including the **Colorado Mining Co, Crown Reserve Mining Co, Cumberland Ely Mining Co, Florence-Goldfield Mining Co, Goldfield Consolidated Mines Co, Temiskaming Mining Co** and the **Utah Copper Co**. The companies all received highly favorable reviews. Several were good investments if one could escape insider price manipulations. The Goldfield Consolidated paid $29 million in dividends from 1906-1915 and Utah Copper in excess of $89 million over the period 1908-1918 (Lingenfelter, Richard, *Bonanzas and Borrascas* Vol. II, p.445). However, it was common practice for hucksters to promote good and poor companies together, drawing in buyers acting on the reasoning that "keeping good company" was a sign of good prospects for all the properties.

This stock was one of those promoted in Stoneham's cipher book. It was not a fraud, paying $800,000 in dividends (Jim Copeland, private communication)

Also included are instructions for activities like certificate transfers, options (which Stoneham called Buyer and Seller Contracts), and holding in street name. An extensive section on margin included the observation that "95% of the transactions on the various Stock Exchanges are carried in the marginal manner". The firm's margin requirement was 33 1/3% of the purchase price, with the balance at 6% per year. It's not surprising that mining stocks were volatile considering this high level of leverage.

The firm was highly critical of installment purchases, despite "receiving a great many inquiries". Installment purchases required 10% of the purchase price when bought plus a 12.5% non-refundable charge by the broker, and another 10% at 30 days. So, an installment purchaser need not put up as much money as a margin purchaser, but the buyer was "in the hole" 12.5% from the start. The firm also cautioned about "the financial responsibility of firms dealing in securities on this basis", a delicate way of pointing out that you don't own your installment stocks until they are paid for – and that failure of the brokerage could leave the purchaser with only a contract right against a bankrupt broker. But installment purchases must have held some appeal for compulsive underfunded speculators.

Commissions were 1% of the purchase price for stocks under $10/share, and 12.5 cents per share for stocks above $10/share.


CURB PRICE RECORD—NEW YORK CURB—JANUARY, 1909—(Continued)

The book concludes with pages of stock quotes for the Curb during 1906, 1907 and 1908 – the high and low prices for each year plus dividends paid. The lows naturally fell in the panic year of 1907. The **American Tobacco Co** was an expensive stock, ranging from $513 to $174½ per share in yesterday's dollars with dividends of $22½ to $32½. Similarly the **Standard Oil Co** (presumably, 'of New Jersey') share price ranged from $390 to $710, paying steady dividends of $40 per year.

If you had any money to invest during the Panic of 1907, the low prices that year were a steal considering the dividends. At those prices these two stocks paid dividends at the equivalent of about twice railroad bond interest with much less risk of default. In comparison, prices for most mining shares were at lottery ticket levels, many below a dollar a share. Most of these will be familiar to collectors today. By 1909 the **Green Gold-Silver Mining Co** common shares had crashed from $4 to $0.05 and **Keewenaw Copper Co** from $16 to $3. Very few of the mining companies paid any dividends, and some were devoid of (recorded) quotes for an entire year.

This little book is a wonderful snapshot of the stock market a century ago. If you get a chance to buy one, pick it up. Sadly, it does not appear to be in Google Books, although you can get a flavor of the firm's literature from Stoneham's *Curb, Mining, Oil and Industrial Securities: 1916 Handbook* which is available in Google Books. The *Curb* book also has an extensive section describing contemporary mining, industrial and oil companies, sort of a poor man's Poor's. The oil section is particularly useful if you are researching these often obscure companies, and includes a long list of "former Standard Oil subsidiaries".

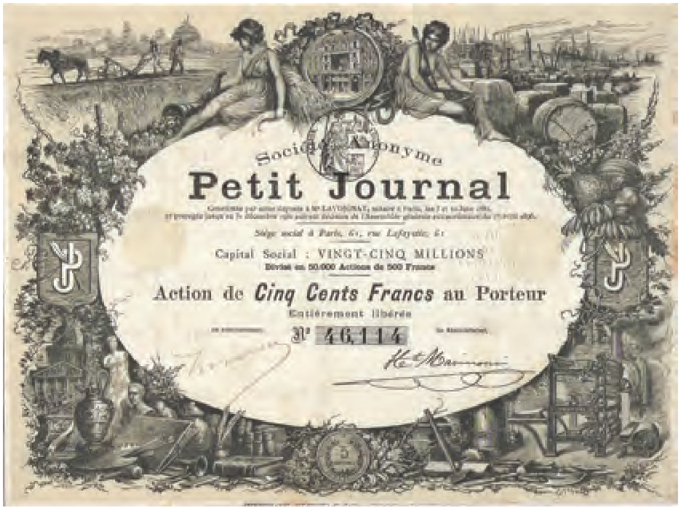
A stock held in Stoneham's street name on behalf of an unnamed client

SENSATION AT 5 CENTIMES IN 'LE PETIT JOURNAL'

—— FRANKY LEEUWERCK ——

The 1896 share certificate of the newspaper *Le Petit Journal* shows a *sou* in the lower border. France counted about 40 million people around that time and in that single year more than six million pieces of this five centimes coin were minted. Being in circulation all over France for decades and representing a small value, this *sou* just seemed to be an unimportant and common coin. However, the French people used it buy a newspaper that brought the world into their lives.

The sou, or 5 Centimes coin. Obverse: head of Cérès, REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE. Reverse: 5 CENTIMES, LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE



Share certificate of* Le Petit Journal, *Action de 500 Francs, 1896. Design by Meyer and engraving by Meaulle. The sou appears in the design of the lower border, and also twice in the underprint

MILLAUD

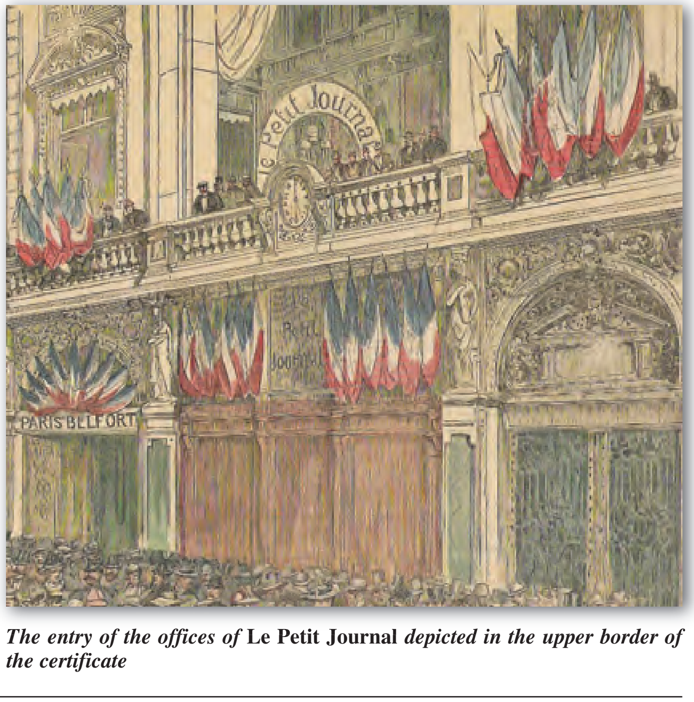
Moïse Polydore Millaud would revolutionize the newspaper business when he founded *Le Petit Journal*. This newspaper, with its offices at the Paris Opera, was published from 1863 to 1944 and, right from the beginning, Millaud's main objective was to achieve as high a circulation as possible. By 1877 this had increased to 500,000. A weekly illustrated supplement was included, starting in 1884. Bringing news that sells is one thing, but getting the readers to buy your newspaper is something else. Millaud realized that the price for his newspaper had to be low and by setting its price at 5 centimes, he made *Le Petit Journal* affordable to a nationwide audience.

In order to achieve his goals, Millaud wanted his newspaper to be different than the others. His newspaper focused not on the usual political topics but on *faits divers,* crime stories, international issues, war and sensations. Millaud sent his reporters out into the street to learn from public opinion. By avoiding publication of political news Millaud also escaped the 10 centimes tax imposed on political newspapers. Serial novels and articles were published in the newspaper in order to entice readers to buy the next edition. After Millaud's death in 1871, first Emile de Gerardin and later, in 1882, Hippolyte Marinoni took over the company. Marinoni was not only an expert in printing mechanisation, he was also a true newspaper manager.

The illustrated supplement of September 6th 1896. Source: Gallica, the digital library of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France

In 1887 Marinoni assigned Pierre Giffard the task of reorganizing the newsroom. Giffard introduced a successful diary under the pseudonym Jean-sans-Terre. He was also the man who started organizing publicity stunts and promotional events on behalf of the newspaper:

- 1891, the Paris-Brest first long-distance cycle race
- 1892, the Paris-Belfort 380 km running race
- 1894, the world's first motor-race Paris-Rouen
- 1896, the Paris Marathon at the inaugural Olympics



The entry of the offices of* Le Petit Journal *depicted in the upper border of the certificate

To each event, *Le Petit Journal* dedicated a series of articles. The French public followed the races and their participants in the editions covering them. Circulation rose steadily.

The newspaper needed to be printed in large quantities, with colour pages and at a very low cost. Hippolyte Marinoni (1823-1904) made this technically possible.

His career started at Gaveaux, a manufacturer of typographical machines. In 1847 Marinoni constructed a press with 2 cylinders and 3 years later he assisted Jacob Worms, a German immigrant, with the development of a rotary press. Marinoni started his own business and constructed a lithography machine. In 1860 he helped Etienne Lenoir to develop the Lenoir gas engine. Six years later, Marinoni patented a rotary printing press in which the images to be printed are curved around a cylinder.

In 1872 his rotation press was installed at the newspaper *La Liberté*, the first rotation press in France. Afterwards, five of these were installed at *Le Petit Journal*. Marinoni knew the importance of colour printing, so in 1889 he developed a colour rotation press. His facsimile signature appears on the lower right of the certificate, and an image of the Marinoni rotation press in the border.

Marinoni Machines et Marérial pour l'Imprimerie et les Industries annexes 1923. This is the company that continued the business of the Marinoni printing machines Source: HWPH Auction October 2004

PIONEER

By bringing sensational news, applying clever customer binding techniques, and selling for the price of 5 centimes, it is no wonder that *Le Petit Journal* was successful. In the 1890s, circulation rose to a million copies per day. *Le Petit Journal* is now recognized as a pioneer of the sensation press and mass media.

Luckily, many of these beautifully designed share certificates have survived the past 114 years. You should be able to find them at a reasonable price at several scripophily dealers. I purchased mine in Paris at one of the 'bouquinistes', the book stalls along the banks of the Seine river.

Other issues of this type with different colors or denominations exist. The Boone auction house in 2008 sold a lot of 146 Petit Journal certificates for 420 Euro, excluding costs.

LA GUTENBERG S.A. D'IMPRIMERIE ET DE PUBLICITE (ANC. FIRME H. DIEZ) 1898, underprint of a large and complex Marinoni printing-press Source: Boone Auction March 2007

SOCIÉTÉ DE L'IMPRIMERIE DU JOURNAL DE MARSEILLE 1897, 4 vignettes of the various printing-presses, all of the Marinoni Paris marque
Source: Boone Auction March 2009

Franky Leeuwerck has been collecting certificates for more than 20 years. His main collecting themes are railways and tramways from India, his home town Ieper (Ypres), and decorative Egypt.

COX'S CORNER #21

We're not getting any younger

A couple of days ago, one of my friends alarmed me with his contention, "You know, we're not getting any younger." Although it happened inside my head, politeness demanded I not scream, "R-E-A-L-L-Y? Where in the world did you get *THAT* idea?"

The truth is, we have all used the phrase ourselves. It is simply a way of telling ourselves we need to make changes. We need to re-examine what we're doing. We need to re-think our approaches. We need to revise our ideas in the face of advancing years and, hopefully, improving wisdom.

With my little cataloging project now over twenty five years old, I have had the tremendous fortune of corresponding with hundreds of collectors. In that period, only a microscopic handful have contributed and corresponded over periods of more six or eight years. I am not sure what happens, but most of my correspondents seem to fade away after four or five years. With the exception of the collectors whom I learn have passed away, there is rarely a finality to our relationships.

I had one enthusiastic contributor who moved to another continent and he found that collecting US railroad certificates from that distance was too difficult. A couple more complained about maltreatment from their regular sellers and quit the hobby. Fortunately, their choices have proven unusual. More often – in fact, almost all the time – I hear complaints about the difficulty in finding *new material*. I have talked about that subject in great length before, but I feel it's time to add a couple more observations before I lose any more valuable correspondents, contributors and friends.

Look, I do not care one *bit* if you want to switch from my specialty to another. Or, in fact, if you choose to switch from the scripophily hobby to another. I will be the first to advise you to do exactly that if it means continuing your enjoyment of collecting another decade or two.

However, instead of giving up all your hard-won knowledge of trends, traps and topics, why not make a minor shift of focus instead of a cataclysmic overhaul? Most experienced collectors seem to have developed a focus on specific topics or geographic regions. To me, that form of collecting seems pitifully easy to modify. Here's an idea. Look over your collection up to now and look for the items that don't seem to *fit* with everything else. Is there some feature that attracted your interest that you never paid attention to? What made you collect those kinds of off-topic items in the first place? What if you purposely started expanding into those areas?

In my experience, collectors who burned out the quickest were the ones who tried to collect *everything*. Virtually all of them wanted to acquire everything *immediately*.

Unless the goal was to spend the maximum amount of money possible, trying to collect *everything* was like Don Quixote with a checkbook. With that approach, a collector could spend a great amount of time buying, buying, buying and end up with a collection of little meaning.

Maybe it's pragmatism. Maybe it's a philosophy of life. Maybe it's making do with insufficient funds. It just seems to me that the clearer the focus, the greater the enjoyment and the sweeter the success. Our hobby is typified by staggering rarity across the board, so raw acquisition is a recipe for discontent and failure.

In our hobby, the vast majority of *varieties* are represented by very, very few examples. In my particular North American railroad specialty, I have identified 20,268 identifiably different certificates. Of that number, 60% (!!!!) seem to be represented by only two or fewer examples. I suspect most specialties display similar statistics.

Admittedly, we can never know how many non-numbered certificates or identically-numbered specimens might exist, so I will decrease that statistic by half to 30%. How popular would coin collecting be if half of all varieties of coins were represented by only one or two examples?

Let's say there were only two collectors in the entire world who collected certificates in my specialty and both were rich beyond measure. Would you be surprised to learn that almost exactly half of all varieties recorded so far are represented by a single example? I'm okay with someone arguing to decrease that number to 25%. Just don't try to tell me that some collector could ever collect them all! Sooner rather than later, the richest collector in the world would run out of *new material*.

Going back to my personal insistence on *focus*, I propose that instead of whining about the lack of items to collect, we focus on contributing to the enjoyment of the hobby. Yes, collecting hobbies are all about acquisition. We can do very little about that. As collectors, we are all inflicted with the collecting gene. I get it!

By why not start looking at what we have collected already? How can we add to our collections? Maybe we can add precursor companies to our collections. Maybe we can try to collect all combinations of signatory names. Maybe we can research corporate intentions and reasons for failures and successes. Maybe we can collect peripheral documents and artifacts. Maybe we can research and write about out discoveries.

I already hear some of you whimpering, "All that sounds like work and it will probably not matter one whit!" I actually agree with you. Your (and my!) work will probably not matter at all. But so what? You have already started something. You may not know exactly what that something is, and you may not know where you're going, but you'll never know unless you keep going.

The point is that all of us obsessed collectors can realize a truly staggering number of possibilities as soon as we stop feeling sorry for ourselves and get on with what we have already started.

Terry Cox tcox@coxrail.com is the author and publisher of the price guide 'Collectible Stocks and Bonds from North American Railroads' and of the regular 'Update' newsletter. See the article on scripophily databases in Scripophily *No.84, December 2010, for more on Cox's rails database.*

AUCTION NEWS and REVIEWS

WORLDWIDE AUCTION SALES - FOUR MONTHS TO JULY 2015

Firm	Date	Place	Scripophily lots offered	% lots sold	Total sales including buyer's premium €	£	$
FHW	30-May	Berlin	1,740	48%	232,762	167,327	255,857
HWPH	18-Apr	Würzburg	782	57%	215,708	155,831	233,162
Gutowski	20-Jul	Mailbid	1,216	62%	130,167	90,605	141,239
DWAlive	2-Apr	Internet	1,862	43%	57,729	42,303	62,748
DWAlive	2-Jul	Internet	1,829	39%	54,246	38,539	60,166
HWPH	20-Apr	Internet	1,327	35%	53,346	38,497	57,413
Scriposale	18-Jul	Kürnbach	919	30%	23,148	16,067	25,068
		Germany	9,675	44%	767,106	549,169	835,653
Yangming	27-Jun	Shanghai	1,350	74%	501,255	355,444	559,646
Spink	29-May	London	625	76%	260,359	184,242	285,511
Archives Intl	7-May	Fort Lee NJ	599	52%	63,183	46,816	71,296
London Coin	6-Jun	Bracknell	62	82%	57,275	41,692	63,661
Holabird	10-Apr	Reno NV	646	91%	39,549	28,615	41,911
Spink	2-Apr	Hong Kong	52	77%	15,258	11,181	16,585
Archives Intl	24-May	Hong Kong	53	94%	13,825	9,828	15,222
MPO	3-Jul	IJsselstein	359	70%	12,300	8,767	13,648
		Others	247	42%	6,875	4,996	7,676
		World ex eBay	13,668	52%	1,736,985	1,240,750	1,910,809
ebay USA	April-July		15,580	53%	191,407	136,056	210,750
ebay Europe	April-July		20,970	50%	156,144	110,991	171,924
		World inc Bay	50,218	52%	€2,084,536	£1,487,797	$2,293,483
		German market share ex eBay	71%		44%		

Note: *The eBay figures are approximations but we believe them to be quite robust. The US eBay figure does not include approximately 300 speculations (Chinese and Mexican) which were in the top 400.*
Buyer's Premium: *Auctioneers charge a premium to the buyer (as well as sales commission paid by the seller), generally in the range 15-20% of the hammer price, plus local taxes. The figures in our auction reviews are hammer prices, not including the buyer's premium. The totals in the table above include the premium.*

In the April-July period China's Yangming Auctions again had the largest auction, at €500,000 almost double the sales of the next largest, Spink of London. Because of its greater number of auctions, Germany regained its Number One slot by market share, at 44%, with sales of €767,000, about the same value and the same share as this time last year.

We have included figures for the four largest national eBays in the table for the first time and after stripping out obvious speculation items and 'Buy-It-Now', we are surprised that eBay had only 17% of the world auction sales. By value, that is. By number of lots, eBay had 72%. Again surprisingly, eBay was no more successful than the rest of the world in terms of the proportion of catalogued lots sold, at 52%, even though its offerings were generally of low value.

SPINK CHINA's sale in Hong Kong on April 2 included 52 scripophily lots, all except two lots of Japanese bonds being from China. In all, 40 lots sold for HK$107,150 (£9,300). Top lot was a 1921 **Bank of China** $100 share sold for HK$22,000. The next highest single piece was a 1917 **Young Brothers Banking Corp** 1,000 silver yuan share, sold for HK$7,000. A 1928 **Shaozhou Electric Co** 25-yuan share made HK$5,500 and a 1935 100-yuan share in the **Zhong Bao Mining Co** went to HK$4,800. Most other lots, government bonds and company shares, sold below HK$2,000.

Hong Kong was also the venue for **ARCHIVES INTERNATIONAL** on May 24. This was almost entirely numismatic material but did include 53 Chinese scripophily lots, mostly groups of government and railway bonds. All but three lots sold, for a total of HK$99,227 (US$12,900). The highest price of the auction was HK$6,500 for six **Imperial Chinese Government** 1910 £100 5% **Tiensin-Pukow Railway** bonds, some with condition issues. A lot containing four 1913 **Reorganisation Gold Loan** £20 bonds sold for HK$3,800. The sale was free of the more recent speculation pieces.

LONDON COIN AUCTION on June 6 offered more than 500 **1913 Chinese Reorganisation** bonds split into 41 manageable lots, mostly sold around £120-£170 for the £100 denomination and £30-£40 for the £20. From these and 20 other bulk lots, 82% sold for a hammer total of £35,634.

The **MEMORABILIA VAULT** of Kingston, New York, on July 17 offered an unregistered #1 200-share certificate (one-fifth of the capitalization) of rap singer ***Tupac Shakur***'s music company **2Pacalypse Entertainment,** signed by the entertainer. Tupac died in a hail of bullets in Las Vegas in 1996, and this was shot down too, failing to sell on a reserve of $1,500 ($3,000-$4,000 estimate).

MEBANE ANTIQUE AUCTIONS in Mebane, North Carolina, on June 19 offered a stock certificate in the **Chicago Stadium Co**, bringing $150 plus 23% premium. The Stadium company constructed the Chicago Stadium, known as 'the Madhouse on Madison' (Street), which hosted professional hockey and basketball teams until its demolition in 1995.

The **J LEVINE** auction house in Scottsdale, Arizona, on July 2 sold an estate collection of 27 lots of western mining stocks for a total of $1,030 plus 20% premium. Most lots were of multiple items, making for some nice bargains at $10 starts. Levine offered the same lots on eBay subject to the buyer's premium.

NOBLE NUMISMATICS in Sydney, Australia, on July 30 included a scripophily section of sixteen lots of which twelve sold for a total A$3,170. Australia mining shares lotted in small groups were the main sellers. Three 1860s mining shares from Victoria sold for A$400. Surprisingly, an attractive and unusual piece – an 1869 share in **The Polynesia Company** with vignette of palm trees etc - did not sell on an estimate of A$150.

MPO is a leading Dutch auction house for numismatics. In most of their massive auctions (sometimes up to 9,000 lots!) they also offer some scripophily, many bulk lots and cheap Dutch certificates. This was the case again on July 3. We counted 359 scripophily 'kavels' as they say in Dutch. Seven out of ten sold, with the 112 Dutch lots' selling rate at 74% for an average price of €20 and starting as low as €5. The international section included a remarkable quantity of Russian state and railway bonds. For instance, a lot of 313 **Wolga-Bougoulma Railway** bonds from 1910 sold for €140. A group of 50 modern **Euro Disney** shares fetched €100. Overall, the scripophily part of the auction realized a turnover of €9,840.

EBAY USA

Chinese speculation climbed back to the top of US eBay (April 19 - July 19) when a Pass-Co certified Chinese Industrial bond dated 1955, #321803921443, denomination not given, 'sold' for $3,350 with a sketchy description and bid history (private bids). Ten days later another one only brought $1,000 with one bidder (#271910484614). A lot of six 1913 **Petchili** province bonds brought $5,100 with only two bidders (although the typical price seems to be about $500 each now) – down from the $10,000 these supposedly sold for, in frenzied bidding, only a couple of years ago. Instead, speculators swarm the dozens of 1913 **Lung-Tsing-U-Hai Railway** bonds that fetch around $1,000 each (eg #301654736511).

This short-lived fire extinguisher company ignited enough interest to sell for $253 (#311362043235)

Aside from the Chinese speculations, the top lots included a $500 **US Treasury** bond with 24 coupons selling for $2,705 from a $2,295 start (#111664764284) and a $100 **US Treasury** bond, series G, September 1943, with original mailing envelope for $1,814 (#231534127286).

The top share at $2,000 was a highly decorative, large format, 1867 **Triumpho Silver Mining & Commercial Co of Lower California** (#111668782534), (not to be confused with the available **Triumpho Gold & Silver Mining Co** (CA)). This was for a Baja California property connected to the John Foster Dulles family and featured a full colour litho of a mining scene. The seller, Profiles in History Auctions, used eBay's new hosting for commercial auctioneers, which has the appearance of an ordinary eBay listing but you must add the seller's *buyer's premium of 28%*.

Nearly 600 items sold at auction in this period for under $1, with the lowest being three certificates for 1 cent (for this, the seller profit must have been in the postage charge). These cheap shares were mostly issued and cancelled modern 'no-name' company certificates, but also included 15 listings of coupons cut from common bonds that actually sold for around $1 each.

BUYER'S FEES CREEP INTO EBAY

Archives International Auctions offered its August 4 on-line only/no printed catalogue sale through its own website. In addition, it offered the same listings through eBay. We've seen this 'piggy back' auction option three times in the last two weeks on eBay scripophily. These are tricky for buyers – eBayers may not understand they are on the hook for the *usual auction house buyer's premium plus 5% or so for eBay*. So if the auction house normally charges a 20% buyer's premium, buying through eBay will cost you 5% more. eBay buyers are not used to paying for the privilege of buying, and they won't like it. There are no doubt going to be disputes over the fees.

It would be 5% nuts to bid in one of these piggy back auctions, but I suppose it may be slightly more convenient than having to go to the auctioneer's website. And of course the auctioneer gets more exposure for his material whether or not anything sells through eBay. A nominal advantage for buyers is that the better material relieves the dreary dreck usually encountered on eBay.

Taking into account the normal consignor's fee of 20%, this is clearly moving the trade in the wrong direction. Is a 45% round trip commission something that makes sense in our hobby – for consignors OR buyers? The auctioneers jumping on eBay are supplying fresh material and are potentially attracting newcomers to the hobby. So maybe this will work out for all concerned. However, *caveat emptor*.

The Editor

EBAY UK

The most interesting (but not the most expensive) items on eBay UK were three 1937 share warrants of the **Vestfold Whaling Company Limited**. Item #271916380914, one ordinary share, sold for £11.81, #271916381946, 100 ordinary shares, for £12.72 and #271916383181, five ordinary shares, for £14.50. Only three bidders were interested in these items. Strange, as whaling shares are popular and hard to find. We could only find one previous reference, an unissued certificate (one share version), which sold recently for €80 in a German live auction.

Warrant for 100 ordinary shares in the Vestfold Whaling Co Ltd, 1937

EBAY GERMANY

The most spectacular item on eBay Germany was a very old (1767) bond, issued by **Maria Theresia,** the only female ruler of the Habsburg dominions and the last of the House of Habsburg. She was the sovereign of Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bohemia, Mantua, Milan, Lodomeria and Galicia, the Austrian Netherlands and Parma. By marriage, she was Duchess of Lorraine, Grand Duchess of Tuscany and Holy Roman Empress. As #40092980-0777, it was sold by a *best offer* sale, so we do not know the exact price. But the ranking on the highest sale list suggest it sold for €900.

EBAY FRANCE

Top prices on eBay France were for the usual speculative items. The 14th highest price was for an interesting Russian City Bond, the second 5% loan of the **City of Poltava** (now in Ukraine), issued in 1903 for 500 roubles. Drumm & Henseler lists this bond as number SU-T-2131b, rating 10. It sold for €259.76 after 15 bids from five bidders (#331551115401).

DWA LIVE

Internet, April 2 & July 2

Each of these online sales offered twice as many lots (upwards of 1,800) as in the January auction.

In both cases around 60%-70% of the lots were German, 10% US plus a modest number of Russian lots and UK lots. Around 40% of the lots were sold. The total of the hammer prices in April was €48,923 and in July €45,971.

Start prices were mainly in the 2- and low 3-digit € range. In April there was no offer over €1,000 and in July just one which remained unsold at €1,500: **Russian Company for Powder Production**, St Petersburg 1884, share for 500 roubles. Only a few pieces were offered at or above €500, and most were unsold.

In April a **Bremer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinen-fabrik** 1,000-mark share, 1896, sold at €650 (€600 start price). An **Erste Bamberger Export-Bierbrauerei Frankenbräu**, 1,000-mark founder share, 1885, a Reichsbank hoard piece, was offered at €400 and reached €550.

In the July after-sale **Maschinenbau-AG vormals Starke & Hoffmann**, Hirschberg in Silesia, 1895, 1,000-mark founder share, again a Reichsbank hoard piece, was sold at its €700 start price. The second highest price in July, at €500 start price, was realized by **Bürger Ressource Gesellschaft**, Hof, 1804, 25-guilder share. This is the oldest available share certificate in the German language.

The highest US sale at €380, from €200 start price, was a **New London Northern Railroad** share 1863.

From the UK a Millwall Iron Works, Ship Building & Graving Docks Co share, 1864, was offered at €60 and sold for €110. These sell on eBay regularly at £5-£15

A share from the Reichsbank hoard, Bremer Vulkan Shipbuilders, 1896, sold for €650

HOLABIRD

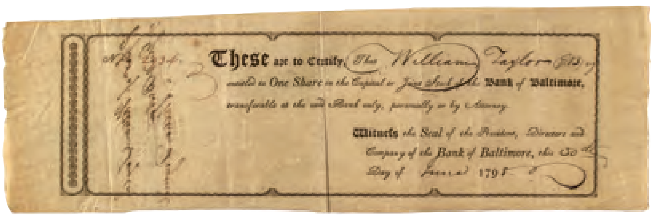
Reno NV, April 10-21

It is hard to imagine that Holabird could find even more scripophily than in his last sale in December, but he did – 646 lots. 587 of these sold for a sell rate of 91%, compared to 65% last time. This remarkably high sell rate resulted from letting the market decide the price, rather than trying to strong-arm buyers into compliance with auctioneer/consignor fantasies. Many multiple item lots went for less than a dollar a certificate. While the sale was noticeably short on high priced Territorial rarities and exotic autographs, it was a bonanza for locality collectors and dealers. The total realized was $35,072.

High priced shares were a **Black Hawk Mining Co** at $425 and an 1870 **Wells Fargo Co** certificate for $600 despite *not* being signed by Wells and Fargo. Perhaps responsible was that the shareholder was Wm H Hutchinson, a bottle maker well known to the bottle collectors who frequent the Holabird sales.

A sporting certificate is unusual in a Holabird sale. This one in the Seattle Rainier Baseball Club was signed by Emil Sick, a brewing entrepreneur, making this piece a collector double play for $350

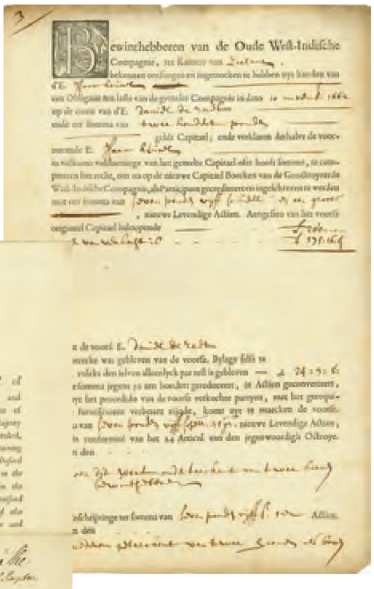
James C Flood was a San Francisco stock broker and one of the 'Big Bonanza' quartet of the Comstock Lode. His signature on any stock certificate is a special treat, and according to the auctioneer this Gould & Curry Mining Co certificate is only the second Nevada document with his signature - $1,600



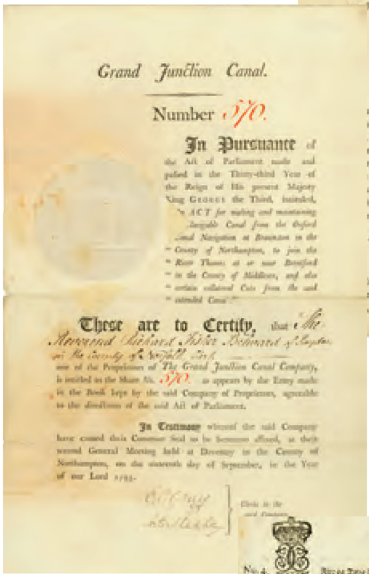
Surely the earliest stock to ever appear in a Holabird sale was this 1798 Bank of Baltimore share, an astonishing bargain at $400 even though not in best condition

HWPH

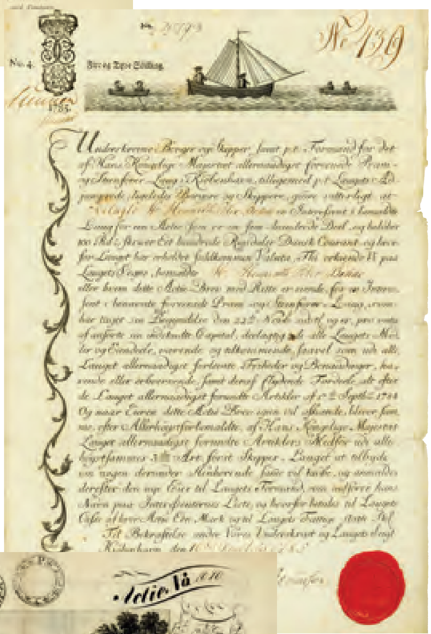
Würzburg, April 18 (room) & 20 (online)



Receipt dated 1662 for a bond of the first Dutch West Indies Company, founded 1621, bid up to €7,000



A rare 1793 founder share in the Grand Junction Canal, now part of the Grand Union, sold at its €1,000 (£720) start price



A share from Copenhagen, 1785, of the 'United Bargees Guild', a company that retrieved rocks from the sea bed, sold at €4,200

This fine 1836 share in the AG des Pilsner Badhauses, only five known, showing the public baths in Pilsen, fetched €1,300

Volkswagen certificate for 3 million shares (!!!) totalling DM150 million, specimen 1978, offered at €600 sold at €825, a very high price for a DM certificate

The room auction contained 782 scripophily lots and the online auction 1,327 lots. The total scripophily sales came to €187,574 (£135,500/$202,750) for the room event and €46,388 in the online sale. Again the 50 Highlights of the room auction were presented in a separate catalogue in German and Russian for the Russian lots, and German and English for the rest, and a hardback edition was published at €29 as a souvenir. For the first time 43 lots of paper money were included in the auction, which did very well (30 sold) and will be continued in future auctions. Apparently one reason for this is to distribute the scripophily catalogues to a broader audience in the paper money market.

The total hammer price of the Highlights was almost €79,000 at an average of €1,600. This part was really fun to watch with bids coming in on two phones, through the internet and from the room, combined with a heavy book of mailbids. Only seven did not sell. The highest sale of the auction at €7,000 was a 1662 **Oude West-Indische Compagnie** receipt for a bond with nominal value of 200 guilder, from €5,000 start price. Two linked certificates (*coupon divis* and *coupon indivis*) for a land share in Castorland ('Beaver Colony'), a French settlement by the **Compagnie de New Yorck**, 1793, rose from €3,000 to €4,900. A share of 100 riksdaler, from Copenhagen, 1785, **Det Foreende Pram-op Steenforer Laug** (United Bargees Guild), not seen by the auctioneer before, offered at €4,000, sold at €4,200. Unsold was a **Balkies Limited** transfer of 50 Ordinary shares, 1922, with the autograph (twice) of the British King George V's wife ***Queen Mary***.

An **Aktiengesellschaft Union Vereinigte Zündholz- & Wichse-fabriken** (United Match & Shoe Polish Co) 8% debenture, 200 gold marks, Augsburg 1925, sold at its start price €1,000. A **Teltower Kanalterrain Aktien-Gesellschaft**, founder share, 2,000 marks, 1905, offered at €800, was sold at €1,700. A regional section from southern Germany found some interest, Germany before 1948 felt a little sleepy in the room, DM scripophily did much better.

Asia and America were disappointing, Europe was mixed. An 1832 share of the first bank in Australia, the **Bank of New South Wales**, fetched €1,850 from a €1,500 start.

A so-called **Bank of China** share, 1,000 yuan, 1912, start price €5,000, said to be the oldest share issue of the Bank of China, was withdrawn from the auction because the entire 'issue' was a hoax. The same went for a **Hunan Porcelain Trading Co** share, 500 silver yuan, 1908.

A group dinner was organized after the auction in a nearby authentic Franconian restaurant. There was no bourse with the auction this time.

ARCHIVES INTERNATIONAL

Fort Lee NJ, May 7

599 out of 814 lots were scripophily, and they brought $60,420 on the hammer (£39,700/€53,500). 313 sold for a rate of 52%. About a third were sold to live internet bidders.

The top lot was an 1876 **Standard Oil Co** share with ***J D Rockefeller*** and ***Henry Flagler*** signing, $2,400. The sales price here was reasonable - these brought much higher prices in the late 1990s. The second highest lot was a **Standard Oil Trust** share, same signatures, hammered at $1,100.

Mining bonds are quite unusual because the industry was considered too speculative to pay periodic interest, but the Alaska Gold Co issued this 1888-dated bond (very early for Alaska mining, which did not really blossom until the Klondyke rush a decade later). According to the auctioneer 'this is the first time offered at auction and comes from an old English estate' - $850

An American Bank Note Co specimen 1901 bond of the Puerto Rico **Mayaguez Electric Co** brought over twice its high estimate at $525. Also bringing over estimate at $525 was a **Republic of Venezuela** 6% Sterling Loan of 1862, proving that at one point Venezuela was creditworthy. Almost all the rest of the lots in the sale, including many beautiful and unusual specimens, brought collector-friendly prices of less than $500 each. A **Justin Projectile Co** specimen share with naval battle scene vignette did not sell on a $400-$800 estimate. 21 out of 27 lots of Texas rails from the John Martin collection sold, most at or below estimates.

Prices realized in Archives International's June 25 sale in New York City were not available as we go to press.

SPINK

London, May 29

Similar in tone to their November sale, Spink presented 625 lots and sold 74% for £153,535 (€217,000/$238,000). Again the Chinese did best with 111 sold out of 129 lots (86%), an even bigger section than the British Isles where 104 of 120 lots (87%) found buyers.

The British section included 44 railway companies and one of these achieved the highest British price at £3,500 – a **Blaydon, Gateshead & Hebburn Rail Way Co** share issued in 1835 on vellum, one of half a dozen or so known. Another attractive and very rare vellum share from England's North East, the **Newcastle upon Tyne & Carlisle Rail Way** Co, 1857, printed in blue with two vignettes, and with a wafer seal, the only example known, sold for £800. Unusual British shares included the **Carnival Cigarette Co**, 1924, at £130 and **Tattersall's (of New York) Ltd**, again at £130, both vignetted. A rare 1811 **£1,000 Exchequer Bill** sold above estimate at £1,100. A £100 denomination had sold for £270 in the November sale.

The sale's highest price for a single-piece lot, £9,500, went to a 1934 $5,000 bearer bond of the **City Government of Greater Shanghai** printed in English. This price was well over double the upper estimate. Shanghai again scored with the second-highest piece, not surprisingly in English, the **Shanghai Cricket Club**, at £5,800, again more than twice the top estimate. Only two of this 1934 debenture are known to the auctioneer. A long run of 31 lots of the **1913 Reorganisation Gold Loan**, a well known speculation item, contained over 450 pieces in all. More than 400 of these were sold, at average prices around £30-£50 apiece for the £20 denomination, £130-£150 for the £100. One of only three known unissued £100 bonds sold for its low-estimate £1,200.

Amongst Russians, 35 out of 51 found buyers. These included sixteen of the **1822 5% Rothschild Loan** spread over eight lots, some in the poor taped condition often seen in this issue. The scarcest denomination, £518, sold at £65-£200, while the more common £111 and £148 made only £80-£95 or were not sold.

Only seven US lots were offered and five sold, including two **£1,000 Confederate Cotton Loans**, hammered for £350 each ($540). A vignetted share with coupons in the **Venezuela Company**, which intended to raise $80 million to resettle Confederate families after the Civil War but quickly failed, issued in London in 1869, was sold for £160.

Shanghai cricket pavilion is shown on this 1934 debenture which was batted up to £5,800

Toys and games by the illustrator Albertilus were manufactured by this French company whose 1922 share sold for £70

A City of Nagasaki Harbour Loan of 1897 at £1,200 led a nice section of twenty Japanese lots - all sold

A fine vignette of gravity-driven staithes for loading coal on the River Tyne features on this 1835 railway company share, sold for £3,500

FHW

Berlin, May 30

The spacious facilities of the Berliner Volksbank (Cooperative Bank) were again the relaxing and over the years well-liked location for the bi-annual Berlin auction of FHW. As on the day before in London (Spink), fewer visitors than usual attended the auction: about forty people in the venue and twenty with a paddle number. The sales though were as good as ever. The total on the hammer came to €197,256 (£142,000/ $217,000) from 838 lots sold out of 1,740 offered. Twenty pieces sold for €1,000 or more, 13 from Germany and 4 from USA.

The only two pieces selling for €10,000 or more were of German origin: a very rare **Zoo Breslau Thaler share** from 1865 (€10,000, start price €8,500) and the oldest share from **Dresdner Bank** (€11,000, start price €10,000). In the pre-war Germany section some four-digit pieces remained unsold. But for railways, breweries or known names like **AEG** or **Siemens** the hammer mostly fell on a sale. Also on an 18th century mining share **Neue Hoffnung Gottes ('God's New Hope'**), 1777, started at €2,400 and sold for €3,000.

Only eleven lots from Great Britain were offered, but with seven sold the country performed better than the sale as a whole and beat most other regions in the catalogue. An 1808 £50 share on vellum in the **Kent Life & Annuity Assurance Office** made its €400 start. A **Tottenham Hotspur plc** 1983 share also sold for its start price, €50.

As usual, US lots drew moderate to little attention. Several railroad pieces of some importance or rarity sold well though, such as a **Death Valley Railroad** £100 bond at its €1,200 start price, plus two more bonds with hammer prices over €1,000. A **Northwest Equipment Company of Minnesota** 500 shares piece from 1889 signed by ***John D Rockefeller*** went up from €1,400 to €2,400 ($2,600).

China was predictably sought after, apart from two 1919 orange **Gold Treasury Notes** (predecessor of the Pacific Development Loan) which remained unsold at €2,000 start price each. Also some Brazilian state loans could not move anybody. A series of over 450 lots from many countries and themes – unsolds from previous auctions – was offered at halved start prices, and 50% sold.

As is often the case in Germany, some of the higher hammer prices were sugar related (**Zucker-Fabrik zu Algermissen,** €8,500 from €5,000 start, and two other sugar certificates reached €1,500 and €2,200). But an interesting 'sugar' piece from the **Danske West-Indiske og Guineiske Compagnie**, shares of 1,000 riksdaler courant, 1733, concerning the Caribbean island of St Croix where the Danish grew sugar cane, could not find a new owner at a start price of €9,800.

The DM (Deutsche Mark) section was well bid on the book and in the room, a strong trend now for years in Germany. New on this market was a **Dortmunder Union Brauerei** certificate representing 1,000 shares for DM50 each. It stepped up from €380 to a hammer price of €1,050.

The last part of the auction was dedicated to the liquidation of a huge electricity collection. Despite halved start prices the majority of lots could not find any bidders, but at least an early **Siemens & Halske** share with the renowned artwork by Sütterlin found a buyer at €1,000 from €750 start.

A Northwest Equipment Company of Minnesota share, 1889, signed by John D Rockefeller was sold for €2,400 ($2,600)

A share ('kux') issued in 1777 in 'God's New Hope' mine, Freyburg, sold for €3,000

A very rare Breslau Zoo share, 1865, sold for €10,000

A Jesse Boot autographed Boot's Pure Drug Co 'C' Preference share from 1901 sold for €255. This was before the company lost its apostrophe

An 1808 £50 share on vellum in the Kent Life & Annuity Assurance Office made its €400 start (£290)

£100 bond of the Death Valley Railroad, California, 1914, sold for its €1,200 start price. Curiously the bond in the catalogue and here is #810 but the piece sold was #822

GUTOWSKI

Mailbid, July 20

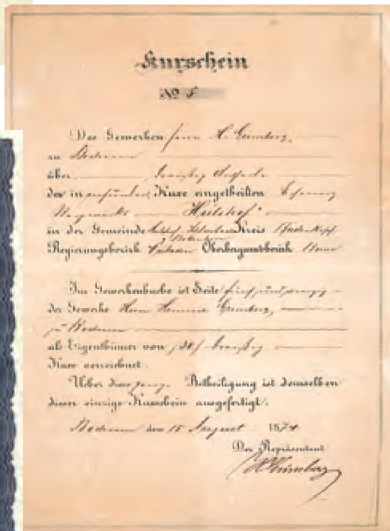
The catalogue contained 1,216 lots, all indicating an 'estimate of value' and a considerably lower start price. 62% were sold. The majority of the lots were German (83%). The quality and the total hammer price are quite remarkable for a mailbid auction: above €110,000 (£77,000/$120,000).

Seventy US lots were offered, among them the auction's highest sale, a **Silesian-American Corporation** 7% gold bond, $500, New York 1926, start price €2,000 and valued at €5,000, sold for €6,500 ($7,100). The well known **Universal Aerial Navigation Co** 100 shares $5 each, Arizona 1911, sold at €800 (€500 start price).

Of the thirteen Swedish pieces offered, ten were at valuations of €1,000 or above, including the auction's highest at €15,000, **Stone Coal Mine King Gustaf IV Adolph**, share 500 riksdaler, 1805, with attractive coloured vignette. It sold at €4,500 start price. An **ASEA Russian Electrotechnical Co** share, 100 roubles, Petrograd 1917, start price €3,000, went for €3,350. Two lots each of 18 **Chinese Government Loan (Skoda Loan II)** 8%, 1925, rose well above start price, the $1,000 denominations at €5,800 (€4,500 start), the $500s at €2,900 (€1,650 start).

In the German section an **Eisenerz Bergwerk Hülshof** ('Iron Ore Mine Hülshof'), kuxschein of 30 kuxe (mining share certificate of 30 shares), Bochum 1874, part printed, issued to and signed by ***Heinrich Grimberg*** (a well known and important German mining entrepreneur of the 19th century), start price €450, valuation €3,000, made €3,300. A **Deutsche Festspiel Stiftung** patronatsschein (patron's certificate for the Richard Wagner Festival), 1,100 marks, Bayreuth 1922, was bid to €1,400 from €1,000 start price.

This 1,100-mark patronage certificate for the Richard Wagner Festival at Bayreuth sold at €1,400



From a start price of €450 a part printed mining share in the Eisenerz Bergwerk Hülshof reached €3,300

A Silesian-American Corporation gold bond of 1926 took the auction's highest price: €6,500

YANGMING

Shanghai, June 27

This, the third Yangming sale we have reported, was not quite as large in turnover as the others, with 1,349 lots realising ¥3,020,150 (£309,000/€436,000/$487,000). 997 lots were sold. The star was a 1928 50-shares in the **Shanghai Securities & Commodities Exchange Co** at ¥200,000 (£20,450), almost twice its price in Yangming's December sale. A 1923 100-shares in the same company sold at its ¥180,000 start, the same price as in December.

The next two highest prices went to banks: ¥80,000 for a 1934 **Kwangsi Bank** 10-yuan share and ¥78,000 for **Chekiang Commercial & Savings Bank** 1,000 shares 1948. A 1920 founders share in the **Banque Sino-Française** hit ¥45,000 from a ¥10,000 start. An interesting exception to the general rule that financial companies do best in China was the ¥45,000 paid for a 1943 5-shares in the **Chung Hua Book Co**, in not very good condition (started at ¥35,000).

As many as 34 other single-piece lots sold for ¥10,000 or more. A certificate for $20 shares in **Le Champs de Course Français** in French with an underprint of greyhounds, issued in Shanghai 1947, was sold at its ¥10,000 start. Not everything was wanted though. For example, **Eastern Land & Estate Co** 1907 10 shares, partly in English, had a start price of ¥100,000 and was not bid for. Even a share in the much wanted **Bank of China** (1915, 1 share) was unsold at ¥20,000, although higher denominations of the same issue were sold for ¥35,000 (5 shares) and ¥16,000 (10 shares), both above the start prices.

An unissued warrant printed by Waterlow in 1925 for 10 Class A shares of 100 Mexican dollars in the British-American (China) Tobacco Securities Co, Hong Kong. Sold at its ¥7,000 start price (£715)

Specimen Anglo-French warrant #C0000 for 100 £1 shares in the Shanghai Electric Construction Co with a streetcar vignette, sold for its ¥3,000 start price

This 1928 50-share certificate in the Shanghai Securities & Commodities Exchange Co realised ¥200,000


PUGET SOUND AND ALASKA
Steamship
Company
SHARES $100 EACH


Knotty Ash Brewery
The Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank Limited
Midland Bank Limited

SCRIPOSALE

Kürnbach, July 18

The second Scriposale auction, by Volker Malik, was held in association with EDHAC's 40th anniversary celebration. Around 25-something paddles were issued to bidders from Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The total sale on the hammer was slightly above €20,000 with 278 lots out of 919 sold. Though most lots were from Germany, with the traditional focus on South-Western Germany, 165 lots came from the US including the best items.

Most lots were catalogued in the low to medium 2-digits € range with some 3-digit pieces up to €500. Only one lot was offered higher, at €800: **Standard Oil Trust** 1,000 shares, 1882, issued to and signed by ***John D Rockefeller***, with ***Henry M Flagler*** and ***Jabez A Bostwick*** autographs as treasurers, sold to the telephone at €3,300 ($3,570), a very high price because John D signed three times. The second highest sale, at €500 start price, was a **Pennsylvania New York Central Transportation Co** 100 shares $10 each, 1968, issued to and signed on the back by ***John H Slade*** of **Bear Stearns**.

Of the thirty lots from Britain the highest sale was a 1999 **British Airways** certificate of seven shares at €110 (€40 start price).

EVENTS CALENDAR

Most of the event organisers can be contacted via their details in the 2015 Membership Directory and/or their ads in this issue. It is advisable to check dates with the organisers before attending as dates are sometimes changed at short notice.

September

1 IBSS Monthly London Meeting, 6 p.m. Spink London Office
5 * London Coins Auction, Bracknell
19 Raab/Kürle Auction, Gelnhausen
19 * Papierania Auction, Monschau www.papierania.de
23-24 * Paper Money Fair, Maastricht www.papermoney-maastricht.eu
24-25 * Spink Numismatic Collectors Series Auction, NY
24-27 * Holabird Western Americana Collections Auction, Reno NV

October

2 IBSS Mailbid Auction
3 FHW Auction, Frankfurt
6 IBSS Monthly London Meeting, 6 p.m. Spink London Office
17 Portafoglio Storico Auction, Bologna
17 HWPH Auction, Wiesbaden
22-24 * 5th Wall Street Collectors Bourse, New York City
24 * Archives International Auction at the 5th Wall Street Bourse, New York City
25 * Papierania Bourse, Aachen www.papierania.de
30-31 Boone Auction, Brussels

November

1 IBSS Breakfast & Boone Bourse, NH Hotel Carrefour de l'Europe, Brussels
3 IBSS Monthly London Meeting, 6 p.m. Spink Office
4 DWA Online Auction
10-11 * Downies Auction, Melbourne
14 * Spink Numismatics Collector's Series Auction, Hong Kong
16 Gutowski Mailbid Auction
19 * Bonhams Auction, London
20 Spink Auction, London
21 IBSS Bourse, London

December

5 * London Coins Auction, Bracknell
12-13 * Holabird Western Americana Collections Auction, Reno NV

January 2016

7 DWA Online Auction
25 Gutowski Mailbid Auction
29-30 National Stock Certificate & Bond Show, Herndon, VA rsschell@msn.com
30 IBSS Breakfast, Herndon, VA

* Scripophily with paper money, coins or other collectables.

INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

LONDON BOURSE

Saturday 21st November 2015

Bourse Hours 10.30 am to 4.00 pm (Dealer set-up 10.00 am)

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There will be a small charge of £40 for tables (£75 for a double)
To book please contact either
Mike Veissid (mveissid@spink.com) or
Andrew Litherland (auctions@scripophily.org)

Further details are given in the News section of this Journal.