REVENUE STAMPS OF THE STAMP ACT OF 1765

Purpose:

This exhibit displays revenue stamps authorized for use in the Americas by the Stamp Act of 1765.

Importance:

These stamps are surviving evidence of the Stamp Act of 1765, one of the key events leading to the American Revolution. Organized resistance to the Stamp Act led to the Stamp Act Congress, the first time that the American Colonies united to oppose British Rule. As a result of this resistance, the Stamp Act was quickly repealed, resulting in the scarcity of these stamps.

Scope:

Great Britain first issued embossed revenue stamped paper in 1694, and the Massachusetts and New York colonies issued embossed revenues in the 1750s. The effective date of the Act was November 1, 1765, but due to resistance by colonists, the Act was repealed March 18, 1766 — less than 5 months after taking effect. As a result, the almanac and newspaper stamps are known only as proofs, with a few used examples in institutional archives. The embossed stamps have survived in extremely limited numbers, almost all used in what is now Canada. There are roughly 55 full documents recorded in private hands, with another 50 or so cut-squares reported to have survived. Following American independence, the United States resorted to embossed revenues to raise revenues.

Organization:

The exhibit is organized chronologically, with examples of the Massachusetts and New York colonial issues followed by the Stamp Act revenues and examples of Federal embossed revenue stamps.



The repeal, or the funeral of Miss Ame-Stamp, British political cartoon from the Library of Congress

Precursor

Massachusetts Colony 1755-57



Two Pence Embossed (RM2)

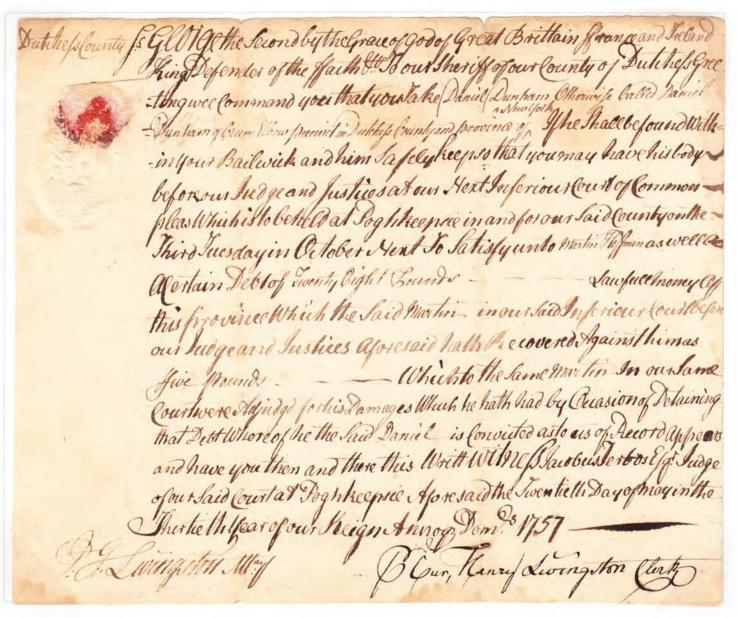
Effex, ff. To the Sheriff or Marshal of the faid County of Linex, or either of their Deputies, or Constables of the Town of princh within the said County, or to any or either of them, Greeting. N His Majesty's Name, you are Required to Attach the Goods or Estate of Thomas Hart of Immich aforesaid Cooper of the Value of wenty Shillings, and for want thereof to take the Body (if he may be found in your Precinct) and him fafely keep, fo that he may be had before me, Toleph Bowditch, Efg; One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County aforefaid, at my Dwelling-House in Salem, on Monday the 19-Day of January next at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; Then and there to Answer to many Prince of Danvers in faid County Widow of the is Executing of the Testoment of Tonathan Onnie late of vaid Danvers Physician deceased In applea of the lase for that the P. Thomas at Said Spowish on the tenth Day of June AD. 175% owing the P. Jonathan then living) fix this lings How pence for sundry medicines administred ather requests by P. Inathan according to the annexed account promise & pay When to Bonathan and man yet the trequested M. Thomas Hart of provide to the Estate of Southing De Lin 1751. May 3. vis N. & Tue lik Sal all your to hote sta Danven Deern. 25. 1755. Em Enuge po many Inines

December 5, 1755, Ipswitch, Essex County, writ of execution attaching the goods or estate of Thomas Hart for 20 shillings. Taxed 2 pence as a writ of execution or capias issued by a Justice of the Peace.

New York Colony 1757-60



III Pence Embossed (RM12)



May 20, 1757, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, capias [a writ requiring the officer to take a person into custody] for Daniel Dunham due to a debt of 28 pounds to Martin Hoffman. Taxed 3 pence as a capias issued by the Court of Common Pleas.

Two Pence Almanac Stamp (RM15P)







Fewer than 20 examples of the 2 pence almanac stamp proof are in private hands. The irregular block of 6 above is the only plate number multiple of any of the proofs.

Four Pence Almanac Stamp (RM16P)





Fewer than 30 proofs of the 4 pence Almanac stamp are recorded

Eight Pence Almanac Stamp (RM17P)



Fewer than 5 proofs of the 8 pence Almanac stamp are recorded

Half-Penny Pamphlet and Newspaper Stamp (RM18)





Proof

Unused Stamp
(Printer's Waste or remainder)

Fewer than 25 proofs of the half-penny Newspaper stamp are recorded

Embossed Stamps



3 pence Embossed Stamp (RM24) Die A



Fewer than 10 examples of the 3 pence embossed stamp are recorded.



6 pence Embossed Stamp (RM26), Dies A and B



6 pence emboseed stamp, die B. There is 1 document recorded with the 6p stamp die B, and 6 strikes on piece.

State of Ohode Shand of In Council of War Dec. 24: 1777

M: William Turner Willer is emprovered to draw Topy Pounds lawful Money out of the General Treatury for the pupily of the Familia to in Warren.

Mittel Affelm the State of the Samelia to the State of the Stat

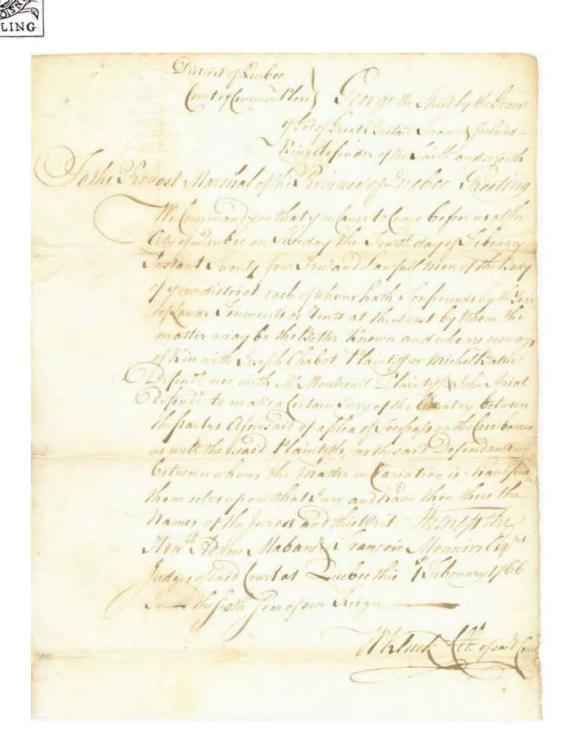
Non-contemporaneous use of cut-down 6 pence embossed revenue paper for a December 24, 1777 Revolutionary War Pay Order. One of two recorded examples of the 6 pence die A.

1 Shilling Embossed Stamp (RM27)

Ella MI lenotaire Royal demontred on me fut present pierre brien habitant ce la inte autremble le quel aveconnue et conffesse voir en et vesus de pierre banchant habit an to pointe aux tremble ace present et acceptant la Somme de cinquent livres quil luy a tous presentement baille page compte et nombre et reellement de lieve au dit brien dit devoché en portugaisse et piastre bonne monage agant cour et ce en de duction de plus grosse comme que le dit beauchant lug doit dont quitte de la dit comme de. cinquent livres fait et pas é ala dit ple jesus étude du dit notaire lannil Epteent dixante et eing le vingt deux de cembre après midy presence danquestis gaulin forgerout ala dit ple jesus et joseph volant fournallier deumeurante aussie ala dit ple jesus Cemoins qui ale dit gaulin et nous nautaille ligner a Caminutte des presentles les dittes parties ayants de clave ne réavoir escrire ny vigne de ce enquis lecture fait invant lor donnerce vage deux motsuels

Embossed Stamps

1 Shilling Embossed Stamp (RM26)



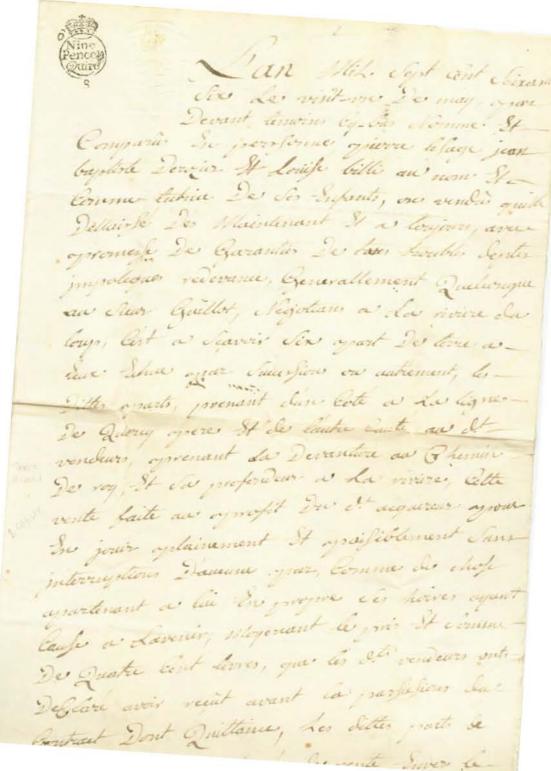
Juror's list used in used in Quebec City.

One of approximately 20 documents with the 1 shilling stamp.

Embossed Stamps

1 Shilling 6 Pence Embossed Stamp (RM28)

Die A



Two page deed with two strikes of the 1 shilling 6 pence stamp used in Three Rivers (Trois-Rivieres), Quebec.

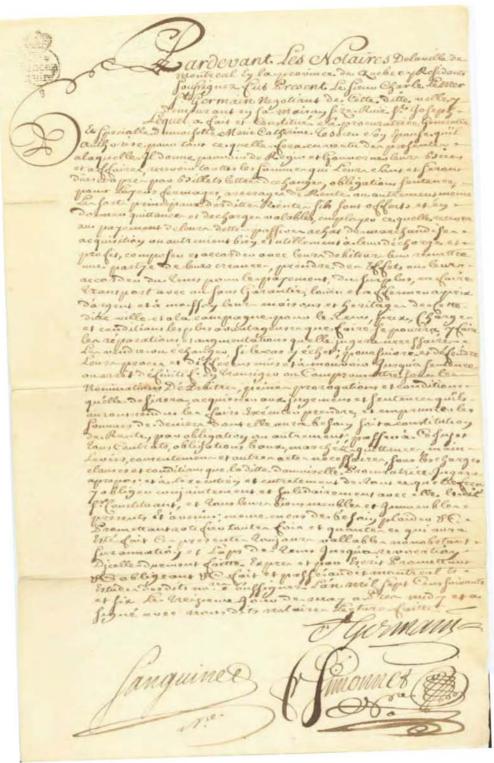
One of three documents (each with more than one strike of the stamp) with the 1 shilling 6 pence stamp.

Embossed Stamps

2 Shilling 3 Pence Embossed Stamp (RM30)



Die B



Declaration used in Quebec City.

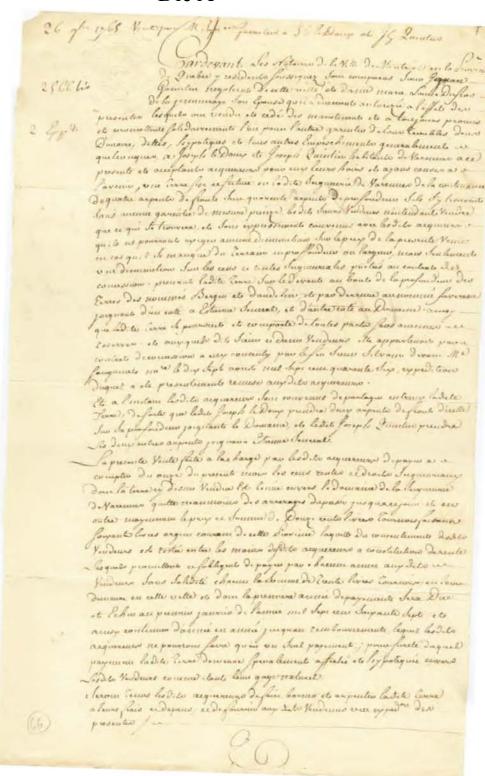
One of 7 recorded strikes of the 2 shilling 3 pence stamp. This is one of three copies of the die "B" stamp.

Embossed Stamps



2 shilling 6 pence Embossed Stamp (RM31)

Die A



January 1766 marriage contract executed in Montreal.

One of approximately 12 documents with the 2 shilling 6 pence stamp.

Embossed Stamps



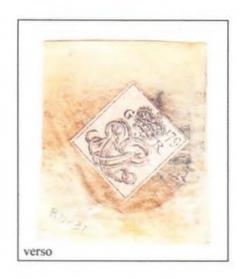
2 shilling 6 pence Embossed Stamp (RM31) Die A





Unused remainders of the 2 shilling 6 pence stamp on blue and beige paper. The stamps were impressed on colored paper in order to stamp vellum [sheepskin] documents. The stamps were attached with a staple and there is "cypher" on the back to prevent removal and reuse of the stamp. There are approximately 30 to 40 cut-squares recorded.





Verso showing "cyphers" covering the staple. These cyphers are thought to be an inspiration for the penny black.

Postscript



Federal Liquor License 1794-1802

\$5.00 Federal Liquor License (RM400)

	LP COLL
	s. 326/1.
2	
	WHEREAS Avery & Tracy of the
	Jown of _ Norwich _ in the County of
P	rewlondon in the District of Commetteeut
	ball duly made application for a License to fell by retail
	Now know ye, That the faid . Avery & Tracy axe hereby licensed to
	Sell by retail & Foreign distilled spirits - at their Store in
*	the first of ociety in the Jown - aforefaid, during One year follow-
	ing the thirtieth day of September, 1797, in conformity with an Act of the Congress
	of the United States, passed on the 5th day of June, 1794.
	1000
	John Chester,
	Supervisor of the Revenue for the District of former treut
	Counterligned at Norwich in the County of Sun London in the District aforesaid, this
	First - day of Detober 1797
	hultbreed
4	Collector of the Revenue for the Second
+	Division of the only - Survey, in the District of formetteut

The first Federal tax stamps were issued in 1794. The tax authorizing this seal modified the earlier 1791 tax act that led to the Whiskey Rebellion. Norwich, Connecticut, October 1, 1797 license to sell foreign distilled spirits, with embossed \$5.00 license sell liquor (RM400) also stamped with a Connecticut Supervisors' seal (RM509).