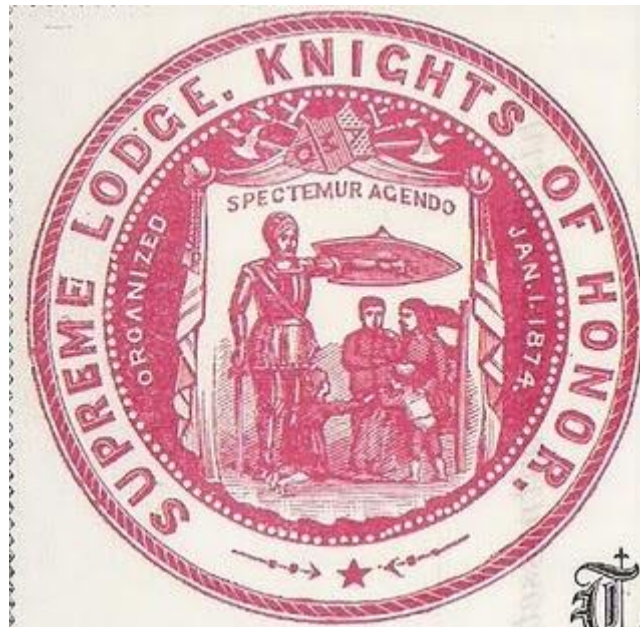


Franky's Scripophily BlogSpot

DEC 22, 2010

Knights of Honor

This amazing red seal is one of the most beautiful and early examples of a printed seal on certificates. It has a diameter of almost 6 cm. The seal appears on a benefit certificate of the *Supreme Lodge Knights of Honor* and depicts a knight shielding a widow and her children against further misfortune. The Latin motto of this masonic organisation says *Spectemur Agendo*, meaning *Let us be judged by our acts*.



This unissued benefit certificate of the *Supreme Lodge Knights of Honor*, dated in the 1880s, has a nominal value of 2000 Dollars. At that time, not everyone could contribute such a large amount on charity.



Supreme Lodge Knights of Honor
organized Jan 1874

The *Knights of Honor* were organized in the early 1870s with the purpose of taking care for the sick and pay sums of money to the heirs of deceased members. In the following decades more than 1000 subordinate lodges were formed in the US. During the yellow fever epidemics in the 1870s and 1880s, large sums of money were paid out by the order to sufferers outside of the organization. According to [this source on Wikipedia](#), the organization paid out almost 100,000,000 Dollars in benefits up to 1910.

F.L.

P.S.

You can read more about seals in my article *Seal Stories* (click).

More about masonic organizations and related scripophily, can be found in [In the Name of the Great Architect of the Universe](#).

Sensation at 5 Centimes in Le Petit Journal

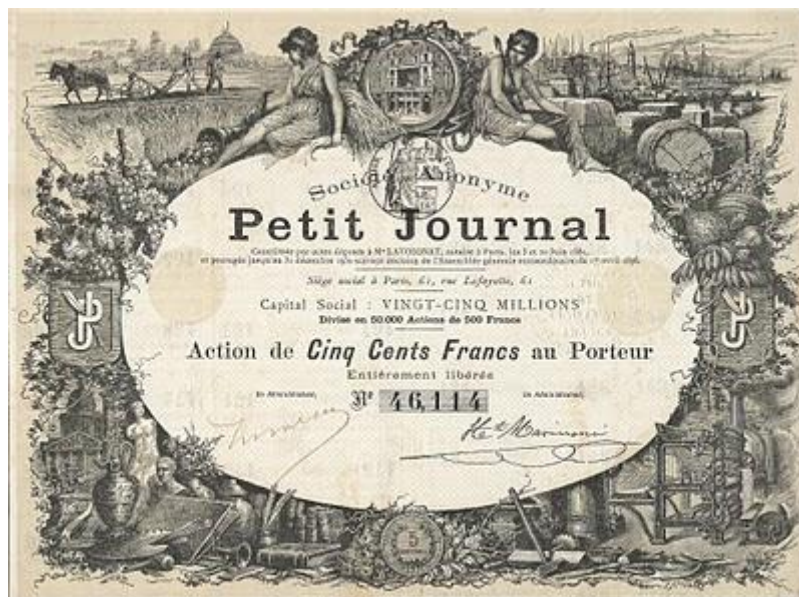
The 1896 share certificate of the newspaper *Le Petit Journal* shows a *sou* in the lower border. France counted about 40 million people around that time. In that single year more than 6 million pieces of this 5 Centimes coin were minted. Being in circulation all over France for decades and representing a little value, this *sou* just seemed to be an unimportant and common coin. However, the French people used it to buy a newspaper that brought the world into their lives.



The *sou*, or 5 Centimes coin

Millaud

Moïse Polydore Millaud would revolutionize the newspaper business when forming *Le Petit Journal*. This newspaper, with its offices at the Paris Opera, was published from 1863 to 1944. Right from the beginning, Millaud's main objective was achieving a circulation as high as possible. By 1877 the circulation was increased to 500.000. A weekly illustrated supplement was included in 1884.



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,
but also twice in the underprint (click image for more details).*

Sensation and clever marketing

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 the 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.



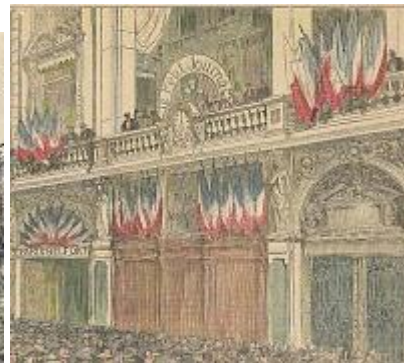
The illustrated supplement of Sep 6th 1896

source : Gallica, the digital library of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France

In 1887 Marinoni assigned Pierre Giffard the task for reorganizing the newsroom. Giffard introduced a successful diary under the pseudonym Jean-sans-Terre. Giffard was also the man who started organizing public 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

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



The entry of the offices of Le Petit Journal depicted in the upper border of the certificate (left) and on the frontpage of the Illustrated Supplement of June 18th 1892 (right).

[Click to enlarge](#)

5 Centimes

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. By setting its price to 5 Centimes, he made *Le Petit Journal* affordable to a nationwide audience.



In fact, the price setting was a key factor in the marketing strategy. The sou was incorporated in the share design of Le Petit Journal. Between 1871 and 1898 almost 73 million pieces of this coin were struck, including all varieties.



Obverse : head of Cérès, REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
Reverse: 5 CENTIMES, LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE

The coin was designed by Eugène Oudiné (1810-1887). Oudiné was a French sculptor and one of the best known engravers of medals and coins. In 1831 he won the grand prize for medal engraving and became designer at the French Mint. He also engraved coins for other countries like Argentina.

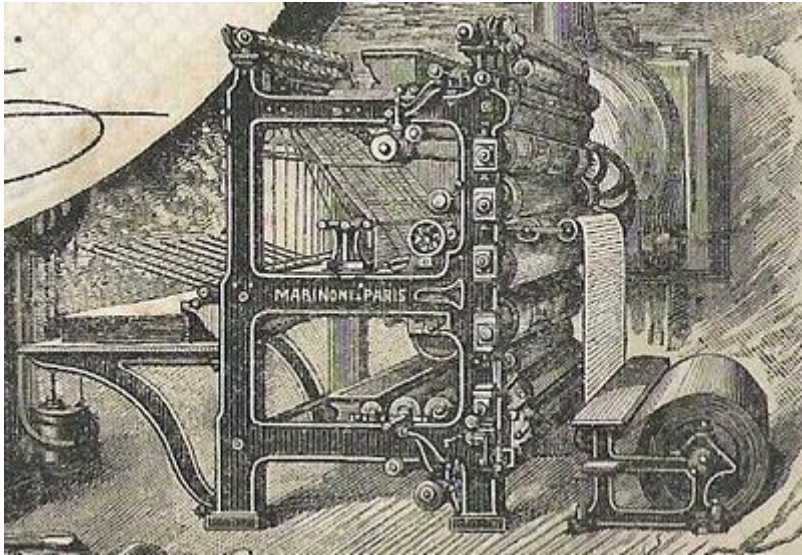
Innovation

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



facsimilé signature of Hippolyte Marinoni

His career starts at Gaveaux, a manufacturer of typographical machines. In 1847 Marinoni constructs a press with 2 cylinders and 3 years later he assists Jacob Worms, a German immigrant, with the development of a rotary press. Marinoni starts his own business and constructs a lithography machine. In 1860 he helps Etienne Lenoir developing the Lenoir gas engine. Six years later, Marinoni patents a rotary printing press in which the images to be printed are curved around a cylinder. In 1872 his rotation press is installed at the newspaper *La Liberté*, the first rotation press in France. After that , five of these are installed at *Le Petit Journal*. Marinoni sees the importance of color printing. In 1889 he develops a color rotation press.



Marinoni rotation press

Pioneer

By bringing sensational news, applying clever customer binding techniques, and a newspaper that could be sold 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 lovely 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. If you would know of any previously issued certificates of this company, please tell me in the comments below.

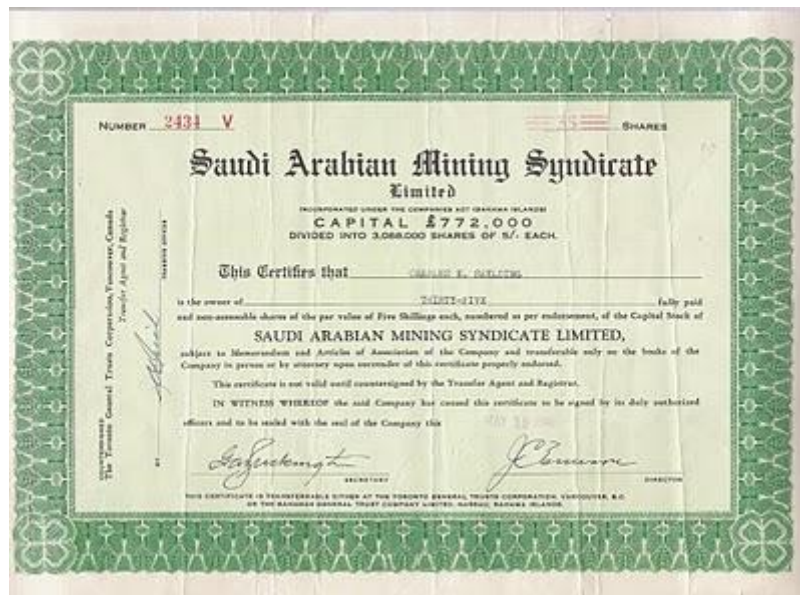
F.L.

Some links:

- The [Numista entry for the 'Ceres' 5 Centimes coin](#), gives more details on the mintage over the years.
- Wikipedia gives more detail on the [coin engraver Oudiné](#).
- This [online book, *Murder in Parisian Streets - Manufacturing Crime and Justice in the Popular Press, 1830-1900*, by Thomas Cragin](#), contains some interesting paragraphs on the role of *Le Petit Journal* in early journalism.
- Every issue of *Le Petit Journal* from 1863 to 1939, is online viewable [in this section of Gallica](#), the digital library of the BnF. And all issues of *Le Petit Journal illustré* from 1884 to 1920, are online viewable in [this section of Gallica](#)

Mahd adh Dhahab, King Solomon's Cradle of Gold

The Mahd adh Dhahab is a leading gold mining area in the Arabian Peninsula. It is located in the Al Madina province of the Hejaz region of Saudi Arabia.



1948 stock certificate of the *Saudi Arabian Mining Syndicate* incorporated in the Bahamas

In 1931, King Abdul Aziz assigned the American geologist K.S. Twitchell the task to investigate the presence of oil and minerals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Twitchell found oil in the Eastern Province, but also gold in the Hijaz Region in 1932.



location of *Mahd adh Dhahab*
[click to enlarge](#)

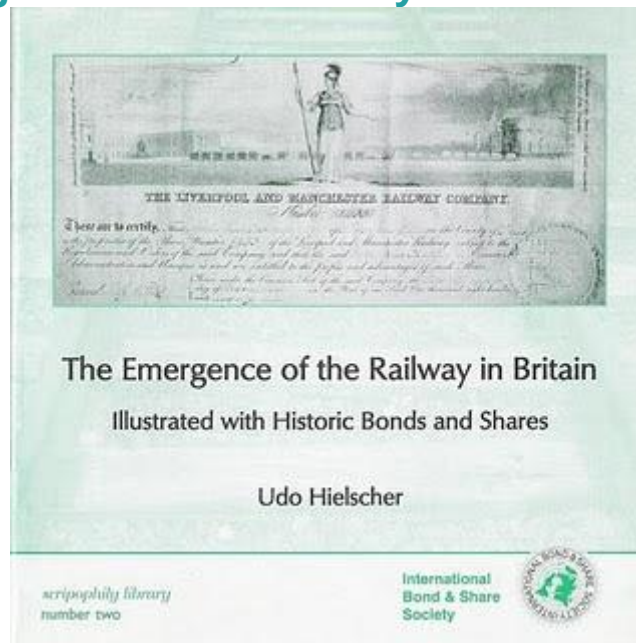
The Arabian government and the *American Smelting and Refining Company* formed in 1935 the *Saudi Arabian Mining Syndicate* for the operation of the Mahd ad Dhahab gold mine . Activities began in 1936. Mining started from below ancient workings as well as from an open cut and from old surface dumps.

Later archeological studies of the mine revealed that from this area gold, silver and copper were dugged during the reign of King Solomon (961-922 B.C.). Mahd adh Dhabab means actually “Cradle of Gold”. During King Solomon's period, probably thousands of people digged in forced labor an extensive ancient mine.

Today, the gold mining is run by the *Saudi Arabian Mining Company*.

Few scripophily is seen from Saudi Arabia, so if you could report any additions that would be interesting.
F.L.

Book : The Emergence of the Railway in Britain



- Title : The Emergence of the Railway in Britain, Scripophily Library Nr. 2
- Authors : Udo Hielscher
- ID: ISBN 0-9511250-4-4, published by [International Bond & Share Society](#), 2001
- Languages : English
- Number of pages : 32
- Images : black and white, almost on every page and often more than 1 per page
- Indexes : 1. bibliography, 2. index on company names

This booklet describes the early railway history of Great Britain. Illustrated with early certificates from railway, canal and even turnpike companies.

Chapters

1. The technical, demographic and financial background
2. Developments in antiquity
3. Britain's transport before the railways
4. The technological revolution
5. The role of the Stockton and Darlington railway
6. The Liverpool and Manchester railway
7. The growth of the nationwide railway system
8. British railway scripophily

I will occasionally briefly describe a reference book or catalogue in my postings.

Ilha Formosa

With more than 165 mountains over 3000 metres above sea level, Taiwan is one of the most mountainous islands. In the 16th century, the Portuguese named the island "Ilha Formosa", meaning "Beautiful Island". Most of Taiwan's population lives in the plains in the west.



Red seals on the left, a Japanese style embossed seal at right upper corner
click image for details

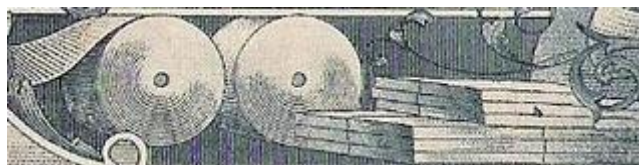
This Japanese 500 Yen share certificate from the *Taiwan Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha* (Tawain Industries Co), dated 1940, depicts the island of Taiwan in the delicate underprint (see detail below). The borders show images of rolls and leaves, which suggests the company might have been a producer of paper.



This NASA pictures was taken on December 15, 2002.
The form of the island is often referred to as the Sweet Potato.

After the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895, Taiwan was ceded to Japan by the Qing court. At the end of World War II, Japan renounced all claims over its former colony Taiwan. After that, Taiwan quickly developed into an industrialized country and has become known as one of the *Four Asian Tigers*.

F.L.



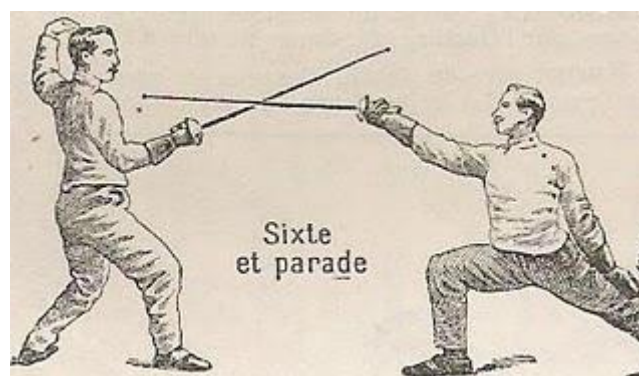
Fencing in Soerabaya

Fencing is a very uncommon topic in scripophily. This share was issued in 1897 for the establishment of a gymnastics and fencing school in Soerabaya, now the capital of the province of East Java. Under Dutch colonial government, Soerabaya became a major trading center, competing with Singapore, and hosted the largest naval base in the Dutch East Indies.



Maatschappij tot exploitatie van een gebouw ingericht voor gymnastiek en scherschool
English: Company for the exploitation of a building fitted for a gymnastics and fencing school

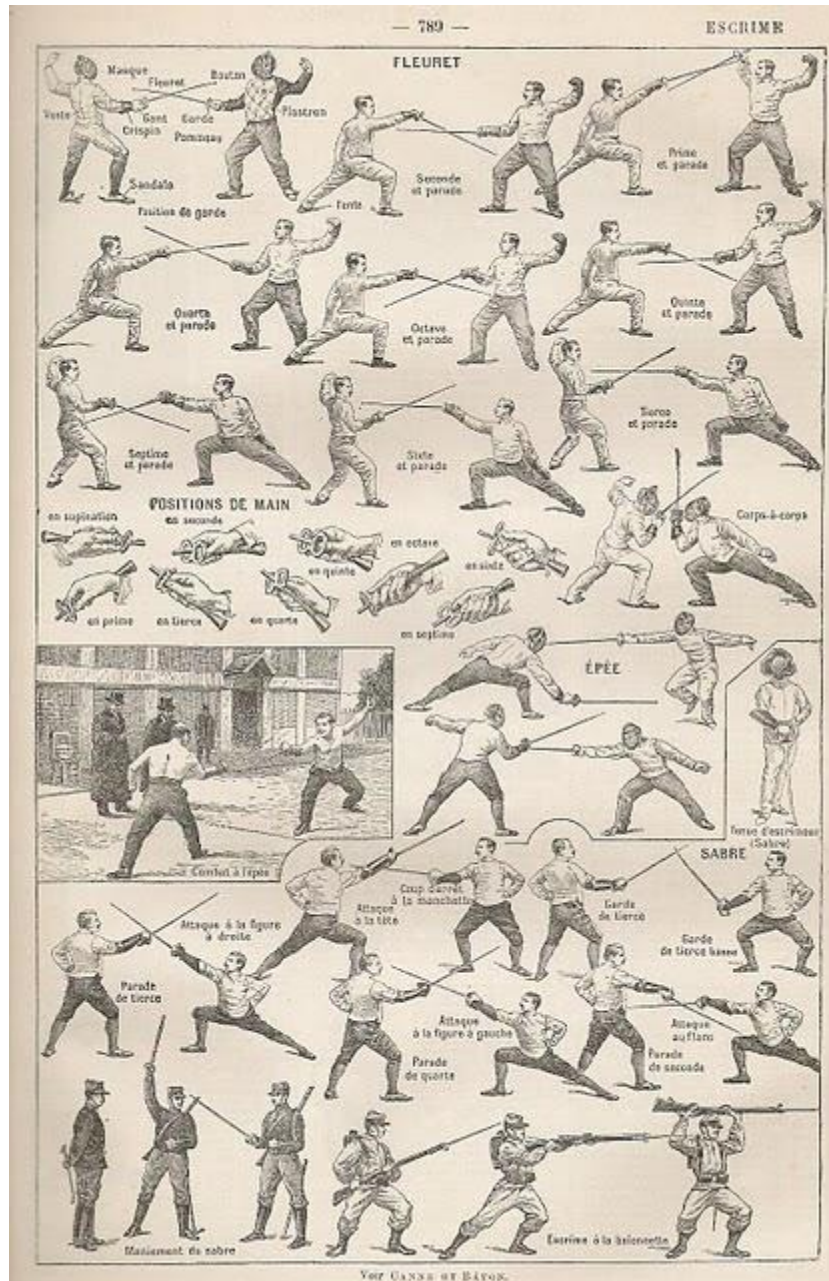
Modern fencing evolved from the methods taught at the *Ecole Française d'Escrime*, founded in 1567. This explains also the origins of the french fencing terminology still in use. Fencing has been featured at every one of the modern Olympic Games since 1896. The organization of world cup competitions and Olympic fencing is the responsibility of the french *Fédération Internationale d'Escrime*, founded in 1913.



There are several disciplines in fencing depending on the weapon that is used. Each discipline has different valid targets on the fencer's body. A short overview :

- Foil
 - french: fleuret
 - a light thrusting weapon
 - valid target : the torso, the chest, shoulders, and back
 - Originally fencers used to blunt the weapon's point by wrapping a foil around the blade or fastening a knob on the point .
- Épée
 - modern version of the duelling sword but without the sharp point

- a heavy thrusting weapon, similar to a foil but with a stiffer blade
 - target area : the entire body
- Saber
 - French: sabre
 - a light cutting and thrusting weapon
 - target area is the saddle line: from one side of the hip to the other, and up, including the head
- Bayonet
 - French: baïonnette
 - a sword-shaped weapon fitting on a rifle
 - last competitions organized by armed forces took place in the 1950s



from the *Larousse Universel en 2 Volumes* 1922
(click image for more details)

Starting with épée in 1936, the electrical scoring apparatus was introduced, which indicated a touch with an audible tone and a red or green light when a touch was made. Foil was electrified in 1956, sabre in 1988. The electrified weapons have a push-button on the point of the blade, which allows hits to be registered. Fencers wear conductive (lamé) jackets covering their target area. A body cord attached to the weapon, worn inside the sleeve is attached to the scoring box.



mens sana in corpore sano
a healthy mind in a healthy body

However, when this fencing school was founded in 1897, a scoring apparatus was not in use yet. Judges were still necessary to determine whether a touch had been made. Their task was often problematic as it was very difficult to decide whether a valid touch was made or not. Furthermore, well-known or better ranked fencers were often given the benefit of mistakes.

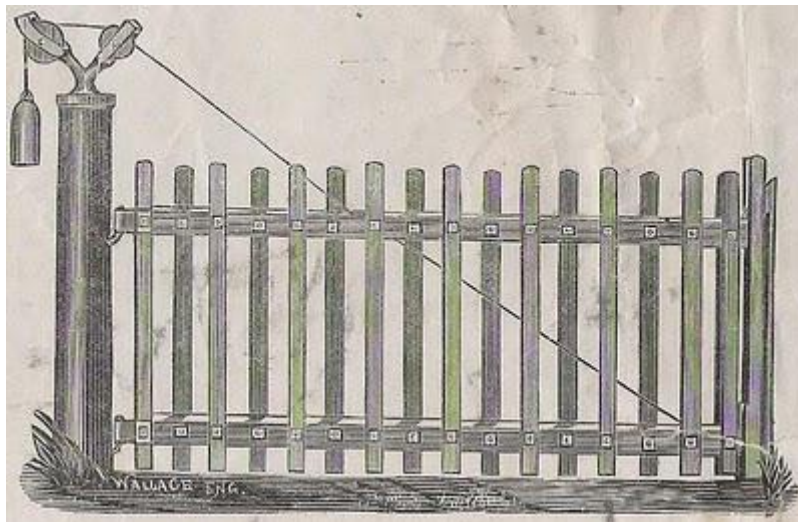
P.S. My favourite fencer is Zorro. And yours ?

F.L.

NOV 14, 2010

Uncharted - American engraver Wallace

Who can provide me some information about the American engraver *Wallace* ?
Any kind of information is fine (date of birth, other engravings, ...).



This beautiful vignette, engraved by Wallace, is one of two vignettes on a share certificate from the *Richardson's Centennial Farm Gate* company (patented Sep 5th, 1876). The share was issued in 1883 and is signed by Richardson.

Click images for more detail.



A better alternative for emailing large images



Société Minière Intercoloniale
1945, Berberati, French Equatorial Africa
rough diamond in underprint
(click image for details)

Suppose you want to email someone a high resolution scan of this certificate. Creating high resolution images of your beautiful certificates can result in large files.

However, emailing these files to others may result in the following problems :

1. Once the image is sent, your email program stores a copy in the Sent folder which becomes larger and larger.
2. The receiver may experience long download times when receiving his e-mails just at a moment where he or she probably quickly wants to get his emails.
3. The receiver might be out of the office for a few days. In that case, your images could fill up his mailbox, preventing him from not receiving any further emails.

There is a handy solution to solve this.

I use *WeTransfer*, a free Internet service, that allows you to send large files to whoever you want.

Below, I'll explain how to work with it, but actually it is more work to describe the procedure than using it. Just go to <https://www.wetransfer.com/> and try it. As a test, you could send me an image scan of one of your certificates. In return, I'll send you one back.



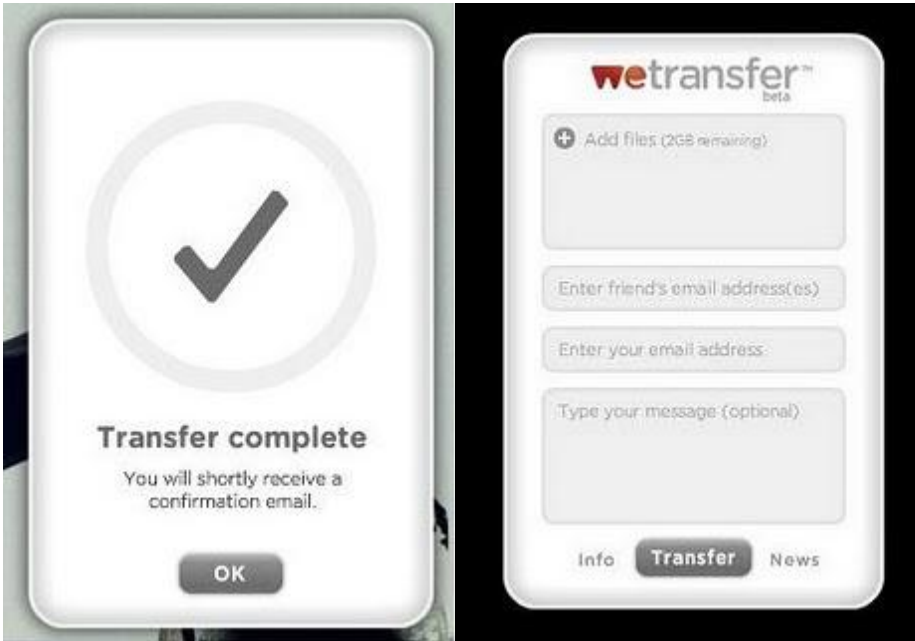
Some other features of this system:

- Files will be stored upto 2 weeks.
- Multiple files can be transferred, up to 2GB.
- Emails required for the operation will kept be as private.
- No registration required.

So, here is the procedure in detail.

These are the steps for you :

1. Open your browser and surf to <https://www.wetransfer.com/>
2. In the panel, click the "+ Add files" button and locate the file on your file system
3. Next, enter the email address of the receiver.
4. Enter your email address (so, the system can notify you when the receiver has received your file).
5. Enter an optional message for the receiver.
6. Finally click 'Transfer'. The browser will now upload your file to the *WeTransfer* server.



The following steps are done by the *WeTransfer* service and the receiver :

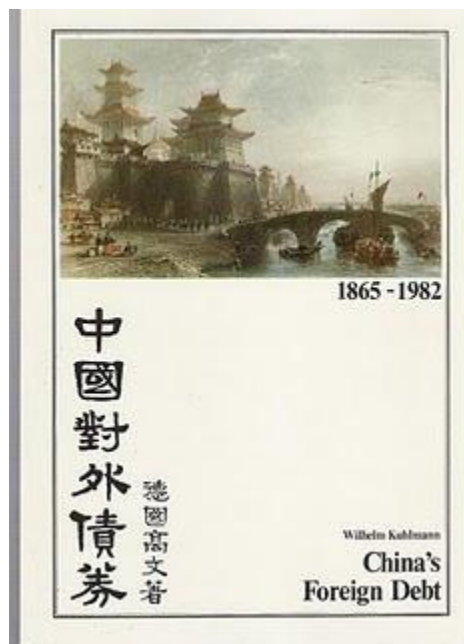
1. *WeTransfer* will send you an email that the file is uploaded.
2. *WeTransfer* will send an invitation to the receiver that he can download a file coming from you.
3. For the receiver, the only thing he needs to do is click the download button in that message, which will open his browser where he can download the file to his system.
4. When this is finished *WeTransfer* will inform you by email that your receiver succesfully downloaded your nice image.

Good luck !
F.L.

NOV 5, 2010

Reference catalogue : China's Foreign Debt 1865-1982

I will occasionally briefly describe a reference book or catalogue in my postings.



- Title : China's Foreign Debt 1865-1982 (Excluding the debt of the ROC Taiwan)
- Authors : Wilhelm Kuhlmann
- ID: ISBN 0-9610400-0-9, published by Wilhelm Kuhlmann, 1983
- Languages : English
- Number of pages : 131
- Images : mostly in black and white, a few in color, almost on every page and often more than 1 per page
- Indexes : no index, but certificates of bonds are ordered by date of issue

This catalogue describes bonds issued for financing China's debt, including development loans, debt reorganization and many railway construction loans.

F.L.

The railway, its Duke and his Queen

There are 3 reasons why this share certificate of the *Ferro-Carril de Barcelona á Sarriá* railway company is so appealing to collectors.



una acción de 100 Pesos Fuertes
1859, reissued 22th May 1866
printed by Imprenta de Narciso Ramirez in Barcelona

Early Spanish railroad

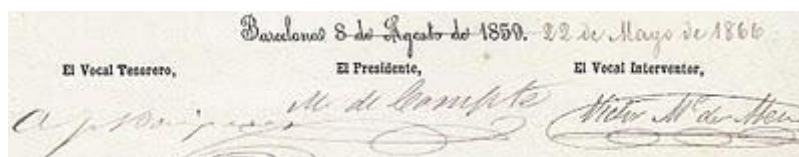
First of all, this is an early railway share for Spain, 150 years old. Railways appeared rather late in a politically instable and less economically developed Spain. The first line in Spain, opened in 1848, was a short line from Barcelona to Mataró. In the 1850s, after new laws were passed, foreign capital found its way to railway investment. In these times, Spanish railways had to be built on an unusual broad track gauge making the network incompatible with that of France and therefore hindering any French invasion. The Ferrocarril de Barcelona a Sarrià was formed in 1859. With an initial track of 4,75 km, connecting Barcelona with the communities of Gràcia, Sant Gervasi and Sarrià, the company was succesful. Some of the remarkable shareholders were the Duque of Rianzares and the playwright and diplomat Juan de Grimaldi. Due to financial difficulties , the company was absorbed in 1874 by a new company called Ferrocarrill de Sarrià a Barcelona.

Scarce

Second reason, it is scarce. Though many years of research by specialised collectors preceeded the publishing date of the Boone-Shakespeare catalogue on Spanish and Portuguese railway companies (see [here](#)), this certificate is not listed in it. The following certificates were recorded in the catalogue for the *Ferro-Carril de Barcelona á Sarriá* company :

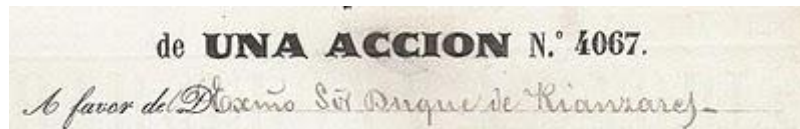
- Cat. 2420A : Accion of 100 Pesos fuertes, 1859, capital 12.000.000 Reales Vellon
- Cat. 2420B : 5 Acciones, 1859, same capital
- Cat. 2420C : Obligacion (authorised issues from 1864)

The certificate shown here is an Acción of 100 Pesos fuertes, issued in 1866 with the manually corrected date 22th May 1866.



Duque de Rianzares (Riansares)

The share is issued to the Duke of Rianzares , who had fallen in love with the queen of Spain. This is the third reason why this is an interesting share certificate.



This share is issued to Augustín Fernández Muñoz, Duke of Rianzares, 2nd husband of Maria Christina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, queen and regent of Spain. Maria Cristina was married to Ferdinand VII of Spain. Their eldest of 2 daughters was Isabella (the future Queen Isabella). Muñoz was a member of the Royal Bodyguard of Madrid and somehow attracted the attention of the queen. After the death of her husband on 29 Sep 1833, the queen became regent of Spain and she married Muñoz secretly. A year later, their first daughter Maria Amparo, Countess of Vista Alegre, was born. Several children would follow. When the marriage became publicly known, it was not accepted by a large part of the public and the political elite.



María Cristina de las Dos Sicilias
1806-1878

The early railway *Compañía de Caminos de Hierro de la Reina Cristina*, formed in 1831, was named after her, and so was the *Compañía de los Caminos de Hierro de Maria Cristina* in 1844. Both companies would not built a line.

In 1840, political troubles – the Carlist Wars - made the queen and Muñoz leave the country but she could save the throne for her daughter. In 1843, Muñoz and the queen could return to Spain. One year later, his step-daughter Queen Isabella II, by then declared to be of age, consented to her mother's marriage, which was publicly performed. Muñoz was created Duke of Rianzares and was made a Knight of the Golden Fleece. It was said that he made his fortune out of railway concessions and stock exchange speculations. Further political struggles would force the queen to leave Spain permanently.



Augustín Fernández Muñoz
Duke of Rianzares

1808 - 1873

*I would be pleased to read, in this post's comments section, any further information about this company. Ofcourse, if you once fell in love with a queen, you may share that as well .
F.L.*

Further references :

- [Reference catalogue of Bonds & Shares on Railway & Tramway companies in Spain & Portugal](#)
- *Queen Maria Cristina and Friends*, by H. Shakespeare, published in the [I.B.S.S. Journal](#), Feb 1996
- [The Story of the Duke of Rianzares](#), online article from the *New York Times*, Sep 23 1873

Financing the reconstruction of Ypres



view on Ypres, engraving from ca. 1600

In addition to the multiple sieges and occupations in the 17th and 18th century by Spanish, Dutch, Austrian and French troops, Napoleon further decided to abolish the episcopal office in the city of Ypres. Ypres became a small town with locally operating businesses. Even a connection to the railway system in the 1850s could not boost its economy. The great 13th century Cloth Hall was only a reminder of the town's important role it once played in the Middle Ages.



Engraving of the Cloth Hall, 1743

In World War I, Ypres became the scene for not less than 5 battles :

- First Battle of Ypres (Oct 19 – Nov 22, 1914)
- Second Battle of Ypres (Apr 22 – May 15, 1915)
- Battle of Passchendaele (Jul 31 – Nov 6, 1917)
- Battle of the Lys (9 - 29 Apr 1918)
- Fifth Battle of Ypres (Sep 28 – Oct 2, 1918)

Number of casualties : about a half a million.

Ypres was the first place where poison gas like chlorine and mustard gas was used on a large scale. In fact mustard gas is also known as Yperite. There are no words for describing the town of Ypres at the end of the war. Just look at the picture below.



In the center, you can distinguish the ruins of St. Martin's Cathedral and the Cloth Hall.

After the war, the British wanted to conserve the town in its destroyed status as a kind of open air commemorative place so future generations would be remembered of the inhuman situations of the war and the sacrifices made. An alternative was also the idea of establishing a "zone of silence" which would have comprised the neighbourhood of the Cloth Hall and St. Martin's cathedral. A new town was to be rebuilt around this zone.

However, the citizens of Ypres objected to these ideas. Led by the architect J. Coomans and the mayor, they wanted the town to be rebuilt as authentic as possible. And that was what finally happened.

To finance the reconstruction of many places in Belgium, 3 lottery loans were issued by the *Association of Cooperative Corporations for War Damage* (in Dutch: *Verbond der Samenwerkende Vennootschappen voor Oorlogsschade*, in French: *Fédération des Coopératives pour Dommages de Guerre*). Each of the bonds, engraved by the Jean Malvaux house, depict in a subtle underprint the Cloth Hall of Ypres on the front side, and the city of Dinant on the rear, which was also completely destroyed in the war. (Double-click the details images)

- 1921, 90 year 4% lottery loan for 1 billion Francs, 4 million bonds of 250 Francs
- 1922, 90 year 5% lottery loan for 1 billion Francs, 4 million bonds of 250 Francs
- 1923, 90 year 5% lottery loan for 1 billion Francs, 2 million bonds of 500 Francs



*loan of 1921
Hope enlightens Despair*



loan of 1922

*In the underprint : ruins of St. Martin's Cathedral and the Cloth Hall
with further in the background
the new Cloth Hall that was to be reconstructed*



loan of 1923

Ruins and Cloth Hall in underprint

The Cathedral was completed rebuilt in 1930, the Belfry (the tower on the Cloth Hall) in 1934. The Cloth Hall was fully reconstructed only in 1967. In 1991 the Belfry of Ypres became an UNESCO protected monument. Today, Ypres is a provincial but vivid municipality, attracting many tourists.

Related links :

- [In Flanders Fields museum](#)
- [Ypres](#)



Savings certificate for the reconstruction of Ypres, 1919

The *Société Nationale des Industries de Construction en Belgique* was one of the first national organizations to finance the reconstruction.

In the underprint on the front side and on the rear (see detail) the Cloth Hall is depicted.

OCT 8, 2010

Ypres on the map

Frequently, a map is shown in the underprint design or as part of a vignette of a share certificate. My home town Ypres, leper in Dutch, is now a relative small municipality. So, it was a big surprise to find it on a map of this certificate of the French *Compagnie de Navigation Fluviale Du Nord*, founded at Dunkerque, 1892.



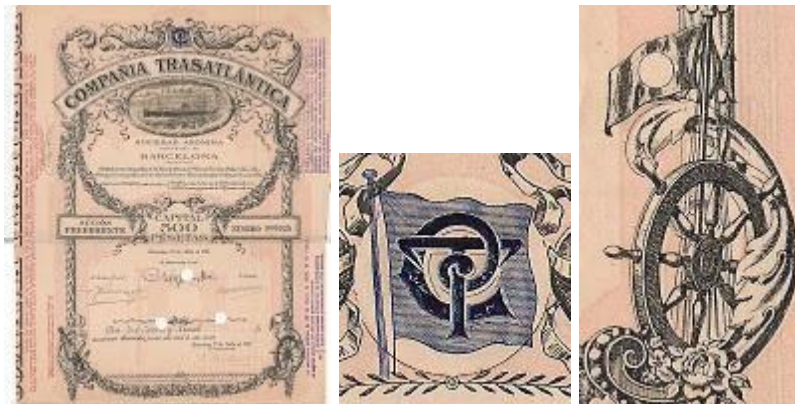
However, in the early Middle Ages, Ypres was a renowned center for its international trade of linen. During the following centuries it became occupied multiple times by the English, the French, the Spanish, the Austrians and the Dutch. A real disaster for its economy.



Copper engraving *Nouvelle Carte du Comte de Flandre*
by Paul de la Feuille
from the *Kleyne en Beknopte Atlas*, 1735
(Ypres bears the name *Yperen*)

Wrong about the Trasatlantica flag

Old share certificates from shipping and fishing companies often depict their company flag. This 1913 share from the Compañía Trasatlantica is not an exception thereon. The company's flag in the upper border is an eye-catcher as the company's monogram is embossed upon the same blue-printed monogram in the center of the flag. As a result you see the flag in some kind of relief.

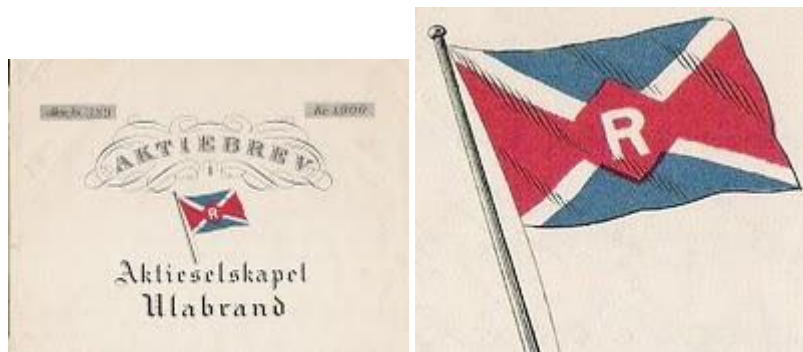


Acción Preferente 500 Pesetas, Barcelona 1913
notice the flag in underprint on the certificate's image
large format certificate: upper & lower half digitally pasted

There is also a flag printed in the right border below, and one in the underprint. Oddly, the latter two flags are missing the monogram and that is why I initially felt that the design was somehow incomplete : why is the monogram missing in the other flags ? Later on, it turned out that I was wrong about that.



We know the Romans used flags on their legion standards. And long before the Romans, the Chinese already used flags for military purposes. Since Antiquity, flags were used on merchant ships. Initially designed for nations, flags were used for separate army regiments in the late Middle Ages. From the 17th century, the age of colonization and naval battles, it became more customary – and later a legal requirement - for ships to carry flags indicating their nationality. This nation flag is called an *ensign* flag. Many variants can exist depending on the occasion, such as when going at war.



Share (upper half) of the Ulabrand company
Tönsberg (Norway), 1918

From the 19th century, merchant ships fly an additional flag identifying the company that owns the vessel. Such a flag is called the company's *house flag*. The way flags on vessels are used is subject to many rules and regulations. An example, the fact that a ship does not fly the flag of the nation it is visiting, can be seen as a provocation.



Shares of 1 Pound, 1915, The Ericsson Shipping Company, Ltd
Exceptional boat structure vignette (click image to enlarge)

Hence, on an open sea or moored in a crowded harbour, a ship must be quickly and easily identifiable. An efficient flag design helps to achieve that goal. Often the ships' funnels show corresponding colors and patterns to serve the same purpose. These are good flag design principles (Ted Kaye, N.A.V.A.) :

- Keep It Simple: A child should be able to draw the flag from memory.
- Use Meaningful Symbolism: Flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.
- Use Three Basic Colors: A limited number of standard colors on the flag contrast well
- No Lettering or Seals
- Be Distinctive or Be Related: Do not duplicate another flag. Similarities show connections with other related flags.



Compagnie Générale d'Outre-Mer
Action de 100 Francs, 1924

Now back to our Trasatlantica share certificate. While researching this company on the Internet, I tumbled in [this page \(click\)](#) where the house flag of the Compañía Trasatlántica Española is shown : blue with a white disc in the middle.



Aha ! The correct flag was a flag without a monogram, which corresponds to good flag design principles. Obviously, I was wrong about that monogram. Only much later, I discovered other Trasatlantica certificates from the 1940s depicting a blue flag with a white disc.

This share left me another surprise in regards of its flag. It has a remarkably large watermark of the house flag.



*When holding against a light source,
a watermark of the flag appears measuring about 12cm x12cm*

The Latin word *vexillum* means flag. The study of flag design and usage is called *vexillology*. More interesting reading material about this topic and the history of the Compañía Trasatlántica can be found on the following web resources :

- [House flags of shipping companies](#)
- [Funnels, Flags, and Night Signals of the Transatlantic Lines](#)
- [Flags of the World](#)
- [Compañía Trasatlántica Española](#)
- [Flags of shipping companies with wrecks](#)

F.L.



*Embossed seal depicting sailing ship,
yet another feature near the lower border at the left.
(click image to enlarge)*

Reference catalogue : Zoological garden companies - Development and Finance History



- Title : Zoologische Gärten als Kapitalgesellschaften - Geschichtliche Entwicklung und Finanzierung
- Authors : Armin Schmitz und Arne Metzger
- ID: ISBN 3-9806401-2-4, published by Verlag der Antik Effekten GMBH, 2000
- Languages : German, English
- Number of pages : 192
- Images : mostly in color, about 100 illustrations
- Indexes : by location

This great work contains images of certificates and descriptions, both in German and English, of zoos in : Germany, USA, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Poland, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Portugal, UK, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria

Frans Van Leemputten's Ikelemba river



Villagers under the palm-trees watching a steamer on the Ikelemba river.
Frans Van Leemputten

As a child, Frans van Leemputten (1850-1914), initially living on the countryside, had to move to a suburb in Bruxelles. In Brussels, he studied at the Académie Royale de Beaux-Arts, and became a well-known landscape and animal painter.



The wayside meeting
Frans Van Leemputten

Frans van Leemputten loved to portray the simple and slow-paced life on the countryside. The township scenes in his drawings and paintings show a remarkable sense for details, which make them unique topographical documents. From the 1890s he became influenced by luminism and his paintings became brighter. Luminism, originally an American landscape painting style, is characterized by effects of light in landscapes emphasizing tranquility.

Van Leemputten frequently wandered around from Bruxelles to the border region in the Netherlands where he could observe the areas around and the daily life in the villages. He must have realised that this kind of life would disappear soon. Luckily he left us several wonderful works that, when watching, let you briefly escape from our hasty world.



Société Equatoriale Congolaise (IKELEMBA)
Dixième d'Action Ordinaire, issued in Antwerp, 1900
Printed by Vrijdaghs & Co.

I could not find out whether Frans Van Leemputten ever visited Belgian Congo. Maybe he was influenced by one of his painting colleagues, Frans Hens, who had travelled in that vast new territory. The rural and bright African scenes portrayed by Hens could have inspired Van Leemputten to design this certificate. In this colonial period, when many new companies were incorporated, there was extra demand for vignette designs. Hens designed several Belgian Congo shares. For an artist, this meant an extra income.

Discover the world's oldest share



The antique share certificate, dated 9 September 1606, was issued by the Dutch East India Company (VOC). The recent finding was done in the Westfries Archive in Hoorn by Ruben Schalk, a Dutch history student. Its value is estimated by the Boone auction house at 600,000 Euro.

In 1602, the Dutch East India Company (in Dutch : Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or VOC) was established for the purpose of trade, exploration and colonization. It became one of the first worldwide operating corporations, determining the path of our history.



The shipyard of the Dutch East India Company in Amsterdam, circa 1750.
Image: *Amsterdam Municipal Department for the
Preservation and Restoration of Historic Buildings and Sites*

From 10 September and until 21 November, this historical share will be the master show piece at the VOC exhibition in the West Frisian Museum. But for those who can't make it, you can discover it on the website, developed for the event. Some pretty interactive features allow you to

- view a short instruction video
- browse through and zoom into the 4 page document
- go through individual passages to discover the meaning of the transcriptions

Here is the link : <http://www.worldsoldestshare.com/>

SEP 9, 2010

Goble Aviation from Texas

The state of Texas, the 2nd-largest in the country, counts the most airports of all states in the USA and therefore hosts many airlines and aviation related companies.



Goble Aviation, Inc. 1963

This scarce stock certificate for 100 "A" shares of the Goble Aviation company depicts the Lone Star of Texas. It is issued to and signed by James S. Vecchio as secretary and signed by M.T. Goble as president.

In particular, the share bears an emboss inaccurately made on a pre-printed gold seal.



You can clearly notice that the emboss has been produced after the certificate was printed.
(More about seals, see my posting [Seals Stories](#) (click))

There is another curious feature about this share. The name *Goble* is pretty difficult to spell. I caught myself more than once, typing *Globe* instead. I am not the only one apparently, because 2 typos have been corrected in a not unnoted way. Click the certificate's image, and you'll see that not only the name of the company (below the star vignette) has been corrected, but also the typed name of the president (just above the \$ sign).

So far, I could not determine whether this company was an airline or involved in avionics. I'd welcome any further background information on this company being posted in the comments of this article.

Seal stories

When examining a new certificate I always look for the presence of a seal. I hope a remarkable scenery will be present on it. Some of these seals are so striking that they can not possibly be overlooked at. Others, the embossed ones, are hardly noticeable but can just be as surprising as well.

(tip: double-click the images for more details)



*Gold paper seal, embossed after being attached to the document
Texas Short Line Railway Company, 1902*

In the Middle Ages, seals were made on bee wax. They were used for guaranteeing authenticity of documents and for sealing closed documents. On shares and bonds, seals are also used for authentication. More, the presence of a beautiful gold paper seal, serving as a quality label, helped issuers to attract potential buyers. Seals were also meant to make it more difficult to counterfeit a certificate. Sometimes, they were also used as proof that obligatory taxes were paid.

Seals on certificates can show the name of the issuer, a pictorial emblem representing the issuer such as a coat of arms, an incorporation date, or a picture of the kind of activity that was involved.



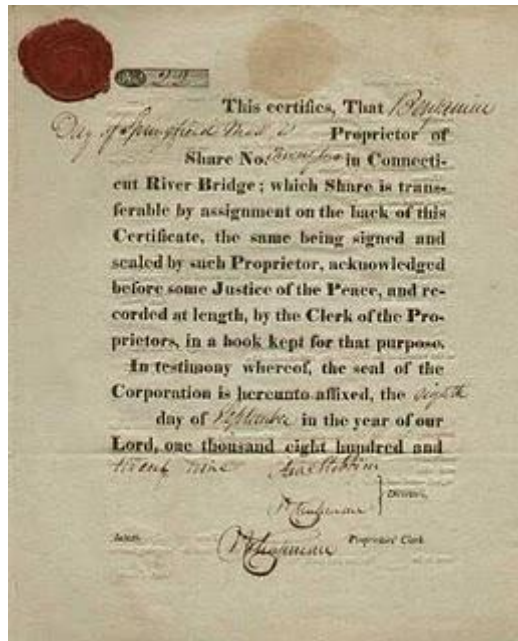
*Seal integrated in the print design
RCA Corporation (specimen) 1977*

A seal can be produced in several ways. In a dry seal, the imprint of a figure is made as a relief in paper. Another way to create seals is to use a liquid medium such as ink or wax. In case of ink a stamp imprint is made, in case of wax an impressed relief is the result. Seals can be applied to the document itself or can be attached to it by cords or ribbons or can be glued to the document.

The term seal can also be used for the device used to create the seal such as a signet ring, a rubber stamp or an embossing press. Such devices are basically a kind of mould with the mirror image of the target figure.

Wax Seals

Already in ancient civilizations, seals were issued to create an impression on clay. The same principle was used in the Middle Ages to make impressions in bee wax, or pine resin. Later sealing-wax was poured on the document and a ring, a stamp or similar device was impressed. It occurs that a wax-sealed certificate has a seal that is covered with a piece of paper of about the same size, where the stamp was pressed through. This was done to strengthen the seal.



Wax seal
Connecticut River Bridge , 1829
(image : Centrum voor Scriptophilie)

Embossed seals (dry seals)

Embossed seals, known as dry seals, are printed on the document by means of an embossing press. An embossing press consists of two plates, one bearing the image in relief and the other one bearing the mirror image. By pressing the document between the plates, the seal image is produced forming a three-dimensional image in the paper. These kind of images are harder to spot but as you can see from the examples, can be quite revealing.



Embossed seal depicting ship
La Salvadora, 1857



Embossed seal, a real beauty
Indian Carrying Company, 1862,
[click for details: sun \(above\), elephant followed by farmer, train, oxen \(below\)](#)

Sometimes, a small piece of paper, often red, with a crenelated border was first attached to the document before embossing the seal. The resulting paper seal now looked like a wax-seal. An example, on a white piece of paper, was already shown in the [posting on Masonic certificates \(click here\)](#).

When the paper seal has a gold or silver colour, we often speak of a gold paper seal or silver paper seal. They make certificates stand out among others.



*Gold paper seal, embossed after being attached to the document with the image of the waterfalls vignette.
Great Falls City, 1914*

By the end of the 19th century, printing techniques became far sophisticated. Some printers, especially in the USA, printed a crenelated seal as part of the design of the certificate. An additional piece of gold paper was not needed anymore, just an emboss of the image.



*Emboss imprinted on pre-printed gold seal
Elm Springs – Wasta Telephone Company, 1909*

Long before their widespread usage in the 19th century, embossed seals were made on stylised pieces of paper on the share certificates of Spanish trading companies. Examples and background information on this early seal usage can be found in [A. Kipfer's catalogue](#) on these companies.



*Stylised paper seal with embossed imprint.
Compañía Real de Toledo Unida a la de Extremadura, 1752
(image: Centrum voor Scriptophilie)*

Stamped seals

Another way to produce seals is using a stamp. On the stamping device, such as a rubber stamp, an image is engraved onto a rubber sheet. After applying ink on the stamp, the latter is pressed on the document. Instead of rubber other medias are used such as wood, metal or rock.



Stamped seal
Dumra Gold Prospecting Syndicate, 1890



Stamped seal
Mount Pima Mining Company, 1906

In East Asia, ever since the beginning of writing, ink seals have been used for written identification by both individuals and organizations. They replace signatures in official documents. Often several types of seals are used together, such as a seal bearing the name and another one bearing a motto or a poem. The seals are carved from materials like wood, jade and soapstone. The liquid used to stamp the image is usually red ink or a red paste made from cinnabar. Many seal carving styles are known, and some seals are truly pieces of art.

In China ink seals are known as *yinzhang*. *Yang* seals imprint Chinese characters in red ink, where *yin* seals print a red background leaving white characters. A Chinese rubber seal is referred to as *chop*. Originally Chinese seals are square in shape, later rectangular and eventually circular shapes were introduced.



Stamped seal
Gouvernement de la République Chinoise, Emprunt Industriel 1914

In Japan, many types of seals, referred to as *inkan* or *hanko*, are used for several occasions. Their usage and design is strictly stipulated and they are mostly made from hard stone. Initially used by the Japanese emperors, Samurai

were permitted to use them as well in the Middle Ages. By the late 19th century, seals were generally used in the Japanese society.



*Stamped seal
Nippon Omoshi (Stone Weight Co.) 1905*

Printed and computer generated seals

By the end of the 19th century, when governments needed to issue more and more bonds, printers started integrating seals into the print design of the certificate. Printing machinery were able to produce certificates with seals at a high rate.



*Seal integrated in the print design of the certificate (upper half shown)
2e Russ. 5% Inner. Anleihe mit praemien-verloos., 1866*

Seals of modern shares and bonds are designed in the printing plate (see also the example of the RCA Corporation above), or are computer generated facsimiles. Usually, these are circular in shape and mention a name in the center or the border of the seal.



*Computer facsimile seal
Apple Computer, 1995*

Metal seals

I kept the most intriguing seal type for the last. In very exceptional cases, seals on medieval documents were made in metal. Even now papal bulls, charters issued by popes, still bear a lead seal. The Latin word for lead is bulla.



*Copper seal
Vauxhall Bridge Company, 1821
(image: Centrum voor Scriptophilie)*

So far, I've only seen one share certificate with a metal seal : the Vauxhall Bridge share. Its seal is made from copper and depicts a Saxon warrior in front of the bridge. The inscription under his feet shows the name of the company but also the warrior's shield bears a motto in the border: 'BRIDGES ARE SHIELDS IN ..'. Unfortunately, I can't fully complete it and I would be happy if someone could.

There is a lot more to tell about the history of seal production and seal usage. The part of history science studying this fascinating subject is called *sigillography* . In East Asia, and some other parts of the world as well, seals are still in use for authenticating documents on a daily basis, but in most other regions, except for special official occasions, seals are rarely used anymore, which is a shame I think. In contrary to plain computer generated documents, the usage of artistic seals could add an extra bit of colour to our business activities.

For more articles on the usage of seals, click [here](#).

Reference catalogue : Spanish Royal and Private Trading Companies from Spain in the 18th Century

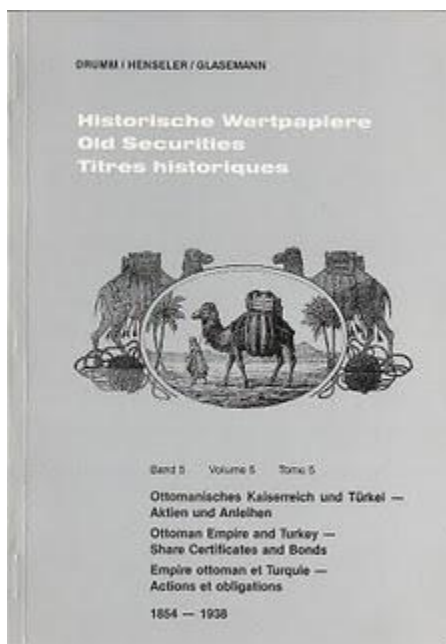


- Title : Historische Wertpapiere der Spanischen Königlichen und privaten Handelsgesellschaften des 18. Jahrhunderts
- Authors : Alexander Kipfer
- ID: ISBN 3-89228-533-0, published by Haag und Herchen, 1991
- Languages : German
- Number of pages : 192
- Images : black & white, about 100 illustrations
- Indexes : alphabetic register on page 39 , but companies ordered in section 2 by date of incorporation

AUG 18, 2010

Reference catalogue : Ottoman Empire and Turkey, Share certificates and Bonds, 1854-1938

I will occasionally briefly describe a reference book or catalogue in my postings.



- Title : Historische Wertpapiere, Band V, Ottomanisches Kaiserreich und Türkei - Aktien und Anleihen, 1854-1938
- Authors : Drumm, Henseler, Glasemann
- ID: without publication number, published by Freunde Historischer Wertpapiere, 1983
- Languages : German, introductions also in English and French
- Number of pages : 237
- Images : black & white, on average 1 per 2 pages
- Indexes : alphabetic, but main ordering consists of 2 sections : 1. shares (by date), 2. bonds (by date)

This catalogue includes certificates from private companies and issued by the Ottoman state.

The Lesbos coins

Lesbos, also known as Emerald Island, counts 320 kilometers of coastline. It is quite forested, has 2 mountain peaks and 2 large gulfs. Separated by the Mytilini Strait, Turkey is less than 10 miles away. Modern tourism in Greece only started to take off in the 1950s. The Lesbos Tourism Company, T.E.L., was incorporated in 1956 with its head office in Mytilene. The Greek coins in the design of the shares, suggests the company wanted to promote the rich ancient inheritance of the island. Having collected coins as a child, this share certificate immediately drew my attention. *Were these ancient Greek coins genuine or not ?*



Mytilene, the capital of the island since the Greek classical period, was famous for its production of electrum coins struck from the late 6th through mid 4th centuries BC. Electrum is a natural alloy of gold, silver and other metals (a good conductor of electricity), but it was also produced artificially. For coinage electrum was preferred above gold because it was harder and more durable, and because techniques for refining gold were not known every where in the ancient world. The city of Mytilene used electrum with a gold composition of about 43%.



Further research on the depicted coins did not yield a quick result. So, I asked the help of some numismatic experts. Mrs Dane Kurth, <http://www.wildwinds.com/>, and Mr Doug Smith, <http://dougsmith.ancients.info/>.

Both were so kind to share their findings: thank you ! This is what they came up with independently from each other: *The head of Apollo on the obverse and the lyre on the reverse are common types from Mytilene. They were made in silver and bronze with that design over a long period. Many varieties are known.*



This AR Stater from Mytilene dates around 350-250 BC.

So far for the similarities. What about the differences ?

Dane :

There are coins with 'MYTI' (upwards) combined with either some small symbol or a letter or monogram in the right field (like the M in the example of the certificate), but not with 'MYTIL'.

Doug :

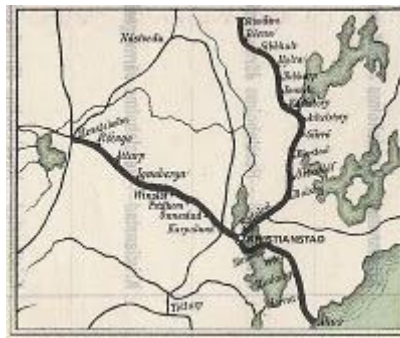
I do suspect that the artist for the engraving thought it would be more clearly a coin of Mytilene if the letters were rearranged all in one line. The fact that I have not seen a coin exactly like that one does not mean it did not exist.

Conclusion! The coins on the certificate are clearly derived from real ancient Mytilene coins. The engraver changed the legend a little to emphasize the link with Lesbos, and if he didn't ... , then he probably used the design of a real coin that is probably extremely rare.

Franky

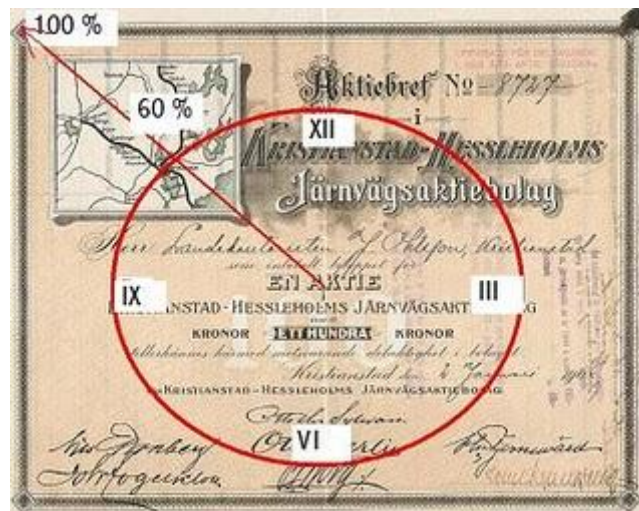
related link : <http://www.acsearch.info/record.html?id=184980>

60 % at 10 o'clock, or how can you name your scanned detail images ?



This detail map (click to enlarge) shows the railway line of the Kristianstad-Hessleholms railway company. It is a vignette on a 1906 share of the Kristianstad-Hessleholms Järnvägsaktiebolag. The railway company was founded in 1863 and nationalized in 1944.

I often scan details of certificates, but *how do I name these images* ? The scanned image of a whole certificate gets the same filename as the ID - identification number - of the certificate in my database. In this case, the certificate has an ID of 1405. So, the image has 1405.jpg as its filename being the name of the certificates ID and the file type "jpg" in this case.



Scanned image files of details on certificates also need a filename. This is how I do it. Just take a look at the example of the Swedish railway certificate.

1.

First, we need to position the vignette from a reference point. I use the center of the certificate, which is at the crossing of the bisector lines. Now, imagine a clock in the center of the certificate.

2.

We position the vignette as a combination of a direction (an hour on the clock) and a distance of the center of the vignette from the center of the clock (0%) to the border (100%).

So, our detail image can be "positioned" at 10 o'clock - 60% . The filename of the resulting scan will be 1405_10_60.jpg, which is the outcome of the certificate ID, the hour position and the distance % and the file extension jpg.

Purists, can question this example and argue that 1405_1030_55.jpg is more accurate. However, it is an approach that has worked well for many years now, and, when ordering the files by filename in your file folder list, detail images get sorted along with the images of the whole certificate.

So, that's how I do it. I'd happy to learn from other approaches. In case you'd wonder, here is the whole certificate's image.



UPPSÄTT FÖR DELTÄGARE
HVA ÅR 1878

Aktiebref No 8747
i
KRISTIANSTAD-HESSLEHOLMS
Järnvägsaktiebolag

Herr Landshövdingen J. Ohlsson, Kristianstad
som enbetalt beloppet för
EN AKTIE

KRISTIANSTAD-HESSLEHOLMS JÄRNVÄGSAKTIEBOLAG

KRONOR ~~100~~ HUNDRA KRONOR

tillhörande härmed meddelande delaktighet i bolaget.

Kristianstad den 8 Januari 1878

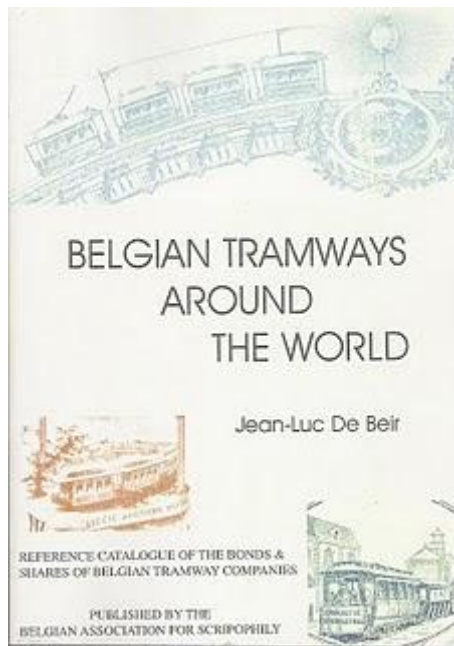
för KRISTIANSTAD-HESSLEHOLMS JÄRNVÄGSAKTIEBOLAG

Otto L. Sjöström
Herr Jönberg
Joh. Jönsson
Ottolieris
P. Jönsson
S. Jönsson



This catalogue includes shipping lines, shipyards, fishing and canal companies.

Reference catalogue : Belgian Tramways around the World



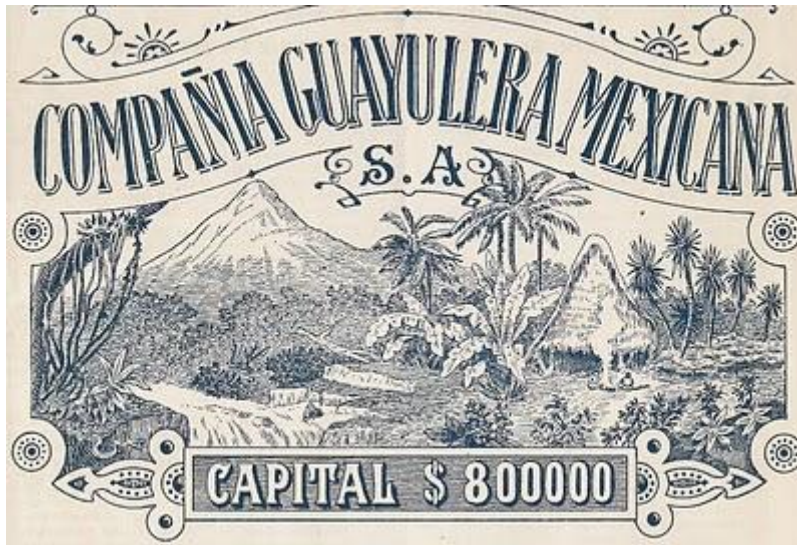
- Title : Belgian tramways around the world
- Authors : J.-L. De Beir
- ID: without publication number, published by the Belgian Association for Scripophily
- Languages : English, introductions also in French
- Number of pages : 288
- Images : color, frequently multiple per page
- Indexes : no indexes, but main ordering by country, additional lists by company name, by date of creation and a list of unseen shares

Reference catalogue : Railways and Tramways in Spain and Portugal



- Title : Reference catalogue of the bonds & shares of railway & tramway companies in Spain & Portugal
- Authors : E. Boone, H. Shakespeare
- ID: ISBN 90-9008705-2
- Languages : English, introductions also in Spanish & Portuguese
- Number of pages : 293
- Images : black & white, almost on every page
- Indexes : 1. on titles - Spain, 2. on titles - Portugal

Under the volcano



The smallest volcano in Mexico is the *Cuexcomate*, with an elevation of only 13 meters (43 feet). This inactive volcano is regarded as the smallest one on Earth. As a tourist you can visit it and even descend into the 8 meter wide crater. The *Pico de Orizaba*, is the largest Mexican volcano with a height of 5636 meters (18490 feet). Its last eruption took place in 1687. After the African *Kilimanjaro* it is the 2nd most prominent volcanic peak in the world. Did you know that Mexico counts more than 40 volcanoes ? In the last 25 years no less than 5 different volcanoes erupted :

- 1982 El Chichón
- 1986 Tacaná
- 1993 Socorro
- 2006 Popocatepetl
- 2009 Colima



For sure, volcanic eruptions are part of life in Mexico now and they were so in the past. The \$100 share of the **Compañía Guayulera Mexicano**, dated 1906, shows a *Guayule* planter at rest on a hot windless afternoon. A large volcano dominates the setting.

Guayule, or scientifically said *Parthenium argentatum*, is a shrub that typically grows in the semi arid areas of the southwest of the USA and the north of Mexico. The plant is used as an hypoallergenic alternative to latex. In WWII, after Japan cut off America's latex resources, *Guayule* became a substitute for the rubber from the plantations in Malaysia.

The Netherland Line promoted business



The Netherlands Steamship Company, also known as the *Nederland Line*, was one of many companies showing off its kind of activities in the design of its shares .

The company was founded in 1870 to operate a passenger, freight and mail service between Holland and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) via the Suez Canal (Egypt).



The left border of this specimen certificate, issued 1908 in Amsterdam , depicts the pyramids of Egypt. After a several weeks on a ship, passengers arrived in the Dutch East Indies and must have been charmed by the cabins under the palm trees on the coasts (shown in the right border vignette).

JUN 9, 2010

Delightful puppetry



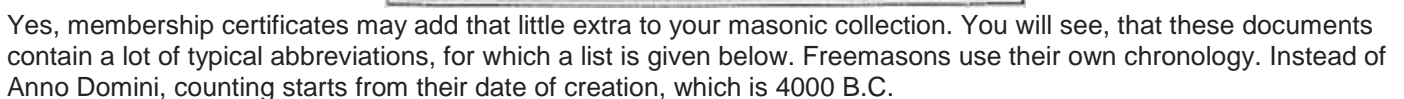
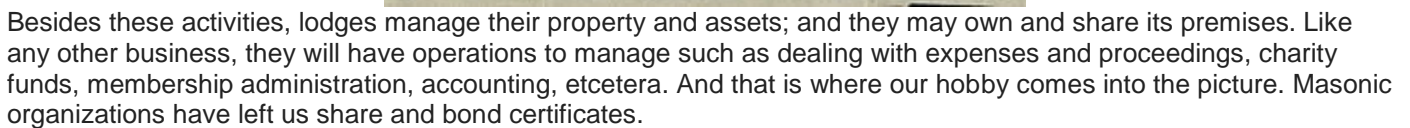
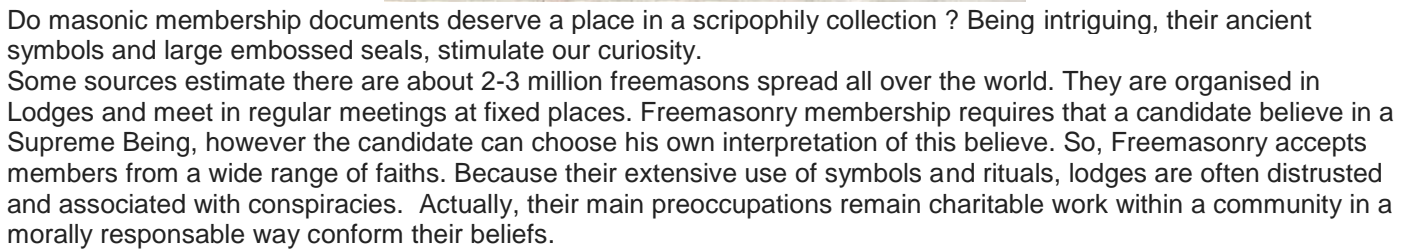
More than 1000 years ago, old Indonesian inscriptions already spoke of wayang, which means "theatre". Wayang kulit, "shadow puppet theatre", is the oldest form of still existing puppet theatre in the world. The puppets are mounted on bamboo sticks and, held up between a cloth and a light source, cast their shadows on the white canvas. Kulit means "skin" and refers to the buffalo hide they are made from.

This rare specimen certificate, depicting Wayang puppets in the underprint, is a 4% bond for 1000 Dutch guilder, and made part of the *Dutch East Indies Conversion Loan 1934 A*.



Labels: art, Dutch East Indies, Netherlands, State

In the Name of the Great Architect of the Universe.



Do you have a nice certificate with an abbreviation not in the list ? Sure, I'd be happy to know about it or to receive a scan.

Bro. Franky, A.L.6011

Masonic abbreviations

1st G.P.: First Grand Principal (Royal Arch).

2nd G.P.: Second Grand Principal (Royal Arch).

3rd G.P.: Third Grand Principal (Royal Arch).

A.: Answer.

A.A.O.N.M.S.: Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (U.S.A.)

A. & A. R.: Ancient and Accepted Rite.

A. & A. S. R.: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

A. & P. R.: Antient and Primitive Rite.

A.F.& A.M.: Antient Free and Accepted Masons.

A. B.: Anno Beneficio.

A. Dep.: Anno depositionis. System of chronology used by Royal and Select Masters, calculating dates from the completion of Solomon's temple, 1000 B.C.

A.Inv.: Anno inventionis. System of chronology used in the Royal Arch, where dates are calculated from the commencement of the Second Temple in 530 B.C.

A.H.: Anno hebraico. System of chronology used by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, calculating years from the date of the creation, taken as 3760 years before the Christian era.

A.L.: Anno lucis. The system of chronology used in craft freemasonry which numbers years from the date of the creation, taken as being 4,000 B.C.

A.O.: Anno ordinis. System of chronology used by the masonic Knights Templar, in which years are dated from the founding of the medieval Order of the Temple, A.D. 1118.

AQC: Ars Quatuor Coronatorum: transactions of the English masonic research lodge, Quatuor Coronati No. 2076.

ADC: Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

B.: Boaz. One of the sacred pillars of Solomon's temple.

B.G.P.: Board of General Purposes.

B. of C.: Book of Constitutions.

Brn.: Brethren.

Bro.: Brother

CMRC: Canonbury Masonic Research Centre.

D.C.: Director of Ceremonies.

D.G.: Due Guard.

D.G.M.: Deputy Grand Master.

Dep.: Deputy

Dist. G.M.: District Grand Master.

D.O.: Dedicating Officer.

E.: the Scribe Ezra. Royal Arch equivalent of a lodge secretary.

E.A.: Entered Apprentice: The first degree of craft masonry.

E.C.: English Constitution.

E.Comp.: Excellent Companion [Royal Arch].

Ex.Comp.: Excellent Companion [Royal Arch].

F.: Fellowship.

F. & A.M.: Free and Accepted Masons.

F.C.: Fellow Craft. The second degree of craft masonry.

F.F.F.: Fidelity, fidelity, fidelity. Term used in the closing ceremony.

F.P.O.F.: The Five Points of Fellowship.

G.D.C.: Grand Director of Ceremonies.

G.Chap.: Grand Chaplain.

G.I.G: Grand Inner Guard

G. Hist. Grand Historiographer, Grand Imperial Council (R.C.C)

G.L.: Grand Lodge.

G.M.: Grand Master.

G.Org.: Grand Organist.

G.P.: Grand Principal (Royal Arch)

G. Purs.: Grand Pursuivant.

G. Reg.: Grand Registrar.

G.S.E. : Grand Scribe Ezra, see E. for Ezra

G.Sec.: Grand Secretary.

G St B: Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Senate (R.C.C)

G. Swd. B.: Grand Sword Bearer.

G. Treas.: Grand Treasurer.

H.: Haggai, the Prophet. One of the three Grand Principals of the Royal Arch.

H.A.: Hiram Abif. The master mason who, according to masonic legend, built Solomon's temple. The story of his

murder is reenacted in the ritual for the degree of Master Mason.

I.C.: Irish Constitution.

I.G.: Inner Guard.

I.M.: Installed Master.

I.T.N.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.: In the Name of the Great Architect of the Universe.

J.: Jachin. One of the sacred pillars of Solomon's temple.

J: Joshua, the High Priest. One of the three Grand Principals of the Royal Arch.

J.D.: Junior Deacon.

J.G.W.: Junior Grand Warden.

J.W.: Junior Warden.

K.S.T.: King Solomon's Temple.

K. T.: Knight(s) Templar

L.: Light.

L.G.R.: London Grand Rank. A distinction for meritorious office conferred in London lodges.

L.G.C.R.: London Grand Chapter Rank.

L.G.R.A.: London Grand Rank Association.

L.M.C.T.: Library and Museum Charitable Trust.

L.of I.: Lodge of Instruction.

M.: Master.

M.E.: Most Excellent (Royal Arch).

M.M.: Master Mason. The third degree of craft masonry.

M.M.M.: Mark Master Mason

M.W.: Most Worshipful. Used for Grand Master, Pro Grand Master, Past Grand Master, Past Pro Grand Master.

N.: Nehemiah. Officer of a Royal Arch Chapter.

N.Y.C.: New York Constitution.

Ob.: Obligation.

Obs.: Obligations.

Oxf.: Oxford Ritual.

P.A.: Past Assistant

P.A.G.C.: Past Assistant Grand Chaplain.

P.A.G. Chap.: Past Assistant Grand Chaplain.

P.A.G.D.C.: Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

P.A.G.Reg.: Past Assistant Grand Registrar.

P.A.G.Sojr.: Past Assistant Grand Sojourner (Royal Arch).

P.C.: Perfect Ceremonies (standard English ritual handbook)

P.D.G.C.: Past Deputy Grand Chaplain.

P. Dep.G.Reg.: Past Deputy Grand Registrar.

P.Dist. G.M.: Past District Grand Master.

P.G.: Past Grand.

P.G. Overseer: Past Grand Overseer

P.G.D.: Past Grand Deacon

P.G.M.: Past Grand Master

P.G.Org.: Past Grand Organist

P.M.: Past Master.

P.G.St.Br.: Past Grand Standard Bearer.

P.G.Swd.B.: Past Grand Sword Bearer.

P.G.W.: Past Grand Warden.

P.J.G.W.: Past Junior Grand Warden.

P.P.G.C.: Past Provincial Grand Chaplain.

P.S.G.D.: Past Senior Grand Deacon.

Pr.: Provincial

Prov. G.M.: Provincial Grand Master.

P.T.: Pro tempore.

p.w.: password.

Q.C.: Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076. The oldest English lodge devoted to scholarly research into freemasonry.

Q.C.C.C.: Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle.

R.A.: Royal Arch. An order which apparently developed in the eighteenth century open only to masons and whose rituals purport to be the completion and culmination of the spiritual journey of the degrees of craft masonry.

R.A.M.: Royal Ark Mariner.

R.C.C.: Red Cross of Constantine.

R.M.B.I.: Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

R.M.H.: Royal Masonic Hospital.

R.M.I.B.: Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

R.M.I.G.: Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

R.W.: Right Worshipful. Used for Present and Past Deputy Grand Master; Assistant Grand Master; Provincial and District Grand Masters.

S.C.: Scottish Constitution.
S.D: Senior Deacon.
S.G.D.: Senior Grand Deacon.
S.G.W.: Senior Grand Warden.
S.L.G.R.: Senior London Grand Rank.
S.L.G.C.R.: Senior London Grand Chapter Rank. (Royal Arch).
Sn.: Sign.
Sns.: Signs
Sojr.: Sojourner (Royal Arch).
S.W.: Senior Warden.
Swd.: Sword.
T.B.: Tracing Board.
T.G.A.O.T.U.: The Great Architect of the Universe: the Supreme Being; God.
U.G.L.E.: United Grand Lodge of England.
V.S.L.: Volume of the Sacred Law. 'All initiates shall take their Obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated' (Basic Principals for Grand Lodge Recognition, 1929).
V.W.: Very Worshipful. Used for Present and Past Grand Chaplains; Grand Registrars; Grand Secretaries; Presidents of Grand Charity, Masonic Foundation, Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, New Masonic Samaritan Fund; Grand Director of Ceremonies; Grand Sword Bearers; Grand Superintendent of Works; Grand Inspectors.
W.: Worshipful. Used for all present and past grand officers, and present and past masters of lodges not entitled to the prefix M.W., R.W., or V.W.
W.M.: Worshipful Master.
W.T.: Working tool.
Z.: Zerubabel, Prince of Jerusalem. One of the three Grand Principals of the Royal Arch.

JUN 1, 2010

Time to repair ?

Large tears or spots can significantly reduce the value of your certificate by up to 70%! Do try out repairs on a spare less preserved certificate that even might go lost in the process. Don't use ordinary adhesive tape. In its most recent issue from April 2010, Scripophily magazine discusses quite in depth how and when to repair tears, remove dirt or dealer pencil markings and much more. The magazine is published by the [International Bond & Share Society](#).

MAY 26, 2010

Searching through

I am a collector of early computer manufacturers, so when I go through a sales list or some albums of a dealer, I hope to expect the papers are ordered by type of activity. Oops ... "*Oh no, they classified by country*", is a common reaction. What is your preferred way to go through the certificates ? You can vote for it in the poll below the page. The results will be summarized at the end of the year.

MAY 18, 2010

A portrait of a socialist

This is an unissued share of 100 Leva from the *Bulgarian Co-operative Dimitar Blagoev*. Period : 1940s.



Dimitar Blagoev was the founder of the Bulgarian socialism and of the Social-Democratic Workers' Party of Bulgaria, 1891. Much later he transformed his party into the Bulgarian Communist Party.

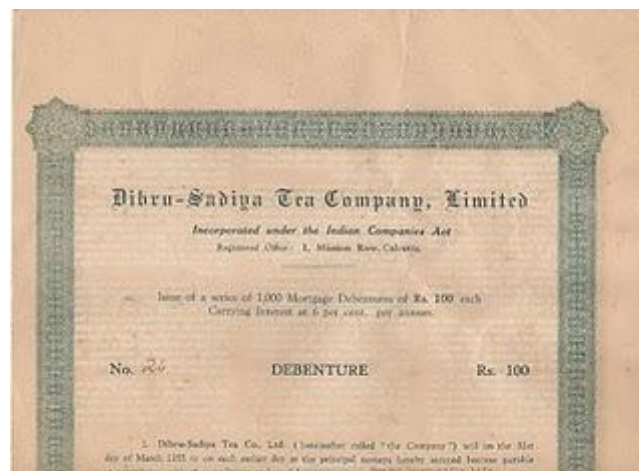
MAY 15, 2010

Enjoy tea from India



The **origins** of tea dates from more than 3000 years ago and are to be found in the northern part of Burma and the Yunnan and Sichuan provinces of China. From here the plant was introduced to other countries in the world. In India, tea has been cultivated for consumption and medicinal purposes. In our recent history, tea had been imported for a long time from China.

In 1826, the **British East India Company** took control of the region from the Burmese King who was defeated in the 1st Anglo-Burmese War. In the 1830s the company had lost its monopoly on trading tea from China. Even though the British had already (re)discovered tea plants in Sadiya in 1823, it took the East India Company several years to be convinced that these plants were genuine. After some years of experimental tea cultivation, the *Assam Tea Company* was formed in 1840.



Tea planting became popular. From the 1850s the **tea industry** rapidly expanded and several seed gardens were established. 1856, the Alubari tea garden was opened by the *Kurseong and Darjeeling Tea Company*. Another four gardens, at Ging, Ambutia, Takdah and Phubsering were established by the *Darjeeling Tea Company* between 1860 and 1864, and the gardens at Takvar and Badamtam by the *Lebong Tea Company*. Darjeeling, grown exclusively in India is one of the most renowned teas in the world and often termed as “the Champagne of teas”.

Assam produces the largest quantity of tea in India and is one of the biggest suppliers of international groups such as Lipton and Tetley. India was the top producer for a long time, but these days China, with more land to cultivate tea, has overtaken its role as the top tea producer.

Images

Kursiong and Darjeeling Tea Company, Ltd : Shares of Rs. 50, Calcutta, 1897
Dibru-Sadiya Tea Company, Ltd : 6% Debenture of Rs. 100, Calcutta, 1938

"Many-of-a-kind rare certificates"



In the Dutch language, the word “raar” has the following **meanings** : 1. unusual, 2. strange, and even 3. weird. For economists, goods are rare if these are low in numbers of abundance as opposed to common goods that are almost freely available like the air we breathe.

My first certificate, a plain coal-mining share found on a flea market, made a lot of impression on me and, needless to say, I regarded it as a rare item. And that was what I thought of the other many certificates obtained in this initial period. It was until my first visit at a specialised bourse, where I spotted a pile of certificates of that first share, that I realized that the **concept of rarity was not that simple**.

So, I started to think of certificates as rare items when auctioneers told these were rare in their catalogues, or when dealers asked much higher prices. Almost by instinct, I started to look for shares that were low-priced but regarded as rare, in order to get good value-for-money. In this second period I tried to learn as much as possible which pieces were tagged as rare. Afterwards, that behavior was actually not that satisfying, because certificates were sometimes labeled as rare to help increase sales volumes or reduce stockpiles. Needless to say, I occasionally ended up with nice pieces, a few of them not common, obtained at rather high end-user prices. During that same time, I noticed that some certificates seemed to become less rare after a while: what was rare 5 years ago, became common and frequently available.

I started looking for a new way to deal with the concept of rarity and after reading an article by [Terry Cox](#), I knew how. Rare items are actually items that can **not easily be replaced**. You can spend years searching for a particular share or bond. An example is the Spanish bond of the *Ferro-Carril del Astillero a Ontaneda* (1901) shown here. Since its purchase, almost 15 years ago, I've never seen any other exemplars. Finally, I made up the following rarity classification.

- **EXTREMELY RARE** : it takes more than 5 years to find a replacement certificate
- **RARE** : it takes between 1 and 5 years to find a replacement certificate
- **SCARCE** : it takes between 6 and 12 months to find a replacement certificate
- **COMMON** : it takes less than 6 months to find a replacement certificate
- **UNKNOWN** : rarity classification unknown, it is not clear if a replacement certificate can be easily found or not

I agree this rarity definition is a subjective one, but it helps me in better judging a certificate.

So, here I am, armed and ready with an easy to apply rarity classification. Unfortunately, it's not that easy. A lot of certificates that are rare can be bought for relatively low prices, but they don't tend to rise much in price as well. These kind of certificates are part of what I call “**many of a kind rare certificates**”. Let me illustrate this with an example. During some decades many small mining companies started to appear in some regions of the world. Many of these companies left us with a handfull of certificates, in many cases only 1 certificate has been seen. These certificates, even though rare, do not reach high prices, because there are so many of these “many of a kind rare” certificates. Collectors looking for these kind of certificates have a large choice to pick from. Many different kind of economic activities knew such periods where many small business were set up. As a collector, when you make your homework, learning which periods and which economic activities can yield both satisfaction and reward.

APR 27, 2010

About this blog



Oh hello there,

My name is Franky and let me tell you what this blog is all about. It deals about scripophily which is not an illness even though in some cases it can be catching.

Collecting obsolete stocks and bonds is the subject of this blog. Besides the collecting activity itself, I find myself often carried away when researching the history behind a certificate. To me, scripophily is often a kind of an Indiana Jones *adventure*.

In my postings, I will talk about different aspects of the hobby which could be clarifying to *newcomers*. Further, new arrivals will be highlighted on a regular basis, so *specialised collectors* will find some interesting readings too.

You can also have a look at [Franky's Scripophily Spot](#) , which is my first site about scripophily.

Best regards,
Franky