

The Ultramarine Experiment, 1869-70

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the U.S. First Issue ultramarine revenue stamps on intact documents, including single, multiple and mixed usages where possible, on an array of document types.

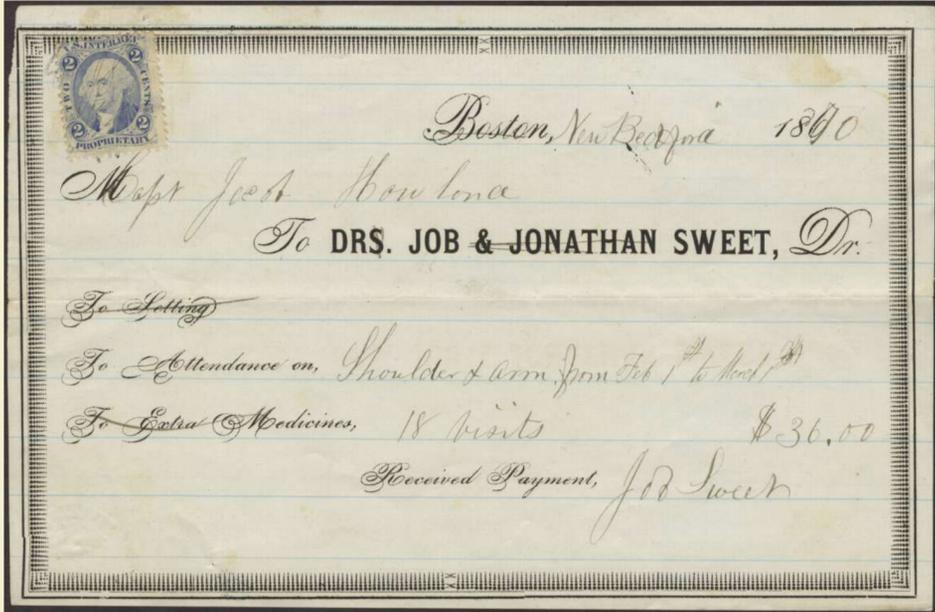
For a brief period in late 1869 and early 1870 the printer of U.S. revenues, Joseph Carpenter of Philadelphia, changed the color on six stamps from blue to ultramarine. These six are listed in the Exhibit Plan below.

The rationale was to prevent washing and reuse of stamps. Cancels were much more visible on the ultramarines, and the new ink was fugitive; according to Carpenter "it cannot be washed without defacing the stamp." The striking change in color is neatly illustrated by the rare juxtaposition of blue and ultramarine 10¢ stamps on the draft at right. Astonishingly, Carpenter made this change of his own accord.

He added, "if you direct a return to the more indelible tint, I will of course follow your instructions." The disappearance of the ultramarines after mid-1870 tells us that such a directive must have been received, bringing the "ultramarine experiment" to an end.

Exhibit Plan					
1. 2¢ Proprietary	2. 10¢ Contract	4. 50¢ Conveyance	6. \$15 Mortgage		
3. 10¢ Foreign Exchange		5. 50¢ Surety Bond			

1. 2¢ Proprietary Ultramarine



2¢ Proprietary ultramarine on 1870 doctor's receipt, New Bedford, Mass., paying Receipt 2¢ tax
Just two examples recorded on document

This stamp is rare in its own right and doubly rare on document, as it was nominally illegal to pay U.S. documentary taxes with Proprietary stamps, which were intended for use on proprietary medicines, perfumes, matches, and the like.

Patient Jacob Howland was namesake of a whaleship. Left, Bark Jacob A. Howland of New Bedford in the ice off Cape Navarin, Russia trying out oil (New Bedford Whaling Museum)



2. 10¢ Contract Ultramarine



10¢ Contract ultramarine pair used August 1870 at "Kennedys M. T." paying Inland Exchange rate of 5¢ per \$100

Kennedy's (Ranch) was a stage station on the "Benton Road" from Helena to Fort Benton. A small community evidently coalesced there; Leeson's 1885 History of Nevada mentions that W. F. Sinsel, the payee here, wintered at Kennedy's Ranch in 1869-70. It may have offered refuge at a time of serious Indian troubles. As also related by Leeson, in 1867 as William Kennedy was returning to his ranch with his wife and son and a half-breed, "they were surprised and captured by sixteen Indians, who took a vote as to whether they should kill them. The result was a tie. They then allowed the half-breed a vote and they were set at liberty. . . . The same band murdered a man at the same place the following day." As a result of continuing depredations Kennedy sold his ranch and left in 1869.

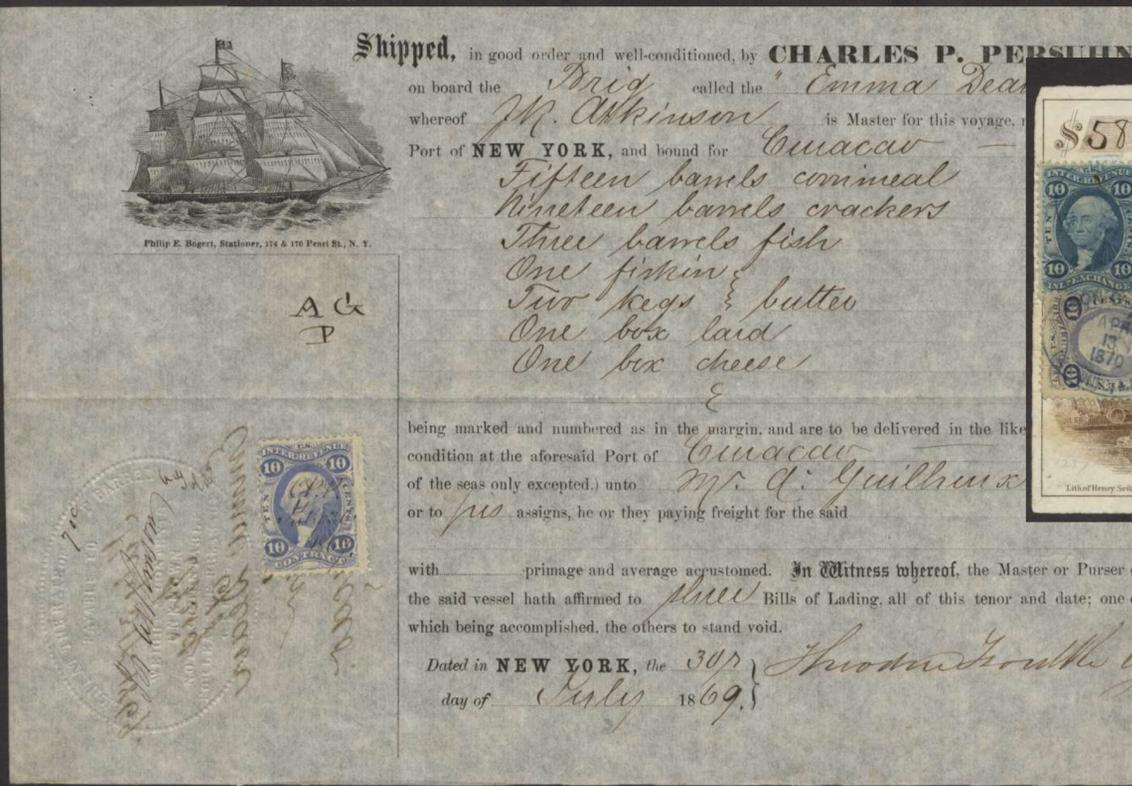
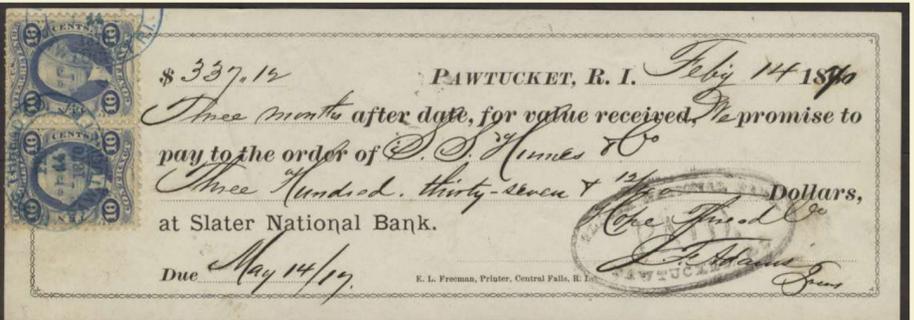
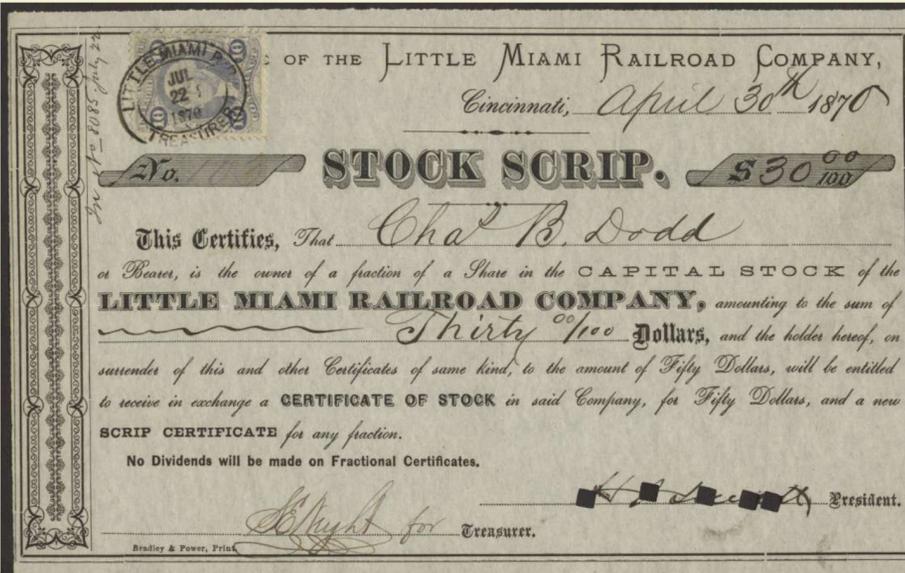
In any case, the use of revenue stamps — let alone ultramarines — in such a sparsely populated place is exceedingly improbable.

10¢ Contract "Ultramarine Blue"

The 10¢ Contract ultramarine typically has a pale, grayish, "washed-out" appearance, shown at immediate and far right.

In anticipation of criticism the printer wrote, "we have been making arrangements to deepen the shade."

The result was the distinctive "ultramarine blue" (so named in the Boston Revenue Book) shown on the document immediately below.



Multiple and Mixed Usages

Top, 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue pair in striking dark shade used February 1870 to pay Inland Exchange rate of 5¢ per \$100

Middle, 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue (x5) used June 1870 with 50¢ Entry of Goods in Lawrence County, Alabama, paying Conveyance rate of 50¢ per \$500
Just three combinations recorded of ultramarines and blues of different denominations
Stamps were generally in short supply in the Reconstruction-era South

Bottom, 10¢ Contract ultramarine used April 1870 with Inland Exchange 10¢ (x2) to pay Inland Exchange rate

A remarkable combination of 10¢ stamps in three shades

(The imprinted 2¢, intended to pay the Bank Check tax on a sight draft, was wasted on this time draft.)

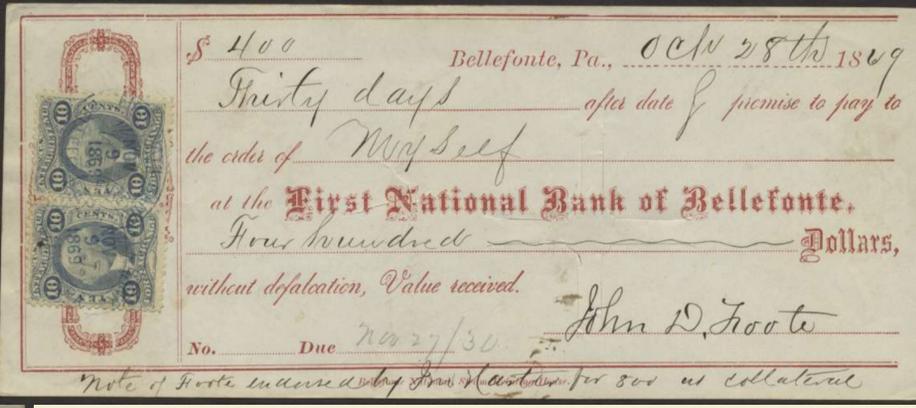
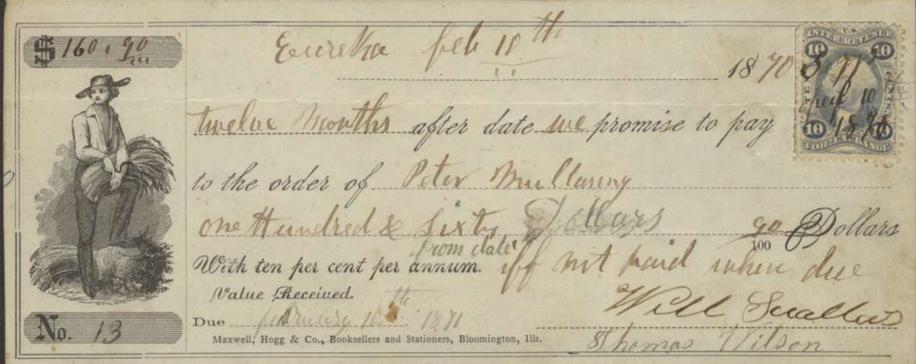
Single Usages

Top, 10¢ Contract ultramarine used April 1870 to pay Certificate of Profit 10¢ rate
Bottom, 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue used July 1869 to pay Bill of Lading 10¢ rate

3. 10¢ Foreign Exchange Ultramarine



10¢ Foreign Exchange ultramarine and 10¢ Power of Attorney blue on November 1870 stock certificate; the blue stamp probably re-used!
 Few combinations of 10¢ ultramarines and blues recorded
 Sole recorded stock certificate bearing an ultramarine



Above, single and multiple usages of this relatively little-used stamp, seldom seen on document. It shows none of the marked shade variations of the 10¢ Contract, suggesting just a single printing.

4. 50¢ Conveyance Ultramarine



As with the 10¢ Contract, the 50¢ Conveyance ultramarine comes in two basic shades, or shade families:

- the first-printed pale, grayish, basic ultramarine
- a deeper, pastel blue shade called "ultramarine blue" by the Boston Revenue Book

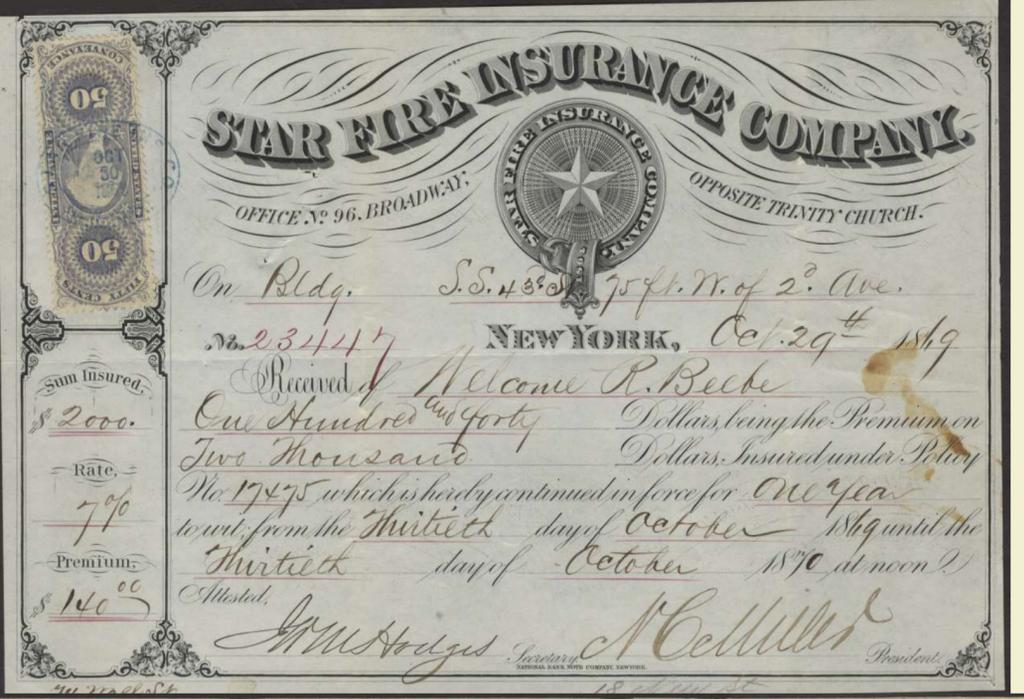
At left, single usages in the two shades, juxtaposed on August 1869 and March 1870 promissory notes for \$1,000, taxed at Inland Exchange rate of 5¢ per \$100.

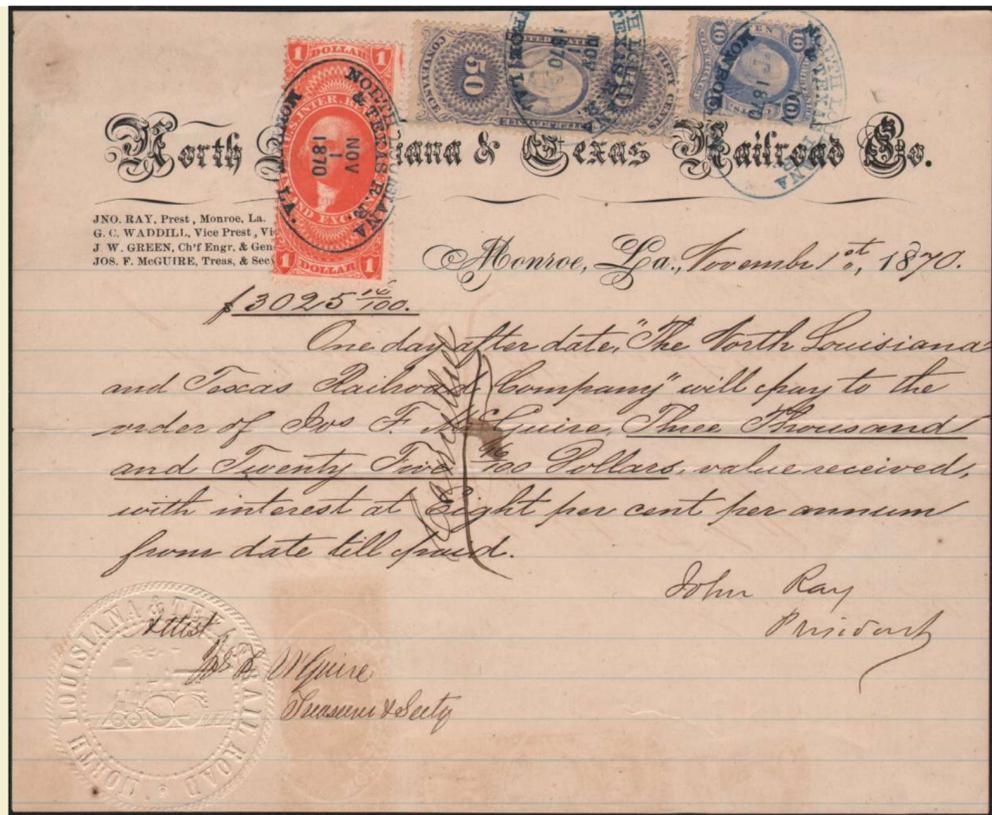
Below these, two more single usages in the two shades, juxtaposed on January 1870 and October 1869 insurance policy and renewal, taxed at the insurance 50¢ rate for premiums above \$50.

Bottom left, ultramarine strip of three on October 1869 promissory note for \$3,000. Multiple usages are seldom seen.

Bottom right, mixed usage of the ultramarine with 3¢ Proprietary (x2) on October 1869 Second bill of exchange, New Orleans, drawn on Paris for 15,000 francs (approximately \$2,800) taxed at Foreign Exchange rate of 2¢ per \$100.

- Use of Proprietary stamps on documents was nominally illegal but generally tolerated.
- Beautifully printed in French, rare thus, by the American Bank Note Co.





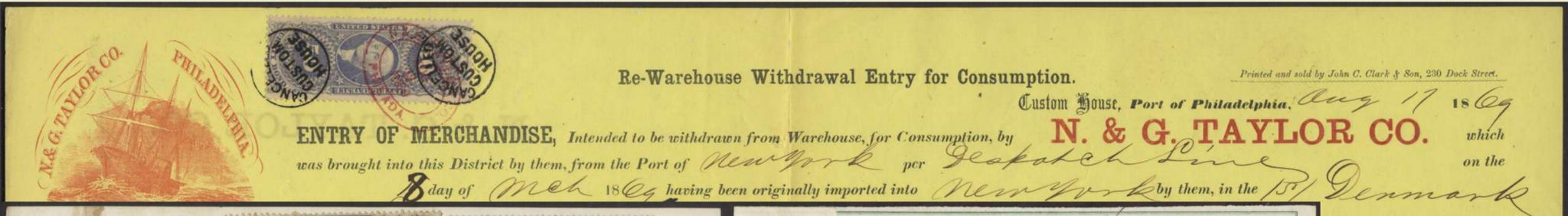
Combination of Ultramarine and Ultramarine Blue
The sole recorded such combination
 50¢ Conveyance ultramarine and 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue on November 1870 promissory note, North Louisiana & Texas Railroad Co., Monroe, Louisiana.
 Their juxtaposition beautifully illustrates the difference between the shades.
 The probability that ultramarines would be used together, let alone in the two different shades, was infinitesimal.
 Louisiana documents are scarce, especially with origins other than New Orleans, and Louisiana railroad material is virtually nonexistent. This is the discovery example of this cancel, unlisted in Tolman's 1986 compendium, still the only one recorded. The Monroe origin is likewise extraordinary.
 The North Louisiana & Texas was the 1870 reorganization of the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas Railway Co., that road destroyed by the Confederacy in 1862.

5. 50¢ Surety Bond Ultramarine

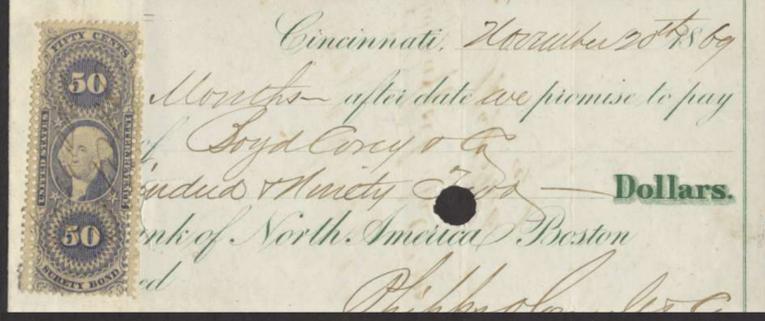
Like the 10¢ Foreign Exchange ultramarine, the 50¢ Surety Bond ultramarine was relatively little used, in essentially uniform color, suggesting just a single printing. Below, single usages on:

- August 1869 Re-Warehouse Entry for Consumption, paying Entry of Goods 50¢ rate for goods valued above \$100 to \$500
- November 1869 promissory note for \$992, the stamp with double perforations left and right, rare thus.
- August 1869 mortgage bond, paying Mortgage rate of 50¢ per \$500

And combination use with 50¢ Entry of Goods on May 1870 deed, paying Conveyance rate of 50¢ per \$500, their juxtaposition again neatly illustrating the striking difference between blues and ultramarines.
 Just two combinations of 50¢ ultramarines and blues recorded



In all persons to whom these presents shall come, I Therman Brooks of Shorthouse, County of Addison and State of Vermont, Assignee in Bankruptcy of S. H. Casey, Bankrupt, of Whiting, County and State aforesaid send Greeting. Whereas the Hon District Court of the United States for the District of Vermont at a session thereof holden at Burlington in said District on the 22nd day of March A.D. 1870, on application for that purpose, did authorize me to sell at public auction or private sale, the real estate of said Bankrupt; in notice of the described, by cessidly in in said District such sale of Carnival of said Casey Allen & the sum of Sixty eight dollars the public and now \$300 and not all the cents I do by these said Allen right title selected in to wit, 88 rods and 4 N 86 3/4 W, 36 to the silver exclusive of other due hereby rese The above cent except of Whiting four nute to thirteen



TOTAL.	Dutiable Value of each Package.



In pursuance of a resolution of the said "Cold Spring Ice and Coal Company" passed on the day of July 2, 1869 and that the name of this company is of his own proper hand writing. And that he did also see the said deed subscribed his name as Secretary, thereto in attestation of the due execution and delivery of the said deed.

Witness my hands and Notarial Seal the day and year aforesaid.

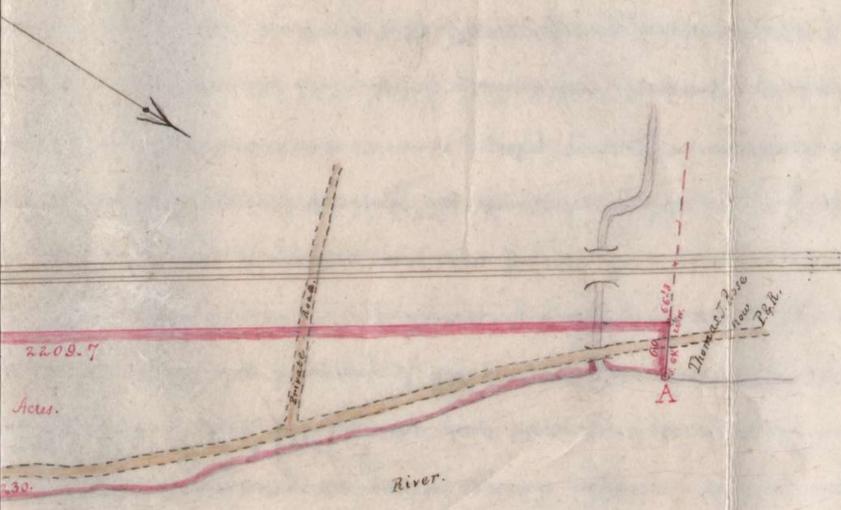
John E. Littleton
Notary Public



6. \$15 Mortgage Ultramarine

\$15 Ultramarine Pair
Only five multiples of this stamp are known, this the only one on document.

\$15 Mortgage ultramarine pair & \$10 Charter Party on July 1869 deed from Cold Spring Ice and Coal Co. to Knickerbocker Ice Co. (The Curtis census lists one block of four and four pairs.) Illustrated deeds are very seldom seen. The companies were evidently cutting ice from the Schuylkill River.



\$200 Tax!
\$15 Mortgage ultramarine recorded on just five documents

First Issue \$15, \$20 (x3), \$25 & \$50 (x2), highlighted by the \$15 Mortgage ultramarine, on Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Co. \$400,000 draft, tax \$200.

Denominations higher than \$10 are very seldom seen on notes or drafts. Here are all four \$15 through \$50 denominations together!

And I the said Jonathan Russell for myself and my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, do covenant with the said Kirby and his Heirs and Assigns, that the premises are free from all incumbrances, made or suffered by me, except as aforesaid.

And that I will, and my Heirs, Executors, and Administrators shall Warrant and Defend the same to the said Kirby and his Heirs and Assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons, claiming by, through, or under me, except as aforesaid, but against none other.

In Witness Whereof, I the said Jonathan Russell being unmarried,

in token of release of all right and title of or to both Dower and Homestead in the granted premises, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Third day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of
H. W. Jeffries
E. B. Mason

Then personally appeared the above named Jonathan Russell, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed. Before me

U.S. Consul. 186

Justice of the Peace. Deeds, Lib. Fol.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Suffolk Co. Boston
Apr. 18 1871. Temporarily appeared before me in name of Jonathan Russell and acknowledged the within will as their act and deed. I, J. B. Russell, Notary Public, do hereby certify that the same to be his free act and deed. J. B. Russell, Notary Public.



Executed in the Philippines

Above, \$15 Mortgage ultramarine & \$25 Mortgage (x2) on 1868 deed for property in Boston, executed in Manila by Jonathan Russell, partner in the Yankee trading firm Russell and Sturgis, in Manila, signature verified by U.S. Consul in Manila. The stamps were evidently affixed when the deed was recorded in Massachusetts in August 1869.

Mutual Fire Insurance Company
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

No. 4870

This Instrument or Policy Witnesseth, That Conrad Metzger of Washington City and District of Columbia, has become a member of the MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of the District of Columbia, according to the terms and provisions of the act incorporating said Company, approved January 10, 1855, and By-Laws of the same. And has deposited his premium note for the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars, it being at the rate of 37 1/2 per centum (taxable value) on the sum of Seven Hundred dollars, insured on the following property, reference being had to application and survey No. 4870 on file in the office of said Company, for a more particular description thereof, and as forming a part of this policy, to wit:

No. 1 - On his Two Story Frame Dwelling, with Kitchen, attached, with Shingle roof, Situate, No. 319, on the Side of E. Street, South, between 3rd & 4th Streets, west, in Square 537, Washington City, D.C. Adjoined by frame dwelling, west, not otherwise insured. Six Hundred Dollars.

No. 2 - On his Two Story Frame Stable, Situate, on the rear of same lot on which the above described dwelling is located, (including Fifty Dollars insurance on his Horse contained in said Stable) One Hundred Dollars.

No. 3 - On his Two Story Frame Dwelling, with Kitchen, attached, all shingle roof. Situate No. 318 on the north side of E. Street, north, between 3rd & 4th Streets, in Square 537 and adjoined by frame house west, vacant lot east, insured for Twelve Hundred Dollars.

No. 4 - And on his Household & Kitchen Furniture, Beds, Bedding, & many Apparel, all contained in the last described dwelling, (No. 318) insured for Five Hundred Dollars - The last dwelling & the furniture increasing the premium to Six Hundred thirty Dollars - Nov. 17, 1870

Policy now in the name of Mrs. Catharina Metzger & Prem. note assumed by her. Jan. 23, 1880. J. M. Dole, Secy.

Therefore be it Known, That we, the members of said Company, for and in consideration of the premises, do hereby certify, that the said Conrad Metzger has become a member of and by these presents is Insured, in and by said Company, upon the property described as aforesaid, in the sum of Seven Hundred dollars, which Insurance is to be considered as Perpetual, only subject to termination upon the transfer or alienation, or removal of the property out of the boundaries of the Company; or to adjustment or withdrawal when either party upon the notice provided for in the By-Laws of the Company may desire it.

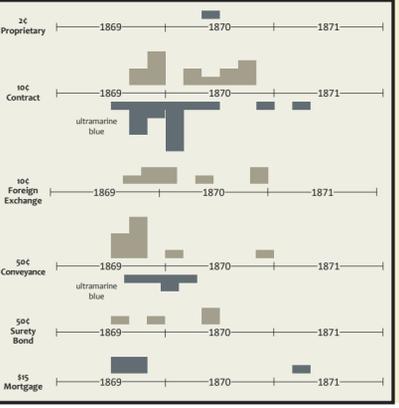
And we do therefore Promise, According to the provisions of said Act of Incorporation and By-Laws, to settle and pay unto the said assured all losses or damages, not exceeding in the whole the sum of Seven Hundred dollars, which shall or may happen to the aforesaid property, by reason or by means of Fire, during the time this policy shall remain in force: the said losses to be estimated according to the true and actual value of the property at the time the same shall happen; and to be paid according to the regulations and provisions in the Act of Incorporation and By-Laws, for such case made and provided.

Provided, And it is agreed by said Company, and the said assured, and all others who may become interested therein, that this Insurance is made and upon the terms and conditions mentioned in the Act of Incorporation and By-Laws of said Company, which said Act of Incorporation and By-Laws are to be used and resorted to, to explain and ascertain the rights and obligations of the parties hereto, in all cases not herein otherwise provided for.

In Witness Whereof, the President of said Company has signed this Policy, and the Secretary thereof has attested the same and affixed thereto the seal of the Incorporation, in Washington, the thirty-first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

Attest:
J. Wesley Boteler Secretary.

Insurance on No. 3 acquired & paid for by Mrs. Dole & the same is advanced to the insured by Mrs. Dole, when \$1000 - 1870



Epilog: End of the "Ultramarine Experiment"

From the timelines of usage shown at left, it follows that:

- the ultramarines and ultramarine blues both appeared circa July-August 1869;
- they were used simultaneously for about a year, with a few stragglers in late 1870, and even to early 1871.

Printer Carpenter had written the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, "if you direct a return to the more indelible tint, I will of course follow your instructions." The disappearance of the ultramarines tells us that such a directive must have been received, bringing the "ultramarine experiment" to an end.

Return to Blues Illustrated

This is wonderfully illustrated by the insurance policy at right:

- executed December 31, 1869, the 10¢ tax paid by 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue
- coverage increased November 17, 1870, the additional 15¢ tax paid by 5¢ plus 10¢ Contract blue affixed alongside the 10¢ Contract ultramarine blue affixed eleven months earlier, a statistically "impossible" juxtaposition!