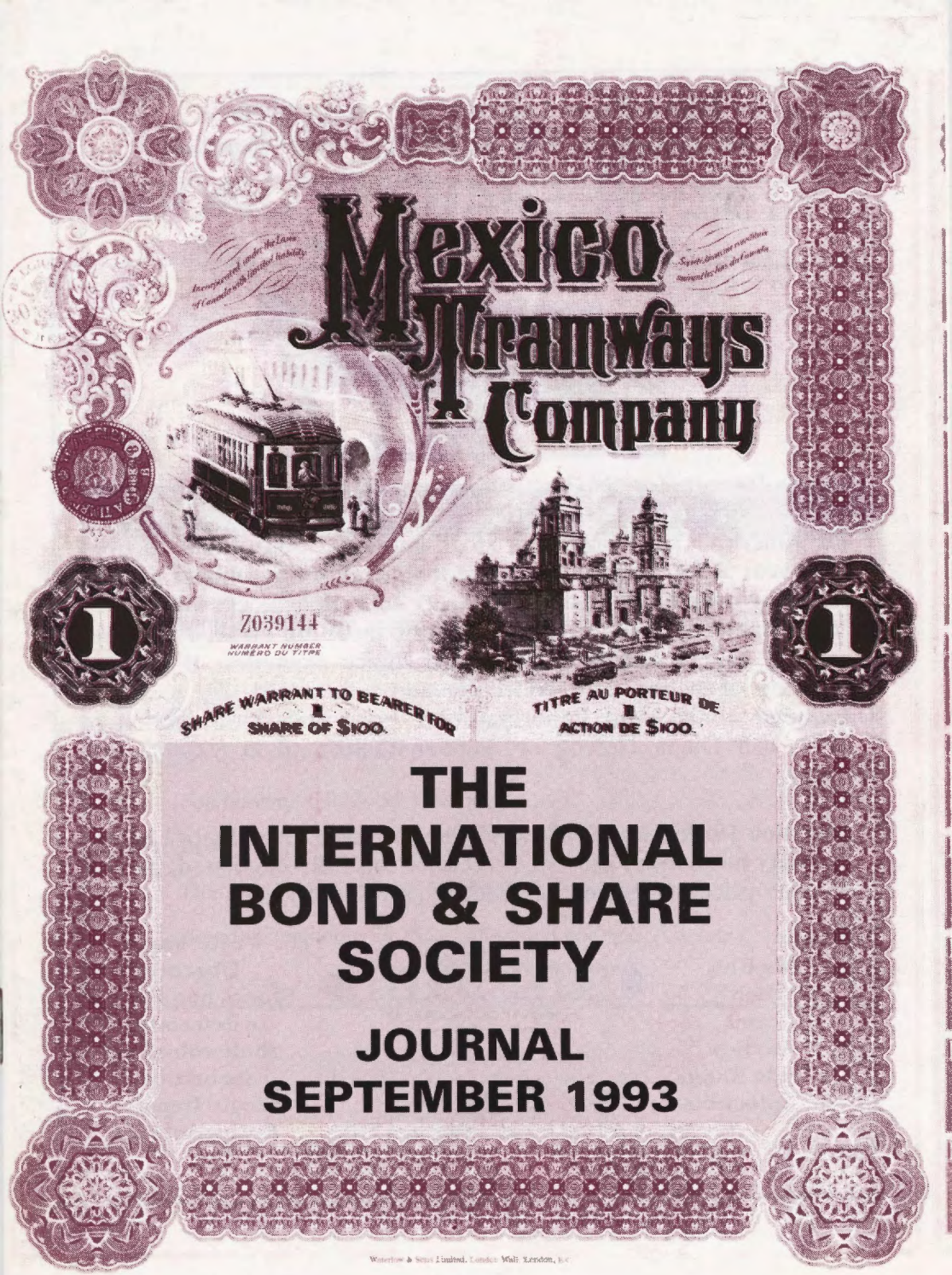

THE INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

JOURNAL
SEPTEMBER 1993

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INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY

JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 1993

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to comply with privacy requirements.

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Holland
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Also buying single items or entire collections.

FUTURE EVENTS

1993
October

5	I.B.S.S. meeting, London
10	Phillips auction, London
23	Boone auction, Antwerp

November

2	I.B.S.S. meeting, London
21	London Paper-money & Bond and Share Fair
27	H.P. auction, Bern

December

4	Tschöpe auction, Düsseldorf
7	I.B.S.S. meeting & auction, London

1994
January

4	I.B.S.S. meeting, London
20/23	R.M.Smythe auction & bourse, Strasburg, Pennsylvania

February

1	I.B.S.S. meeting, London

March

1	I.B.S.S. meeting, London

April

5	I.B.S.S. meeting, London
9/10	F.H.W. auction & bourse, Frankfurt

Society meetings in London are held at the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square (entrance in Upper Belgrave St.), near Victoria Station, and start at 6 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

A NEW SERVICE TO MEMBERS

The Society is willing to include advertising leaflets ('flyers') in future Journals. Normally only one will be included in each Journal, but a second leaflet, from another advertiser, may be included as long as it does not compete with the first. Leaflets may be of A5 or A4 size (if A4 they will be folded).

We can use your ready-printed leaflets, or you can use our printer (see title page of Journal) to print your camera-ready copy, or to do your typesetting and artwork.

Costs (for 500 leaflets) will be as follows:-

(1) You supply ready-printed leaflets A5 (or ready-folded A4), members £60, non-members £100 (this shows a substantial saving in postage costs)

(2) We prepare leaflet Insertion, and postage (as above) £60/100

Printing costs (500 leaflets):
A5 single-sided £24, double-sided £40
A4 single-sided £32, double-sided £53

Type-setting/artwork: varies, but typical for A5, per side £20
Folding (if necessary for A4) £9.50

This offer is open to everyone, member or not - dealers, collectors disposing of collections, etc. The leaflets may concern not only scripophily, but other collecting hobbies also. Brochures, booklets, etc., may also be sent, subject to agreement on postage costs.

Please contact the editor or advertising manager for further details, or to discuss any special requirements.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1993/1994

Members will perhaps remember that the Society now accepts Visa, Mastercard and Eurocard, and we shall be delighted to charge your subscription to your card. We can , of course, accept an instruction to charge your card automatically on 1 April each year.

We mention, too, the large saving made by taking a 10-year subscription, as **OVER 150 MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY DONE.**

Current rates are:-

1 Year			10 Years
£10*	United Kingdom & Europe		£70
$25	U.S.A.	†	$175
$35	Canada	†	$250
R60	South Africa	†	--
£12*	Rest of the World		£80

† Through our affiliated society or chapter.

* Payment by STANDING ORDER is available on U.K. bank accounts, at £9 (UK & Europe) or £11 (Rest of the World).

Subscriptions, other than from countries marked '†' can be paid by cheque/Eurocheque in sterling, or cash in major currencies (rounded to nearest $/DM5/FF10, etc.)

The subscription year is 1 April to 31 March. Members joining well into the year pay a reduced rate to 31 March.

Subscriptions are payable to the Treasurer (in Canada, S. Africa and U.S.A.), or Membership Secretary for members in all other countries.

ADVERTISING

The Society is always pleased to accept advertising in its publications. Rates for December 1993 are:-

Inside cover (either)	£60
Full page	£54
Half page	£32
Quarter page	£19
Eighth page (minimum)	£12

The back and inside front are reseved for the next issue

As usual, we offer a discount of 10% on these rates to all advertisers booking for a full year, and paying in advance.

Contact the Advertising Manager
Geoff Metzger, PO Box 1, Kelvedon, Colchester, Essex CO5 9EH.
Tel: 0376 571711

LONDON MINI-AUCTIONS

As always, our auctioneer, Bruce Castlo, is looking for material for the mini-auctions, held at our London meetings. You can put on your reserve (which should be realistic), and we pay promptly, with a deduction of only 10%. Please send your spare certificates to Bruce.

GUIDE FOR COLLECTORS TO APPEAR IN JOURNAL

A number of members have asked for more information on how to collect, what to look for, etc. This is covered in some detail in the Guide for Collectors, which every member should have, but we feel it might be useful to take each section of the Guide in turn, and include it in a Journal, starting from our December 1993 issue. We will try to add to it, or otherwise amend it, as we feel necessary. This will be a combined operation by the members of your committee.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

In the past we have published members' small advertisements in a 'classified' column, but these have met with little or no response. However, some members have asked us to restart them, and we are happy to try again. This time the ads will not appear in a column, but will be scattered around the Journal, as space permits. They will be free of charge. Ads are limited to three lines, and will probably have a light frame around them. The same ad will be published no more than twice.

We look forward to receiving your ads.

SOCIETY AWARD 1994

The Society's Award honours persons who have made a major contribution to the advancement of scripophily over and above any material benefit to themselves. It was first presented in 1991 on the initiative of US member Haley Garrison.

The Award winners are chosen from nominations received from members, by the Society's Honours Panel comprising the Chairman of the Society, the Chairman/ Presidents of the three affiliated overseas societies and the Committee Member for Continental Europe.

Nominations are now invited for the 1994 Award and should be sent to Chairman Brian Mills.

THE SOCIETY IS 15 - WE HONOUR THE FOUNDERS

On the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Society, our Honours Panel has voted to bestow the International Bond and Share Society Award for 1993 on **Patrick Berthoud** and **Donald Ross,** for their initiative and hard work in founding the Society.

In the early months of 1978 Patrick and Donald hustled up publicity about a possible new society in the London Times, the Financial Times and accountants' and collectors' magazines. The Times ran a competition for the invention of a name for the hobby and 'scripophily' was the winner.

The first newsletter was issued by Donald on August 10 1978 and the foundation meeting was chaired by Patrick on October 7 1978. An auction was held even at that first meeting. The membership subscription was £1. There were 53 UK members and six Germans, two Americans, one Norwegian and one Irishman.

When the Society was formally constituted in October 1978 Patrick was elected Chairman (a post he held for six years) and Donald took on the duties of Secretary and Editor, which he continued to do for three years.

By January 1979 there were 136 UK members and 27 overseas. In the first Newsletter of 1979 Donald set out the schedule for the main activities of the Society: three Newsletters per year, a published list of Members and monthly meetings in London with auctions and occasional lectures. Essentially this is what the Society still does, except we now produce four Journals per year.

The 1980 Yearbook lists 535 members in 24 countries. The first US meeting was held at Memphis on June 15 1979, with nine members and three visitors present. The US Chapter was established in February 1980 and listed 78 members in the Yearbook. The Newsletter, which started in 1978 as typed sheets (foolscap, not A4, Donald being a traditionalist), took on the familiar A5 printed format (now used for the Journal) from the first issue of 1980.

So in a period of two years 1978-80, Donald and Patrick generated a name for the hobby, created the leading international scripophily society (now with members in over 30 countries) and established one of the two English-language scripophily magazines which have survived and flourished.

The members of the Society owe a considerable debt to Patrick Berthoud and Donald Ross for their foresight, initiative and energy, and the Committee is delighted to bestow the Society's 1993 Award jointly upon them.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1993

The Market

Last year my predecessor commented that scripophily collectors in European countries other then the U.K. and France appeared to be able to ignore the economic downturn. This year gloom seems to have affected the whole of Europe.

One important effect of economic gloom is to discourage the entry of new collectors into the hobby. A number of collections have also been dispersed this year. Mid-price items are selling, especially the decorative ones, but the only high - price items to sell readily in Europe today are those wanted by the established collectors: pieces either completely new to the market or extremely rare (no more than five known specimens outside official archives). The over-familiar high-price pieces simply remain unsold because the vendors are unwilling to recognise their losses by cutting their prices. However, the American market is now stronger, and this is perhaps the forerunner of a recovery in Europe.

For the serious collector with a long-term horizon, this may well be a good time to buy.

Reference Books

A hobby needs reference books, and sadly those anticipated in last year's Chairman's Report have not yet appeared from their publishers. It was good to see the Suppes listing of world auction prices appearing in expanded form for its 1992/93 edition, now covering the bonds and shares of six European countries (but not U.K.). Wider distribution has also been achieved for the very fine book "Swedish Share Certificates before 1850" (*), a model for a scripophily publication, having the full text in the subject language (Swedish) and also in the two principal collectors' languages (German and English) and with many illustrations.

Membership

We believe we are the largest scripophily society in the world. We are certainly the most international, with members in 23 countries, no country having more than 40% of the membership.

The number of members remained stable in 1992/93. However, in the five years 1988/93 the U.K. membership fell by 35%. The U.S. membership also fell, by 25%. Happily, most of the rest of the world rose, so the overall fall was restricted to 14%. The big gains were in Canada, due to the enthusiasm of Geoff Cole and his committee in reviving the Canadian Society, and in Belgium and Germany through the promotional activities of Erik Boone and Howard Shakespeare.

I do not accept the view that declining membership is entirely or mainly due to a decline in interest in scripophily or a fall in the market. After all, our share of the number of collectors worldwide is tiny, and so there is plenty of room for membership growth, even in a declining market. We can see how Canada, Belgium and Germany have increased their membership through enthusiastic promotional activity.

Membership Survey

The Society needs to address two issues: finding new members and stopping members leaving. We can tackle the first through promotion (which means dealer support, PR and perhaps advertising). But no amount of promotion will attract and retain members if the services we offer are not of the kind and quality that scripophilists want. So we need to address the issue of our members' satisfaction with what we offer them.

One of the first things I did after my election as Chairman last year was to ask through the Journal for members to write to me to tell me what they want from the Society, but this elicited only one response. The Committee, therefore, decided to carry out a membership survey, and to start with U.K. members as this is where our biggest problem is. With the help of our Publicity Officer Tim Robson, questionnaires were sent to 20% of the U.K. membership, of which over 80% have been completed and returned. The

Committee will initiate appropriate actions after studying the results of the survey.

Finance

The Treasurer, Martyn Probyn, reports that the Society's financial position shows an improvement over last year, as we managed to achieve a small surplus by controlling costs and increasing advertising revenue. The Committee will review later this year whether there is a need to increase the subscription rates for 1994/95, but we hope that an increase can be avoided. We are grateful to Geoff Metzger for again carrying out the role of Hon. Auditor.

The Journal

The Journal has gone from strength to strength and is much admired. It is the most important service that we provide to our members. We again produced four issues. Sadly, Howard Shakespeare has warned us that from early 1994 he will not be in a position to carry out the totality of the operations involved in editing and publishing the Journal. We are therefore seeking volunteers who would be willing to undertake parts of the process (writing/editing/production). Geoff Metzger has been appointed as (volunteer) advertising manager, and I am pleased to report that he has already increased the advertising income and is confident of achieving more.

Society Auctions

The Committee welcomed Auctioneer Bruce Castlo's proposal to reintroduce the Society's mail auctions, and the first was held in June. The results have encouraged Bruce to hold more mail auctions in addition to the regular mini-auctions held at the London meetings.

List of Members

Membership Secretary Mike Veissid intends to improve the format of the List of Members by sequencing by country, and encouraging members to add their telephone numbers and more details of their interests. He is adding to the computer system so that we can analyse membership turnover.

SOCIETY AUCTION

Owing to the success of the auction held at the June meeting (the catalogues for which were sent out with the March Journal), we aer pleased to offer another auction, to be held at our December meeting.

We are happy to continue these auctions, as a service to members, as long as sellers and buyers give us the support we need.

The Committee

The Committee, ably marshalled by Secretary Peter Duppa-Miller and with the welcome addition of Erik Boone as the European Representative, has continued to function well. A business plan is being developed, which will identify the Society's strengths and weaknesses, and the actions to be taken by the Committee.
I am pleased to say that all members of the Committee have expressed their willingness to continue in their roles, and we are looking forward to continuing to work for the benefit of the Society. We will be glad to receive all feedback, negative and positive, that members care to give us in the course of the coming year. The Committee has power to co-opt additional members, and I should be pleased to hear from any members interested in contributing to the development of the Society.

Brian Mills
Chairman. July 6, 1993
(*) reviewed in our November 1991 issue.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1991

	1992 £	£	1993 £	£
Subscriptions & Donations	4438		4052	
Journal advertising	1517		1840	
Auction Commission	213		139	
Interest received (net)	215		---	
(gross)	209		438	
Gain on Foreign Exchange	---		142	
Total income		6592		6611
Production cost; publications	3796		3857	
Postage; publications	1130		1091	
Computer office and Committee's expenses	400		208	
Stationery	721		340	
Meeting costs, less fees	316		344	
Bourse, etc costs, less fees	218		---	
Bank charge	206		88	
The Award	150		150	
Taxation on interest	52		110	
Membership List	---		301	
Total Expenditure		6989		6489
Deficit/Surplus for period		(397)		122

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 1993

	1992 £	£	1993 £	£
Accumulated Fund B/Forward	2601		2204	
Deficit for period	(379)		122	
		2204		2326
Represented by :				
Loan to Canada	151		152	
Bank deposit accounts	5375		7004	
Bank and cash balances	510		487	
Sundry debtors & prepayment	1109		1194	
Stocks & W.I.P.	958		732	
Total assets		8463		9569
Less liabilities :				
Unexpired subscriptions	4789		5295	
Sundry creditors & accruals	1418		1838	
Taxation	52		110	
		6259		7243
		2204		2326

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS
I have examined the accounts of the International Bond and Share Society above. In my opinion thet give a true picture of the state of affairs at 31st March 1993 and of the year then ending.

Colchester 25th June 1993

GEOFFREY H. METZGER, MSI
Hon. Auditor

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOND & SHARE SOCIETY,

held on 6 July 1993 at the Ski Club of Great Britain, London.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

1. Brian Mills welcomed the 15 members present.

The Minutes of the 1992 AGM

2. The Minutes of the 1992 AGM were approved.
3. It was noted that, in future, the Minutes of AGMs would be published in the Journal.

Matters Arising

4. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman's Report

5. Brian Mills presented his report; it will be published in the Journal.

The Annual Accounts

6. Martyn Probyn presented the 1992/92 Accounts.
7. The 1992/92 Accounts were adopted; they will be published in the Journal.

The Membership Secretary's Report

8. Mike Veissid reported that the Society's membership remained at about 500; he said that there now appeared to be evidence of a higher level of retention of members.

Approval of a Resolution authorising the Committee to increase the annual membership subscription by up to £5 for 1994/94, if deemed by the Committee to be necessary.

9. After discussion, this enabling Resolution was approved by 14 votes to 1.

The Membership List

10. It was agreed that the Membership List should, in future, be arranged by countries.

The Publications Editor's Report

11. Howard Shakespeare reported that four journals had been produced during the past year.
12. He drew attention to the trend towards more, but shorter, articles, and called for more 'news' items to be offered for publication.
13. He stated that every effort was being made to reduce the cost of production and distribution of the Journal.
14. He and Geoffrey Metzger reported that further advertising was being sought, and that the charges for advertising were being reviewed.
15. The general feeling of the meeting was that the present charges for advertising should be retained.

The Publicity Officer's Report

16. Tim Robson emphasized the trend in the U.K. press away from serious articles, and called for 'story' items to be passed to him for release to the media.

The 1993 International Bond & Share Society Award

17. Brian Mills reported that the Award Panel had now made its selection, which would be announced in the Journal.

Election of the Committee for 1993/94

18. The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary, the Publications Editor, the Publicity Officer, the Auctioneer and the Member for Continental Europe were re-elected en bloc.
19. There were no nominations for the 'Other Member' of the Committee.
20. The Meeting confirmed that the American, Canadian and South African Bond and Share Societies/Chapters should continue to be represented on the Committee of the International Bond and Share Society by their Chairmen/Presidents, or their delegates.
21. It was noted that Howard Shakespeare would probably be relinquishing the position of Publications Editor early in 1994; it was planned to divide the task into parts, and the Committee would be seeking volunteers to undertake the work.

Confirmation of the Auditor

22. The Meeting confirmed Geoffrey Metzger as Auditor for 1993/94.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

In June the Committee carried out a postal survey of a random sample of U.K. members to find out what activities and services members want from the Society. 85% of members polled returned the questionnaires and we appreciate such a fine response.

The Committee has for a long time been concerned about the low attendance at Society meetings and bourses, but it seem that few extra members would come to the monthly meetings, no matter how we changed the format, content, time or place. Although 48% are 'fairly interested' in lectures, and 24% in site visits, only 10% are 'very interested'. An even smaller 3% are 'very interested' in the possibility of Society social events.

In great contrast, every member likes the whole (59%) or some part of (41%) of the Journal. The most popular sections are News and Auction Reports - 43% find them 'very' and 50% 'fairly' interesting. Articles provoke a more ambivalent response - 24% 'very', 55% 'fairly' and 21% 'not very' or 'not at all' interesting.

Asked what they would like to see more of in the Journal, the answer was 'more of everything'. Over 95% of members want more, or the same amount, of Illustrations, News, Auction Reports and Advertisements, in that order. Articles are controversial, 31% wanting more and 21% wanting less.

The annual Membership List is popular. Several members mentioned that they like receiving dealers' lists as a result of their addresses appearing in the List.

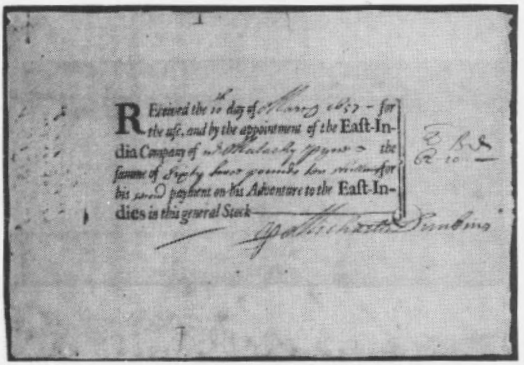
On the results of this survey, the Committee thinks it can stop worrying about meetings - although the monthly London meetings will continue for their regular devotees - and concentrate efforts on the Journal and other publications, with an increased emphasis on news items and articles of broad interest. These are what the U.K. members want - and it is true of U.K. members, it will be even more true of overseas members who cannot get to U.K. meetings in any event.

Are there any other views?

Member Anne-Marie Hendy receiving from Chairman Brian Mills her prize for being first out of the hat on returning the U.K. Members' Survey Questionnaire.

IMPORTANT U.S. COLLECTION STOLEN

We are sorry to have to tell members of the theft of an important collection, belonging to a gentleman in New Jersey; it is the first major theft of antique securities in the U.S. The approximate value of the 69 stolen pieces is $125,000. We understand that only the bonds and shares were stolen, so the thief may have had some knowledge of scripophily. We have to hope that the thief will be traced while trying to sell the collection, and that all will be recovered safely, and not destroyed.



As is obvious from the high value, there are many excellent pieces in the collection. The top piece, and much the most distinctive, is the (English) East India Co. call receipt of 1657, sold amid some controversy in an auction in Germany in 1989, for about DM70,000 + premium. Some members will recall that it was described in the catalogue as an 'Aktie (Inscribed Stock Receipt)', when it seems clear that it is not that at all, but a lesser document. However, such an early piece, from the first share issue of such an important company, it is a major historical piece, by any standards, and certainly unique.

Other valuable pieces stolen include a Banco Nacional de San Carlos, a Bank of the United States, 2 Keyserlijke Indische Co., an American Express of 1866, 2 Philadelphia & Lancaster Turnpikes, around 20 very good autograph U.S. rails, and much else.

In case any member should be offered any material which might be from the missing collection, please advise Detective Rice, of the Ridgewood NJ police, on 201-652-3900.

WH

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TELL YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS!

Scripophily is not as widely-known as it should be, in any country of the world. May we suggest that collectors of regional material might write to the newspapers in their area to tell of the local history shown by their share certificates. We believe that local newspapers in all countries are always desperate to find material to fill their columns; they might well be pleased to receive material about companies in the area, and those companies' bond and share certificates.

AN IMPORTANT COURT DECISION IN U.K.

We all know of cases where scripophilists holding bearer shares or bonds have earned themselves money (sometimes a lot of money) by surrendering those papers to liquidators of a company or the repayment agency for bonds. U.K. holders of Russian and Chinese bonds (scripophily collectors and dealers, and other holders) did well when those countries made arrangements with the U.K. government just a few years ago. Some people today are knowledgeable enough to be able to pick up those East European or Latin American bonds which are still redeemable for more than the collector's value of a piece in poor condition, and the occasional Russian bearer share is of value.

However, all this applies to bearer shares. A recent legal case in London decided the position on registered (or nominative) shares. Baku Consolidated Oilfields Ltd was formed in London in 1908 to acquire and work oil concessions in Azerbaijan, but never commenced trading. The Soviet Government seized its assets in 1920. In 1929 the company was liquidated, and the limited assets available outside the Soviet Union were utilised to pay the shareholders on the register. However, in 1990, the U.K./Soviet agreement included a provision for payment to shareholders of earlier claims for compensation. By this time the register was over 50 years out of date, and the question arose of who was entitled to benefit under this ruling.

The judge directed the liquidator to pay shareholders on the register, the executors of the wills of those shareholders, and holders of share certificates who could demonstrate an entitlement to the shares.

However, the liquidator was told not to pay to any person whose only claim was possession of a share certificate. The judge understood that a number of persons claiming had simply purchased their certificates as collectors, or scripophilists, and that there was an active market in old bonds and shares which were acquired with no rights against the company which had originally issued them. Those purchasers did not acquire any rights to the shares covered by the certificate.

This decision will not cause any great surprise to scripophilists; it was an optimistic holder indeed who thought he might gain from a registered certificate. However, it is useful to have a legal decision on the matter. It seems very likely that the same decision would be reached on a similar case involving registered shares in other countries.

It is interesting that scripophily is now recognised by the High Court in U.K.
(Thanks to Keith Hollender for bringing the relevant 'Times Law Report' to our attention).

FORBES MAGAZINE

Forbes, the top U.S. business publisher, has recently published a full-colour 6-page article on famous stocks of history. This appeared in its 'Audacity' magazine.

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STANDARD OIL TRUST CERTIFICATES

In our last issue we mentioned that a whole book of 'Trust' certificates had come to light. We are now able to give you a much more complete story.

The book is of 500 certificates, of which 13 are missing. All the 487 pieces are issued, and signed by John D. Rockefeller and Henry Flagler. The signatures are neatly cancelled, and the shares pasted back into the book from which they were originally issued. The book is the first used by the Trust, so the shares are those first issued - to various Trustees, officers and trustees' families, sometimes for substantial amounts of stock (up to 50,000 shares, of $100 each!)

About 150 of the stocks are in fair or poor condition, but the remaining 337 pieces are generally excellent. They are being marketed over several years by a leading U.S. dealer, first to scripophily collectors and later to the collectible and business market. We understand that none of the pieces so far sold have been re-offered on the collectors' market.

The Trust was set up to bring John D. Rockefeller's vast oil empire under one central management, controlled by him and an 'inner circle' of influential trustees. It became the first great monopoly in U.S. business history, using its enormous power and income to acquire 90% of the world's oil-refining capacity until 1889, when it was ordered to be dissolved ('busted') by the U.S. Government. The nucleus survived, to become the foundation of today's EXXON. John D. was distressed at the events of 1889, but would be quite happy with EXXON today.

THE JESS BREWERY COLLECTION SOLD

We mentioned in our last Frankfurt auction report (March 1993 issue) that the superb collection of 500 German brewery certificates, built up over the years by Herbert Jess, of Hamburg, and offered at Frankfurt for DM200,000, did not sell in the auction. This was correct, but we are pleased to hear that the whole collection did find a buyer, after the auction was over.

H.P. MAGAZIN

Main articles since our last Journal have been:-

July: Where is Zacatecas?, on a Mexican mining share;
Phanomen-Werke Gustav Hiller AG, by Bernhard Klobedanz, on a German bicycle -, then car- and truck-builder;
The Gold of Sao Bento (Brazil) is due to Bacteria, by Alexander Kipfer;
Railways in the Mont Blanc Region, by Jurg Zimmermann
Railway Journeys in the Wild West, taken from a Time-Life book, interesting but unrelated to scripophily.

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CHANGING NATIONALITY

It is common enough in European scripophily to see certificates issued in one country overstamped to be valid in, or expressed in the currency of, another country. This is perhaps most often seen on shares issued in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, overstamped after 1919 to show it is valid in, say, Czechoslovakia. The reason was, of course, that the area where the company was formed was allocated to Czechoslovakia after the break-up of Austria-Hungary. This is just an example - other 'Austrian' companies became domiciled in Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, etc. Similarly, shares issued in Alsace-Lorraine, as part of Germany before 1914, became French when overstamped with a new value in French currency after 1919. There are many other examples, and it makes an interesting study in itself.

However, what is rarely seen is two issues of shares by the same company under two different national legal systems and in the two different currencies. Doubtless members will inundate us with other examples, but we only one we have noticed recently is the brewery share Brasserie de Malmédy, in Belgium in 1929, becoming the Aktien-Brauerei Malmedy, in Germany in 1943. Malmédy, although in the French-speaking province of Liège, is in that small strip of Belgium near the German border, which is mostly German-speaking.

The company was formed in Malmédy in 1925, and the share illustrated was issued in 1929. It was, of course, issued under Belgian law, the text is in French and the shares were printed in the nearby town of Verviers. All as you would expect. However, in 1941, after the World War II occupation by Germany, the German-speaking part of Belgium was detached from Belgium and became a part of Germany. The company's existing shares were overstamped in 1943 with the new German name of the company and their new value, of 100 Reichsmark. This is perhaps not so unusual. However, on that same occasion in 1943, fresh shares were issued (as illustrated). These were entirely German, with text in German, a value of 50 Reichsmark, and printed by Giesecke & Devrient (Germany's leading security printers, in Berlin and Leipzig). The new shares make not the slightest reference to Belgium. The only connection with the past is one of the signatures - an administrateur of 1929 signs the 1943 overstamp and also the new shares as Vorstand (chairman).

Unfortunately, we have seen no postwar shares from this company, when it must have reverted to its Belgian nationality. All (or almost all) Belgian shares had to be reissued after liberation in 1944, so doubtless most of the Belgian and German Malmédy shares were destroyed on reissue. This would account for the great rarity of these two pieces, but it is perhaps strange that no postwar shares are known. Maybe one of our Belgian members can tell us more.

LONDON AUCTION PIECES OFFERED IN GERMANY

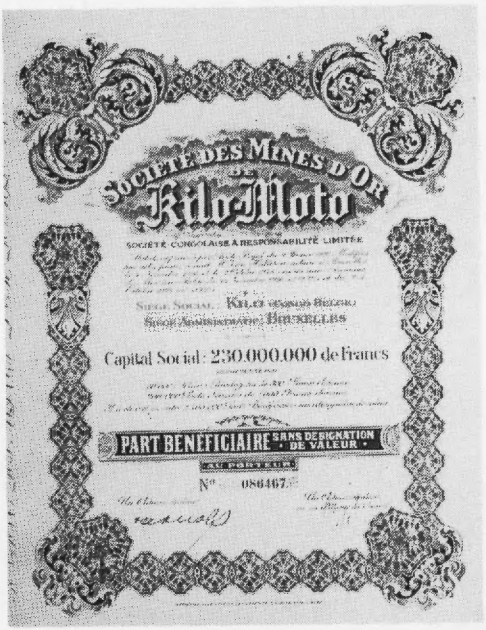
In our report of the June Phillips auction in London, we mentioned that continental European dealers were major buyers. Some of the very distinctive pieces sold there have already appeared in a German auction catalogue. Readers might be interested in a comparison of prices at which the auction-house bought and offers to sell.

	- sold at Phillips (incl. Premium)	German (start)
Hope Insurance Co.	£330 *(DM825)*	*DM1650* **(£690)**
Beacon Insurance Co.	484 *(1210)*	*2070* **(828)**
Kent Fire Insurance Co.	462 *(1155)*	*2185* **(874)**
Kent Railway Co.	165 *(412)*	*690* **(276)**
Peninsular & Oriental	297 *(742)*	*1437* **(575)**
Royal It. Opera Covent Garden	72 *(180)*	*460* **(178)**
Whitehead Aircraft	170 *(425)*	*690* **(276)**
Soc. Italian Darracq	578 *(1445)*	*2300* **(920)**

In this table we have excluded VAT, and in some cases have averaged purchase costs. This does not significantly affect the comparisons.

KILO MOTO, SOCIETE DES MINES D'OR DE

In our June 1993 Journal we published an article on Kilo Moto, the popular and attractive Congo gold-mining share. We mentioned the undecorated pre-war type, but could not at the time give a photograph of the piece. Now we can and here it is. The date is 1928, and very few indeed are known.



NO VIDEO OF THE FRANKFURT AUCTION IN SEPTEMBER

We are sorry to see that Frankfurt have had to discontinue their offer of a video of the auction. We understand that making the video has been very time-consuming, and is not possible on this occasion, given the change of venue. We must hope it will be possible to reintroduce this excellent initiative for future auctions.

AN UNUSUAL GOLF SHARE

We see golf-course shares quite often these days. Most of them are British, undecorated and not perhaps very interesting other than to golf-course collectors. Just occasionally we see a golf piece from the U.S., Australia or continental Europe, which is rather more decorative.

However, until now, we have never seen a share showing the layout of the course, and IT IS NOT EVEN A GOLF-COURSE SHARE! The certificate in question is that of the Speedway Park Association, issued in Chicago in 1925. It has a large vignette showing the speedway track, with tiny motor-cyclists racing around it. Inside the track is a 18-hole golf-course, with each hole shown, from tee to green, with bunkers, lakes, bushes, hills and valleys, all designed to make the golfer's life difficult. Tunnels under the racetrack give access to the golf. We hope our printer can show clearly this very unusual share.

STOCKS AND BONDS DISPLAYED AT U.S. COIN FAIR

The American Numismatic Association's annual convention, held in Baltimore recently, featured a display of stocks and bonds, and attracted a lot of interest from collectors, dealers and press. The display, which was of very high quality, was arranged by Haley Garrison.

A main feature was the obligation of the Dutch East India Company, of 1621, the oldest bond known to exist. The connection with Baltimore is that much of the early exploration of Chesapeake Bay was conducted by the Company, especially by English navigator Henry Hudson (hence the Hudson River, New York). The date of the bond corresponds roughly with the date of these voyages of exploration. A full-sized replica of Hudson's ship was docked in Baltimore during the convention.

BELGIUM

In our last Journal we mentioned that the Belgian collectors' club magazine is almost entirely in French, with little use of Flemish. Mr Jean-Pierre Magos, the chairman of the club, has given us the explanation - that all texts are published in the language of the author, French or Flemish, as received by the editor; for 10 years he has received no articles, letters or advertisements in Flemish.

For those wishing to join, the address of the Association is:-

Association Belge de Scriptophilie or
Belgische Vereniging voor Scriptophilie,
Av. de Chérémont, 107,
1300 Wavre, Belgium.

We are very pleased to see that Mr Magos has become a member of our Society.

A MOST UNUSUAL BOND

What strange things turn up in auctions. A forthcoming German auction includes a bond issued in 1919 by the Government of Azerbaijan.

After the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 various parts of the Russian empire made a bid for independence. Once the Civil War had been won by the 'Reds', the new Red Army made it a priority to put down these various new independent states, which had all been incorporated in the Soviet Union by 1921. One of the states in question was Azerbaijan, and this is a bond issued during its brief period of independence.

The piece is in Russian and Azeri Turkish (in Arabic script), not in Arabic as per the catalogue. The total loan was 50 million roubles (although, of course, we don't know if they were all sold). The bond is very rare indeed; certainly we have never seen or heard of it (or any Azeri pieces other than the City of Baku). Surprising, really - surely no one would ever have repaid it, so where are all the others? One of those many mysteries of scripophily.

NEW LISTING BY AN AUCTION HOUSE

We hear that one of the large European auction houses is to publish a classified computer-listing of the results of its auctions over the last ten years. The list (which will exclude quantity lots, 'varia', etc.) will include date of sale and condition, thus allowing a true assessment of how prices have changed over the period, and will include bonds and shares of all countries. Useful though the Suppes catalogues are (for those countries which they cover), the absence of date of sale and condition does make an accurate assessment of price-movements difficult. The new list will of course will relate to the sales of only one auction house.

COLLECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN SCRIP

We understand that Peter May, of West Brisbane Stamp Sales, of 43 Queen Street, Brisbane, QLD, is offering a free catalogue to all collectors of Australian scrip.

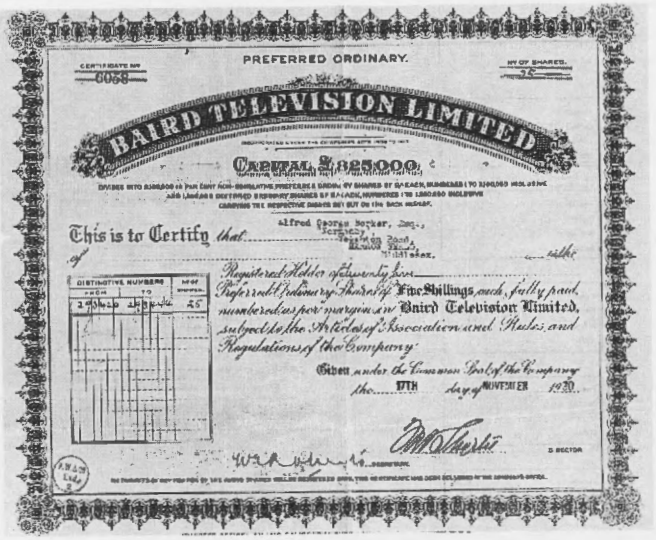
I.B.S.S. GUIDE FOR COLLECTORS

While we in U.K. send our Guide for Collectors to all new members, we understand that some who have joined societies/chapters outside the U.K. may not have received it. If you have not received it, please feel free to ask, either us or your local secretary. It is worth having.

The Guide is to be translated into French and Dutch, for issue to Belgian collectors.

EARLY TELEVISION SHARES

We have commented in recent issues on early American television shares, but the classic in this field is being offered in an auction in Switzerland this autumn - a certificate of Baird Television Ltd, dated 1930. The company was formed in 1928, surely as the first in its field. In 1926 Baird gave the first ever public demonstration of a television image. His 30-line system was adopted by the BBC in 1929, although the world's first public service did not begin until 10 years later.



NEW GERMAN REPORTS ON SCRIPOPHILY

The monthly German book magazine Bücher-Markt is now covering our hobby, with a 2-page report in each issue.

The German magazine Sammler-Journal, leading publication in the collecting field, has published a special report on scripophily, well illustrated and with a lot of sound information and advice, spread over 20 pages. It sounds valuable, for those who read German.

A NEW FRENCH REFERENCE BOOK

We are pleased to see that a new reference book is about to be published, although of a specialised nature. At the beginning of October Mr Henri Largeteau, of Bordeaux, will release his work entitled 'Girondins d'Antan' (The people of Gironde in former years). Gironde is the French department of which Bordeaux is the capital.

The work gives a detailed description of more than 250 shares issued in the Gironde, with many illustrations, and uses them to show the history of the region - the first trains, the first cars, the growth of ship-building, the early cinema, etc. It sounds like a fine way to apply scripophily.

The book is available from Mr Largeteau, at 175bis, rue de Turenne, 33000 Bordeaux, France, at a price of F225 post paid.

TROTTING

One of the more picturesque sports appearing on bonds and shares is trotting - the form of horse-racing, popular in U.S.A. and continental Europe, where the jockey drives from a light carriage pulled by the horse. We have found two pieces recently, and we illustrate them here. They are the Société Immobilière et Agricole de l'Orne (a property and agricultural company from Normandy), and the Wörthersee-Sportplatz, a 'sport-place' company from a holiday area of southern Austria. We believe there are American shares showing trotting, but have not noticed any in recent U.S. auctions. If any member, American or other, would like to send us photographs or high-quality photocopies, we shall be happy to publish them.

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INDIAN TRAMWAYS

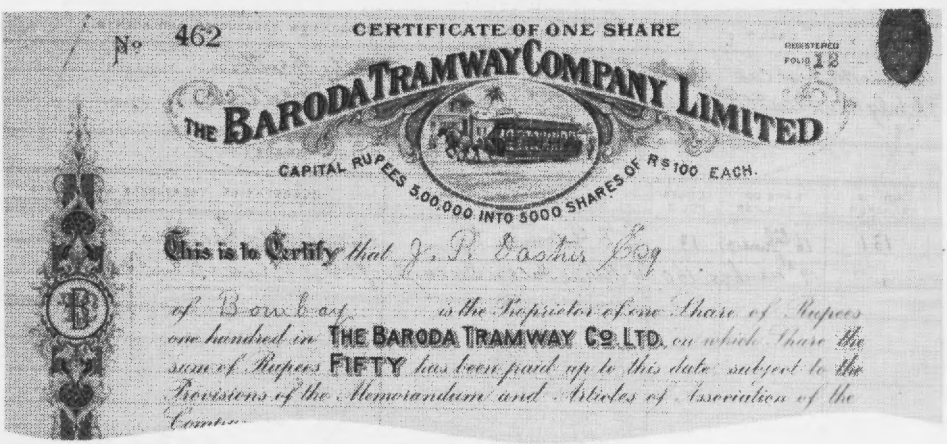
A collector of Indian tramway shares would not be a very busy collector - we believe that only 5 types are known.

Until recently the only shares known were those of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904) Ltd, (dated 1924 to 1926), both undecorated English share; there is also a bond issued in 1924 by the 1904 company. Not very exciting, but rare - very few pieces are known. However, we now have two very attractive pieces - the Baroda Tramway Co. Ltd (or 1908) and the East India Tramways Co. Ltd (of 1885).

The former company was formed in India to work the tramway system of the large western India city of Baroda. The shares have a splendid vignette of an open horse-tram in the city streets, and the seal also shows a horse-tram. Only a single piece is known.

The East India piece is of a British company, which worked the steam-tramways of Karachi (now Pakistan). The share shows a large vignette of the steam-tram locomotive, with a passenger carriage and a freight wagon. Again, only two piece are known.

Not strictly India, but not far away, is the Colombo Electric Tramways & Lighting Co. Ltd, an English company, working in the then Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. The certificates are undecorated, but rare - only a few have been seen. One is for over half the company!

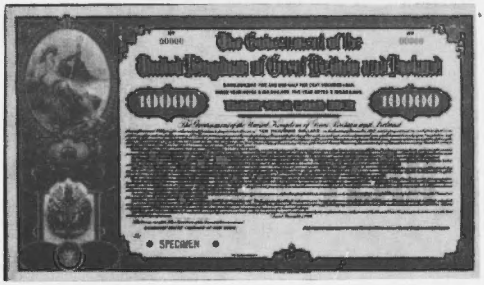


R.M.SMYTHE & CO., Memphis, 19 June

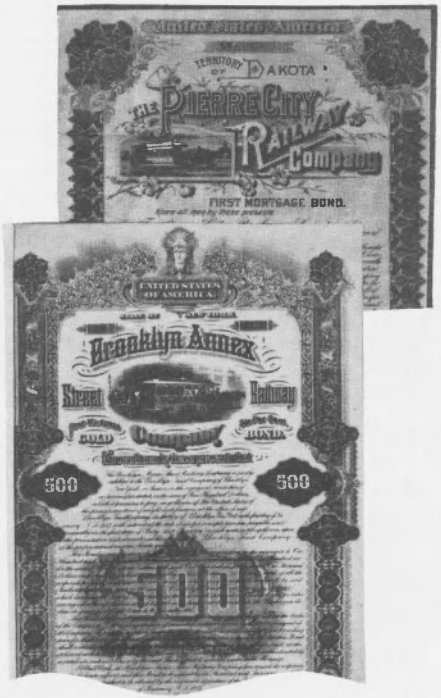
One always has the feeling that, (for scripophilists at least) Memphis is a poor relation to Strasburg. This would apply both to the auction and to the bourse. Dealers and vendors seem to make more effort in January, and quantity and quality of material on offer reflects this.

The auction on this occasion was modest, with only around 360 lots, of which over 100 were U.S. and Canadian specimens and proofs (many of which were unknown in issued form, and very attractive). All lots were sold, for a total of $147,000 - a fine achievement in the circumstances.

The American lots were rather dominated by autographs; the better pieces were well-known, but there were very colourful and interesting characters on display amongst the other lots. The auctioneers, doubtless knowing their market, tend to stress autographs even when the share itself is of interest. For example the Bodie Bluff share, signed by Leland Stanford,



Two extremely rare (perhaps unique) British Government dollar securities, sold at Memphis



gave us the (well-known) story of Stanford, but nothing about Bodie (probably the finest 'ghost town' in America) itself. However, Smythe catalogue descriptions are always good, and we are not complaining!

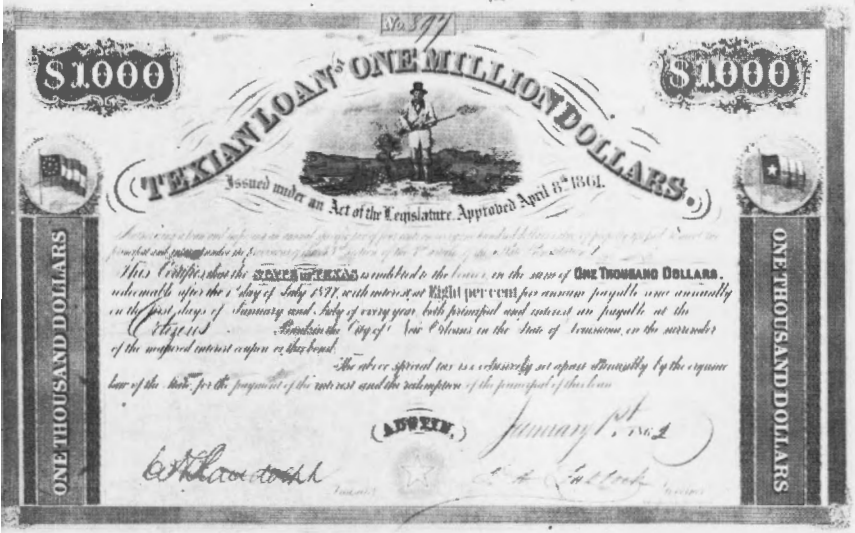
The 57 foreign lots included some unusual pieces; among them were the Imperial Fire Insurance Co, issued Copenhagen in 1798 (and the oldest known share still quoted on a stock exchange today). The U.K. section included several minor South Sea pieces, but also two very rare British Government loan specimens, and in South Africa we saw two types of share of the Cape of Good Hope New Mercantile Exchange, dated 1822 and 1832. Other foreign pieces were mostly of lesser interest.

Among the best results were the Standard Oil, at $10,000, an American Express of 1854, at $2,500, and a Philadelphia & Lancaster Turnpike, at $1,000. The French Banque Territoriale, of 1803 (here, we imagine, only because of the signature of du Pont, founder of the U.S. chemicals

giant) brought $3,700. Confederates were strong, as in other recent U.S. auctions, and Texas bonds, strangely neglected in the past, brought excellent prices.

The bourse had plenty of dealers offering their wares, but we understand that there was little new to be found, either in individual pieces for collectors or in bulk for dealers.

We look forward to Strasburg in January.



A Texas Bond similar to the one sold at Memphis. It shows the original flag of the Confederacy, prior to the adoption of the familiar flag we still see today. Perhaps the only bond showing this flag?

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A COLOURFUL TRAMWAY COMPANY

Avrum Grader
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Over the years the Canadian Bond and Share Society has managed to acquire material from some highly unusual companies. One such company is Mexico Tramways. From the start this company was a curious mix of Canadian legal/accounting skills, American engineering prowess, Mexican labour and European capital. Mexico Tramways presents a subtle reminder that the global pursuit of profitable investments has long been in existence.

The guiding light of this promotion was a gentleman named Fred Stark Pearson. Dr.Pearson was an engineer by training but a whirlwind of creative energy by nature.

Growing up in a small town in Massachusetts, young Pearson worked as a railroad agent while studying engineering at Tufts College. Dr.Pearson eventually became a manager for a number of street railway companies in both Boston and New York, where he gained a reputation as a top-notch engineer. Fred Pearson, like all other entrepreneurs, was restless, and wanted to be his own boss.

A NEW VENTURE

In 1906 Dr.Pearson proposed a venture for operating street-cars in Mexico City. Among his early backers were Sir William MacKenzie and James Ross, two of Canada's wealthiest utility/railroad

Issued to William Van Horne, famous builder of the Canadian Pacific Railway

magnates. The ubiquitous Sir William van Horne, of Canadian Pacific fame, was also an early supporter. Dusting off the dormant charter of the Yucatan Power Co., Zebulon Lash (W. MacKenzie's lawyer, and the arch-dean of Toronto's legal establishment) expanded the powers of the company. The company name was changed to the Mexican Consolidated Electric Company Ltd, then to Mexico Tramways Ltd. Canada was a promoter's paradise, because of its lax security laws and the wide powers of discretion awarded to company officers/directors. Mexico Tramways was authorised to acquire all the outstanding shares of a British company - the Mexico Electric Tramway Co. Ltd.

This company was attractive to the Pearson/MacKenzie interests because it had a generous franchise to provide mass transit to Mexico City and its environs until 1982. With 148km of electric lines, 69km of mule lines and 16km of steam lines, the company was in excellent condition. It also made a profit of 1,345,000 pesos ($672,500) in 1905. Mexico Tramways acquired this company from the British merchant bank of Wernher and Beit, whose fortune stemmed from the legendary gold and diamond wealth of South Africa.

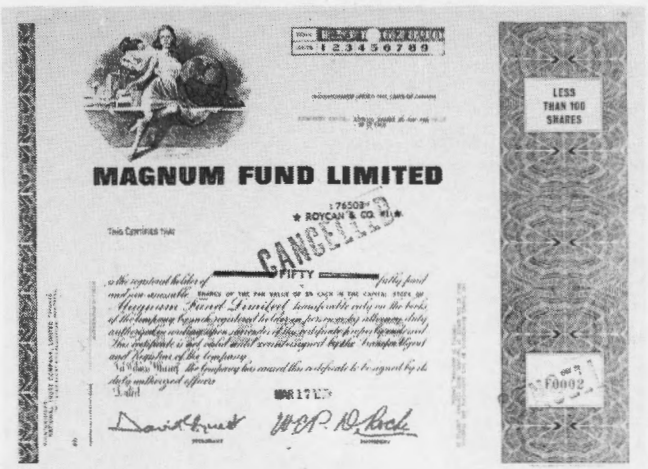
THE LAUNCH

Mexico Tramways was launched with great fanfare. In order to raise money for its recent acquisition, it was necessary to go to europe; Canada's financial markets were too limited. A bond issue of $7,5 million and 60,000 shares of $100 each were issued. Bonds were sold at 90% of par, with a stock bonus of 25%. To compensate for the high risk, it was often necessary to give stock away for free. Bonds (and the bonus stock) were eagerly purchased by investors throughout Europe. Among the most prominent were the legendary Scottish money-managing firm of Robert Fleming & Co. and the tempestuous, high-flying Alfred Lowenstein of Belgium.

European investors were well rewarded for their faith in Mexico Tramways; income required to meet expenses decreased 12% while earnings increased 47%. A 1% dividend was declared in 1907 and 4% in 1908. Mexico Tramways' profitability was reflected in its share price. The stock went from $59 in 1907 to a high of $138 in the fall of 1908.

With its new success, the company launched an aggressive programme of diversification by acquiring the ailing

Note: The bearer shares, showing a tram and the cathedral of Mexico City, were first issued in English, French and Spanish and later, in English and French only - see front cover.



Mexican Light & Power Co. It became essential that Mexico Tramways should have access to a ready source of power. Offers to lease the power company were met with hostility. This may have been caused by Pearson's free-spending ways, which was the source of the power company's difficulties (Pearson was a consultant to this company). Undeterred, Pearson initiated a hostile take-over battle. An offer of 8 Mexico Tramways shares for 14 Mexican L&P shares was accepted. By the end of 1910, the company had acquired 84,000 of the 135,850 Mexican Light & Power shares outstanding. Integration of the two companies was now a profitable reality.

TROUBLE

Unfortunately, Mexico Tramways' profitability was cut short by the Mexican Revolution (1911-19). The revolution in Mexico was a violent eruption of anti-foreigner sentiment that was fatal to corporate interests. In 1914 a pro-labour government intervened and seized the assets of Mexico Tramways. With the ever-increasing violence of the revolution, inflation and a hostile, nationalistic government, Mexico Tramways ceased to be a profitable concern. Dividends ended in 1913 and would not resume until 1962. Bond interest was suspended in 1915. In that same year a receiver (along with a bondholders' committee) took control of what little remained of the company. Needless to say, the share price collapsed.

The end of the Mexican revolution in the 1920s brought about renewed hopes of profitability. The company was returned to is owners, and a 2 million peso settlement for damages was awarded. A bondholders' agreement, along with a mildly sympathetic government, would serve to provide stability for the company while it recovered from the damage wrought by the revolution.

THE END

Hopes of profitability were not to be. The depression of the 1930s devastated the company. In yet another reorganisation, the company's subsidiary, Mexican Light and Power, was spun off to its bondholders. The company became a virtual shall, with lawyers and accountants in Toronto nursing its mortal wounds. In 1945 the Mexican government appointed an interventor to seize all company assets in Mexico City. In April 1952 the company sold all its assets to the Mexican government for over 16 million pesos (around U.S.$ 2 million). Proceeds were paid in 4% bonds which were quickly sold off. With the cash proceeds, Mexico Tramways becamean investment company. in 1958 the company changed its name to The Magnum Fund Limited, with each share being changed from a par of $100 to $10.

Ironically, the company fared better as an investment firm than as a tramway operator. In 1962 the company paid its first dividend of $0.30, and in 1969 split its stock two for one. The company did so incredibly well that in 1971 its stock was recapitalised at $25/share from $5. Also in that year the Rothschild Investment Fund purchased an substantial interest in the company, which was eventually finally taken over seven years later in 1978.

Sources: Annual Financial Review, 1910 Moody's Transport Manual, 1958, 1959 Moody's Bank & Finance Manual, 1963, 1978. Southern Exposure, by C.Armstrong & H.V.Nelles (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 1988).

Editor's Note: The Dr. Pearson is the same person who signed Barcelona Traction shares, until he was drowned when the 'Lusitania' was torpedoed by a German submarine in 1915.

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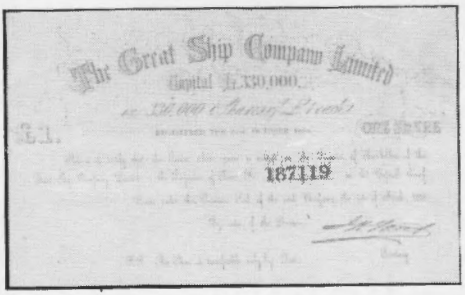
Britain at Sea

by Michael Veissid

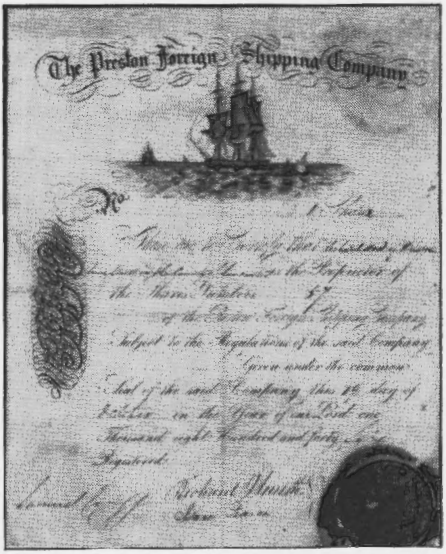
Shipping and shipbuilding has, until recent years, been one of Britain's main industries but it was not until the 1830's that the country began to climb to world domination. Prior to 1800, French and American vessels were faster and more up-to-date than British shops, which were still built as deep as possible to avoid British Port duties. Encouragement came in 1834 and 1835 when laws were changed and a new system of registration at Lloyd's was inaugurated.

Collecting shipping company certificates is one of the main areas of interest in the market at the moment and British material provides a wide variety of design. Early (pre 1850) material is also occasionally available, although quite expensive. Some of the top names in the business are British companies, such as Cunard, P & O, White Star (owners of the infamous Titanic), and many are available to the collector. Here are just a few examples:



One of the most famous of ships was the S.S. Great Eastern, originally named Leviathan, deigned by Brunel. She was a 22,500 ton vessel of some 680 feet in length and completely dwarfed all other vessels for years to come. The next largest during her life was the Scotia of some 3,850 tons and even after she was broken up the largest vessel then afloat weighed in at only 10,650 tons!

This enormous project broke her owners with a cost of £780,000 and this in a still unfinished state. She was sold to the Great Ship Company for only £160,000 for completion. Finally brought into service in 1860 the ship made a handful of voyages accross the Atlantic, mostly unprofitable and full of unfortunate events. She was finally sold to the Great Eastern Steam Ship Company in 1864 for £95,000 and she was then converted into a cable laying vessel.



The certificate of the Preston Foreign Shipping Company is, as far as I know, unique. Its design is behind the times for 1846 and could easily be 20 years earlier. I have not been able to research this piece fully but understand that the company operated wooden ships around the coasts of England, Ireland and the Continent.

There were many small shipping operators that took advantage of the new Joint Stock Companies Act of 1844 to issue shares, generally to friends, relatives and local people.

While on the subject of formation, a paragraph on the financing of ships may be useful. Going back prior to 1800, the cost of a ship was often divided into 8ths, 16ths or 32nds as the finance was invariably too much for one person. The parts were generally referred to as shares but the group were not a corporate body.
This system extended into the period when limited companies were formed. An operator of maybe 4 ships would have each one registered as a company and divided the capital into a number of shares, usually 128 or 256. This system of 'one ship' companies had its heyday in the 1880's.
The Cynthiana Steamship Company Limited certificate shown here is an example of this, although it had broken away from the usual number of shares to have a round number more in line with normal joint stock companies.
This company, formed in Glasgow, was one of several with similar names, all of which came under the same management firm.

The Cynthiana Steamship Company Limited.
Capital £40000 in 800 Shares of £50 each.
SHARES FULLY PAID UP.
This is to Certify that
Glasgow
Registered Proprietor of Four Shares of Fifty Pounds each fully paid up Numbered from to inclusive in The Cynthiana Steamship Company Limited subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company
Given under the Common Seal of the said Company at Glasgow, the twenty seventh day of May Eighteen hundred and ninety one years

The only other certificate we have seen of this group is the Feliciana Steamship Company and it is of identical design, even down to the vignette!
It is interesting to note that more shipping share certificates are decorated witha small vignette than most other fields. This needless to say adds to the desirability and consequently the price!

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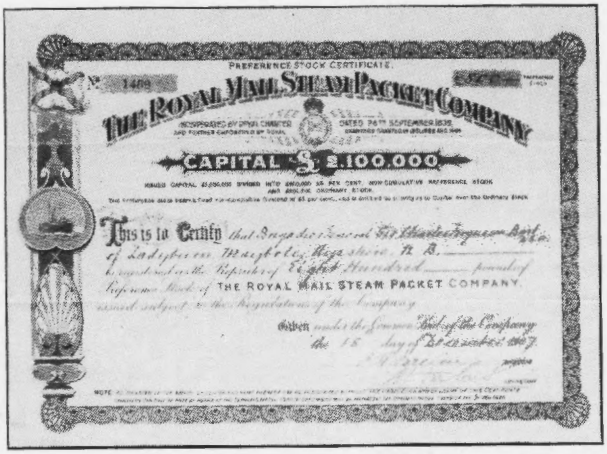

PREFERENCE STOCK CERTIFICATE.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

CAPITAL £2,100,000

This is to Certify that

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Given under the Common Seal of the Company

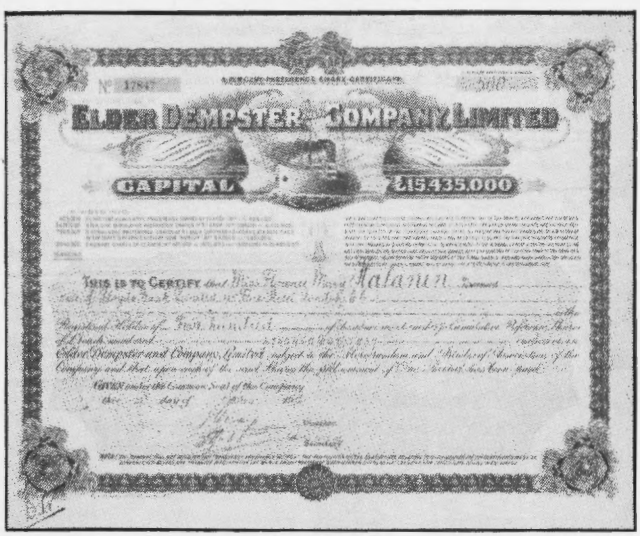
Certificates of the important Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are reasonably easy to obtain, although I have seen nothing dated prior to 1900. This was one of a handful of companies set up in the 1830's to carry mails around the world - an extremely important source of much needed income. Charters of the company were renewed periodically, the last being in 1920. Unfortunately the company suffered badly in the financial collapses of 1929 and was forced into a scheme of re-arrangement in 1932. Value of certificates - from £8 for 1920's to £25 for those dated prior to 1910.

Another large and important company whose certificates are fairly easy to obtain is Elder Dempster & Company Ltd. This comapny was pre-eminent in the West African trade from the mid 19th century but was only formed into a public limited company in 1910. Like the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Elder Dempster suffered in the early 1930's and was forced into receivership in 1935. The legacy of these liquidations, fortunately for us collectors, is the certificates!

As I have already mentioned early certificates, from the 1830's are quite expensive, costing anything from £200 each. The 1850's witnessed much experimentation in the shipping industry, with iron hulls, improved steam engines and the method of propulsion (paddles or propellers). Certificates of this period tend to be more affordable, from £25 to £35 on average but rising to £100 for an extremely attractive piece.

The rise in the 'one ship' company in the 1880's gives us many certificates costing again from £25.

The most prolific period however is the period following the Great War. 1919 was a boom year generally for industry and especially for company promotions. Many new companies were formed and many existing firms were reorganised. As with most booms there comes the inevitable downturn and collapse and in this case it came with disastrous effect in 1929. The stock market crash caused many bankruptcies and we are now left with many certificates of small shipping firms dating from 1919 to 1928, which can be had for as little as £8. Good hunting!


ELDER DEMPSTER & COMPANY LIMITED

CAPITAL £15435,000

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

THE HORIZONTAL BORE & DRILLING COMPANY, INC.

A number of joke shares have been produced for scripophily, the Ewing Oil Co. and the Hamburg Reeperbahn pieces among them, but one where the joke was a legal company with a serious money-making objective was the Horizontal Bore & Drilling Co. Inc., of Ely, Nevada. Many of us have heard of this share, but few, we believe, have actually seen the certificate or know the story. We now propose to put that right, and hope that members will find it amusing.

Nevada's brothels are renowned, but in fact they are illegal in the counties with the large towns (Las Vegas, Reno), where most tourists go. However, they flourish in the other counties, such as White Pine, including the city of Ely, which has a number of such establishments. However, one of those registered in Ely is different - there are no girls there. It exists purely to sell certificates of Preferred Stock in itself.

The idea originated around 1980, after the local mine closed and the town was in trouble. The suggestion by a Californian lady, Susan Gottlieb, to form the company was readily accepted by the city; Ely's aims were to get publicity, attract curious tourists and gain a part of the profits on sale of the stock certificates. It took several

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF
STATE OF NEVADA
CERTIFICATE NUMBER
THE HORIZONTAL BORE & DRILLING COMPANY, INC.
This Certifies that ROBERT S. HETTINGER
In Witness Whereof,

years to comply with state and city regulations for setting up a brothel; The company was formed in 1984, and the sale of shares started only in 1985.

The prospectus clearly states that the stockholder has no voting rights or ownership interest, does not share in any corporate assets or in profits, and the stock is not transferable or negotiable. Those applying for stock must submit a notarised statement from the family doctor certifying the applicant is in need of sexual activity to maintain his health, and written permission from the applicant's wife or mother. It is stated that at least 12,000 shares were sold - the certificate we have seen recently was numbered 10565.

Certificates are very decorative, showing the actual 'house' (a red and pink Victorian facade on a double-trailer) and one of the fictional employees; the piece is signed by the company officers and the (lady) mayor of Ely.

The package, of personalised stock certificate, frame, membership card, application and company prospectus was available for $8 from the company in Ely.

FRENCH COMPANIES IN THE CALIFORNIA GOLDRUSH (Update)

It appears that members found our March 1993 article to be interesting. We are happily able to give an update, with more photographs, two of newly-discovered shares, and the story of perhaps the most interesting of all these shares.

The new photographs are of:
(1) L'Aurifére, described in the text;
(2) Le Mineur, a company not known to us, formed in Paris at the fairly late date of April 1850, with a capital of F1,000,000. This first issue (and probably the only one) was of 35,000 shares of F10 each. Naturally, we don't know how many were actually sold - the piece we have seen is from the first of the five series into which this first issue was divided;
(3) La Mariposa, full of interest because of its connection with John Charles FREMONT, one of the great names of the early West. The share is unusual in a number of ways. Firstly, its date (August 1850) is very late, perhaps the latest we have seen of these companies. Secondly, the capital structure - 1000 shares of F500, a very high par value, and, we would think, difficult to sell (other companies at this time were offering shares of a par value of F10 or F25). Thirdly, and most important, the identification on the share of a specific property, and a most interesting one - one that proved to be enormously rich, although not, it seems, in the hands of this company.

The object of the company, according to its statuts on the reverse of the share, was to work a gold-mine concession given by Colonel Frémont on his property on the river Mariposa in California. Frémont was born in Savannah GA in 1813 and became an army surveyor. In 1842 he crossed the Rocky Mountains and showed that this new route across the country was feasible. In the 1840s he made various important and influential explorations in the West, and was a major element in the annexation of California to the U.S.A. in 1847. He settled in California in 1849, on the Mariposa (near Yosemite), and became a California state senator, U.S. presidential candidate and governor of Arizona. His name occurs everywhere in the West - Fremont river (and town) in Utah, Fremont Peak in the Wyoming Rockies, the city of Fremont near Oakland CA, Fremont St. in Las Vegas (the lurid heart of downtown Vegas, known as Glitter Gulch), and elsewhere. He died in New York in 1890, not greatly regretted, since he was an arrogant, ambitious, unscrupulous man with many enemies.

Gold-mining was carried on at Mariposa for very many years, and the area was one of the richest in the State.

Série [redacted] **L'AURIFÈRE** N° [redacted]

COMPAGNIE UNIVERSELLE DES MINES D'OR DE LA CALIFORNIE

Fondée pour 5 ans suivant acte passé devant Me DENTEND, Notaire, à Paris, le 26 Janvier 1850.

CAPITAL SOCIAL 800,000 FRANCS, 2ème ÉMISSION 300,000 FRANCS,

Divisés en 6,000 séries de cinq actions chacune.

SIÈGE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ, BOULEVART POISSONNIÈRE, 6

ACTION DE DIX FRANCS

AU PORTEUR

Cette Action donne droit aux deux cinquièmes dans les bénéfices, et à tous les dividendes qui auront lieu conformément aux statuts.

Les Gérants

SÉRIE 1791

LE MINEUR

COMPAGNIE FRANCO-CALIFORNIENNE DES MINES D'OR DE LA CALIFORNIE.

Fondé pour 5 ans suivant acte passé devant Me Acloque, Notaire, à Paris le 27 Avril 1850.

CAPITAL SOCIAL 1.000.000, Ire ÉMISSION 350.000 FRANCS.

Divisés en 7,000 séries de cinq Actions chacune

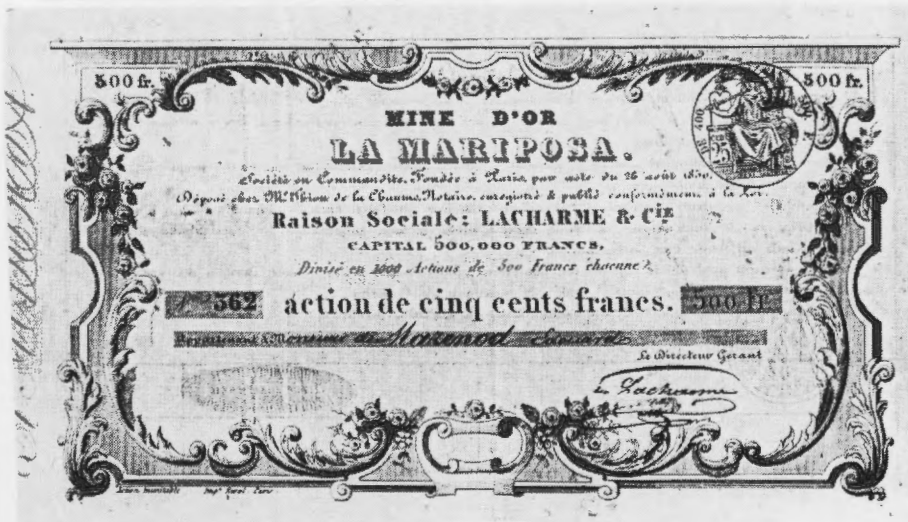
SIÈGE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ, BOULEVART BONNENOUVELLE, 31

Action de **DIX FRANCS** Au Porteur.

Cette Action donne droit à 4/5e pour cent dans les bénéfices et à tous les dividendes qui auront lieu d'après les Statuts.

Les Gérants

N° 1.



500 fr. 500 fr.

MINE D'OR

LA MARIPOSA.

Société en Commandite. Fondée à Paris par acte du 26 août 1850.

Déposé chez Me Thion de la Chaume, Notaire, enregistré & publié conformément à la Loi.

Raison Sociale: LACHARME & Cie

CAPITAL 500,000 FRANCS,

Divisé en 1000 Actions de 500 Francs chacune.

N° 562 **action de cinq cents francs.** 500 fr.

Le Directeur Gérant

LOS TOROS

Jorge Ibañez & Howard Shakespeare

Probably everyone has his personal view on whether bullfighting is a good or bad thing. However, scripophilists will agree that, as far as our hobby is concerned, it is a great theme for collecting. Surely on of the most colourful of all themes, most of the pieces are decorative (some superbly so), and surprisingly inexpensive.

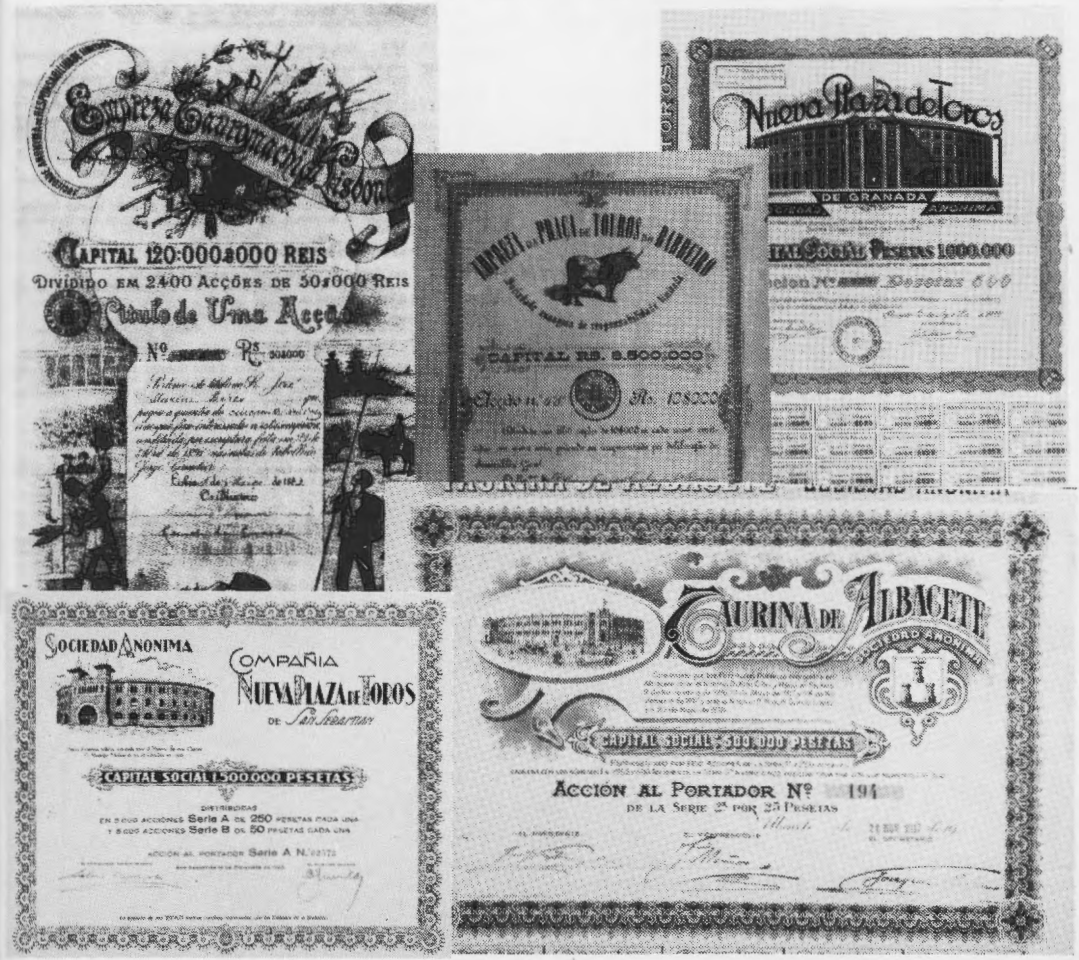
We give below a mini-catalogue of bullfighting shares, but first think that readers would like to know more of the financial side of the corrida.

Bullfighting is big financial business, especially in Spain but also in Latin America, Portugal and Southern France. The season in Spain starts on 19 March (St. Joseph's Day), in Valencia, and ends on 12 October (the day of Nuestra Señora del Pilar) in Zaragoza. Between these two dates thousands of corridas are held all

over Spain. Each province has its feria, or festival. The most important is San Isidro (15 May), in Madrid, with 30 fights, followed by Sevilla's April fair, beginning two weeks after Easter. Las Fallas, in Valencia, and Los San Fermines, in Pamplona, are known all over the world.

At the big fights, and especially at fiesta-time, a seat in the front row (the barrera) costs the equivalent of £50, since being seen there is a status symbol. However, some bullring-shares, such as Barcelona, give the right to any seat at all corridas in that ring. The 'aficionado', or fan, can in theory buy a season-ticket, but in practice these are mostly bought up by companies for entertaining clients; this is reckoned a good way to make business in Spain - few clients will refuse such an invitation.

The sport of bullfighting dates back to at least 3,500 years; it was certainly known in Knossos, in the Minoan empire on Crete, in 1,500 B.C. The origin in Spain was in the Middle Ages, when aristocrats on horseback began to fight bulls to prepare themselves for war. They created an association for the nobility, called the Maestranza de Caballerías, which has always owned numerous bullrings. Today they own the rings at Savilla and Ronda (this latter being the oldest in Spain). It is very difficult to become a member of this group; an applicant must prove nobility in all four grandfathers.



Jorge Ibañez

Other rings belong to city councils or to private companies, whose owners have made fortunes from the corridas.

In the 1920s a Señor Jardón was the 'empresario' of the Madrid Opera House. King Alfonso XIII (grandfather of King Juan Carlos) had a passion for a particular soprano, and intervened with Sr Jardón for her to sing in Madrid. Sr Jardón, of course, did this favour for the King, and was rewarded with the position of 'empresario' of the Madrid Plaza de Toras, or bullring. He made a lot of money, and brought the Plaza de Toros of San Sebastian, a smart resort in northeast Spain (we know the shares of his company). He sold it in 1974 for £2 million - a fortune 20 years ago. Sadly or otherwise, depending on your view of the sport, the ring was demolished, and apartments built in its place. Since then San Sebastian has no bullring.

Bullfight shares known are:-

Spain
Albacete, S.A. Taurina de, 1917
Alcazar de San Juan, Nueva Plaza de Toros, S.A., 1928
Barcelona, Cía de la Nueva Plaza de Toros de 'Arenas de Barcelona'
Colmenar Viejo, S.A. de la Plaza de Toros de, 1891
Córdoba, Soc. de la Plaza de Toros de, 1846
Extremeña, Taurina, issued Mérida, 1903
Granada, Nueva Plaza de Toros de, S.A.
San Sebastian, Cía Nueva Plaza de Toros de, 1932 (3 types known - bearer shares of 250pts and 50pts, and nominative), 1932
Talavera de la Reina, 'La Lidia' Cía An., 1890
Valladolid, S.A. Taurina de, 1901
Villanueva del Arzobispo, S.A. Constructora y Explotadora de la Plaza de Toros y, 1928

Portugal
Barreiro, Empreza da Praça de Toros, 1891
Lisbonense, Empreza Tauromachica, 1892
Reguengos, Empreza Tauromaquica, 1928

France
Société des Plazas de Toros de France, 1920

We seem to recall an Uruguayan bullring share, but cannot locate it at present.

The Córdoba share is much the earliest ever seen in this field, and is a unique piece.

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