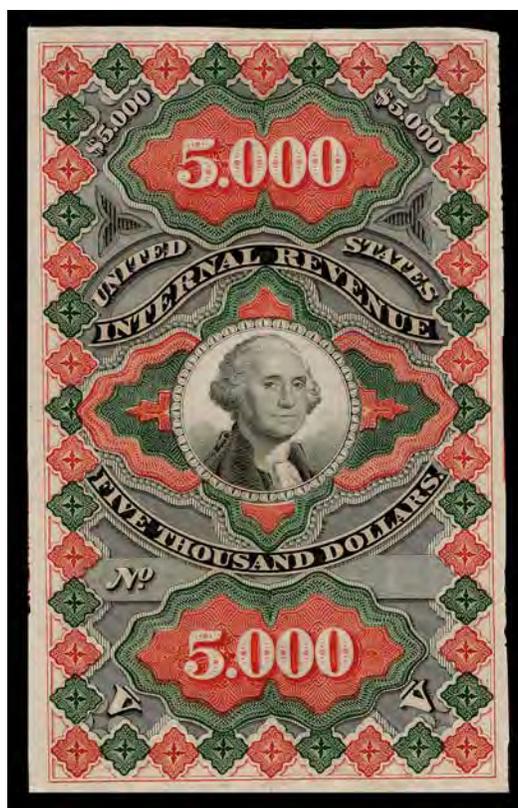


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# THE EAGLE COLLECTION OF ESSAYS AND PROOFS OF UNITED STATES STAMPS FINDING GUIDE

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*\$5,000.00 Trial Color Proof  
(Scott R133ATC) Vol. 18, p. 25*



Smithsonian  
National Postal Museum

This revision was published on May 3, 2010  
This finding guide is available online at  
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*Dalley's Galvanic Horse Salve  
(Scott RS73P) Vol. 8, p.1*

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## COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

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The Eagle Collection (NPM accession number 203453) consists of 24 volumes of essays and proofs of United States revenue and postage stamps from 1851 to 1903. The collection is housed on the original pages as mounted by Clarence H. Eagle. Most volumes are in their original binders, but the pages have been removed from volumes 23 and 24, and are kept separate from the binders.

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## PROVENANCE

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The collection was formed by Clarence H. Eagle in the early years of the twentieth century. Upon his death in 1922, the collection went by bequest to the Library of Congress, where it would be accessible to the public. In 1958 the collection was transferred to the national philatelic collections of the Smithsonian Institution. When the National Postal Museum was created in 1993, the collection was transferred there along with the Smithsonian's other philatelic holdings.

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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The greatest strength of the Eagle collection lies in the essays and proofs of United States revenue stamps, especially the private die proprietary stamps. Starting in 1862, the federal government imposed taxes on a wide variety of goods and services, largely for the purpose of funding the Civil War effort. Revenue stamps were issued to facilitate collection of these taxes. Because of the high demand for many types of stamps, manufacturers were allowed to design their own dies and printing plates for their stamps, subject to approval by the government. This suited the entrepreneurs who were able to work some useful advertising copy into the stamp designs. These private die proprietary stamps comprise the first 16 volumes of the Eagle collection. They are commonly called match and medicine stamps, but stamps were also issued for taxes on canned fruit, perfume and playing cards.

General federal issue revenue stamps are represented in volumes 17 through 20. These include eight copies in different colors of the famous \$5,000 "Persian Rug" proof of the second revenue stamp issue.

An outstanding group of essays and proofs of postage stamps are found in volumes 21 through 24. Of particular interest are proofs of the August 1861 issue, and an array of non-Scott listed essays that have been described in *Essays and Proofs of the United States Internal Revenue Stamps* by George Turner.

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## CONTAINER INVENTORY

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Volume 1 consisting of 69 pages. **1864 - 1883** Private die proprietary match stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RO1P - RO33P, RO1TC - RO31TC, Turner p.127 and p.131)

Volume 2 consisting of 75 pages. **1864 - 1883** Private die proprietary match stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RO35P - RO75P, RO35TC - RO75TC, Turner p.135 and unlisted)

Volume 3 consisting of 73 pages. **1864 - 1883** Private die proprietary match stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RO76P - RO110P, RO76TC - RO110TC, Turner p.147 and p.153)

Volume 4 consisting of 81 pages. **1864 - 1883** Private die proprietary match stamp proofs, trial color proofs and essays, (Scott RO112P - RO148P, RO112TC - RO148TC, Turner p.177)

Volume 5 consisting of 67 pages. **1864 - 1883** Private die proprietary match stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RO132P and RO132TC, RO152P - RO185P, RO152TC - RO184TC, Turner pp. 179, 183, 185)



*San Francisco Match Company Private Die Proprietary Stamp  
(Scott RO165P) Vol. 5, p.24*

Volume 6 consisting of 78 pages. **1862 - 1883** - Private die proprietary match, canned fruit and medicine stamp proofs, essays, trial color proofs (Scott RO68P, RP1P, RS1P-RS38P, RP1TC, RS1TC - RS38TC, Turner pp. 149, 151,165,181)

Volume 7 consisting of 75 pages. **1862 - 1883** Proofs, trial color proofs, and essays of private die medicine stamps, (Scott RS39P - RS72P, RS39TC - RS72TC, RS245P, RS245TC, Turner p.209 and p.217)



*Essay (Vol. 8, p.30) Trial Color (Vol. 8 p.28) and Signed and Dated Die Proof (Vol.8, p.27) of the Father Mathew Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamp (Scott RS85)*

Volume 8 consisting of 80 pages. **1862 - 1883** Private die medicine stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RS73P - RS111P, RS73TC - RS111TC, Turner p.229)

Volume 9 consisting of 71 pages. **1862 - 1883** Private die medicine stamp proofs and trial color proofs, and essays (Scott RS114P - RS152P, RS116TC - RS152TC, Turner p.241 and p.243)

Volume 10 consisting of 75 pages. **1862 - 1883** Private die medicine stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RS153P - RS186P, RS153TC - RS185TC, Turner p. 261 and p.267)

Volume 11 consisting of 71 pages. **1862 - 1883** Private die medicine stamp proofs, trial color proofs, and essays, (Scott RS187P - RS224P, RS187TC - RS224TC, Turner p. 277, unlisted)

Volume 12 consisting of 70 pages. **1862 - 1883** Private die medicine stamp proofs, trial color proofs and essays, (Scott RS225P - RS258P, RS225TC - RS258TC, Turner p.285 and p.293)

Volume 13 consisting of 76 pages. **1862 - 1883** Proofs, trial color proofs, and essays of private die medicine stamps, (Scott RS191P, RS259P - RS276P, RS192TC, RS259TC - RS276TC, Turner pp. 197 - 311)

Volume 14 consisting of 64 pages. **1864 - 1883** Proofs, essays, trial color proofs of private die perfumery stamps, (Scott RT1P - RT32P, RT5TC - RT32TC, Turner pp.197, 307, 311, and 317)

Volume 15 consisting of 67 pages. **1862 - 1883** - Proofs of Private die playing card stamps (Scott RU2P - RU16P), Private die match stamps (Scott RO2P - RO184P), and Private die medicine stamps (Scott RS4P - RS23P) trial color proofs (Scott RU2TC - RU15TC, RO101TC - RO146TC) and essays (Turner pp. 123, 321 and 323)

Volume 16 consisting of 65 pages. **1862 - 1883** - Proofs, essays and trial color proofs of private die medicine stamps (Scott RS31P - RS274P, RS139TC - S144TC, RT13TC, Turner pp. 261,279), private die perfumery stamps (Scott RT2P - RT26P), private die playing card stamps (Scott RU3P - RU14P)

Volume 17 consisting of 68 pages. **1862 - 1872** Proofs of revenue stamps, (Scott R1P - R150P), trial color proofs (Scott R3TC - R102TC) and essays (Turner essays 54 - 116, Turner essay models 1, 9 and unlisted)



*Indian Hunting Buffalo Trial Color  
(Scott 287TC) Vol. 23, p.12*

Volume 18 consisting of 53 pages. **1862 - 1874** Proofs of revenue stamps (Scott R113 - R133), proprietary stamps (Scott RB3P - RB10P), trial color proofs (R3TC, R113TC - 131TC), essays (Turner 108-A - 124 Stage II D) Note: pages 7, 20 missing; 22 - 27 in separate box

Volume 19 consisting of 59 pages. **1862 - 1894** - Proofs of Postage Due stamps 1894 (Scott J31P - J37P), proprietary stamps 1875 - 1883, (Scott RB11P - RB19P), playing cards, 1894, (Scott RF2P, RF1TC - RF2TC), Essays 1862 - 69, (Turner 1 - 68 and unlisted)

Volume 20 consisting of 57 pages. **1862 - 98** - Essays (Turner 3a - 235, unlisted) and proofs (Turner Type B - Type Xc) of revenue stamps

Volume 21 consisting of 76 pages. **1845 - 1903** - Essays (9X1E1a, 5E1a - 09E6a, L01E2a - L01E3a and unlisted), large die proofs (77P, 122P, 65P), plate proofs (68P - 78P), trial color proofs (9X1TC, 1TC - 77TC) and proofs (9X1P, 1P - 47P) of issued postage stamps, (9x1P, 1P - 209E6a, L01E2a - L02TC)

Volume 22 consisting of 98 pages. **1870 - 99** - Essays (145E8 - 250 E2), die proofs, (145P - 245P) trial color proofs (157TC - 262TC, E2TC) and plate proofs (205P - 233aP) of issued postage stamps

Volume 23 consisting of 85 pages. **1865 - 1903** Plate proofs, (294P - 299P, OX3P - OX4P, PR2P - PR7P) essays, (285E8 - 293E7, 68E3 - O56E1c, OX1E4a, PR81E1 - PR111E1) die proofs (285P - 293P, PR29P - PR111P, OX1P - OX106P), large die proofs (230P - 245P, E1P), small die proofs (E4P, PR110P - PR113P) trial color proofs (286TC, O10TC - O14TC, PR2TC - PR112TC) of issued postage stamps, and stamps (PR9 - PR81)

Volume 24 consisting of 76 pages. **1851 - 1903** - Essays (Scott73E3a - 191E2a and unlisted) die proofs (247P - 263P, E4P, J1P - J21P, 1XaE1b - 184E14c) plate proofs (184E12c - 184E13d), trial color proofs (Scott J1TC - J7TC), of issued postage stamps including postage due stamps. Note: missing p.15

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#### CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Images are from the Eagle Collection of Essays and Proofs of United States Stamps at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.