

The Saint Louis Proprietary Provisionals of July, 1898 and the Companies that Used Them

Exhibit purpose: To show the provisional tax stamps used by ten Saint Louis companies in July, 1898. Some additional information on, and artifacts from, those companies during or around the tax period, 1898-1901, will be included.

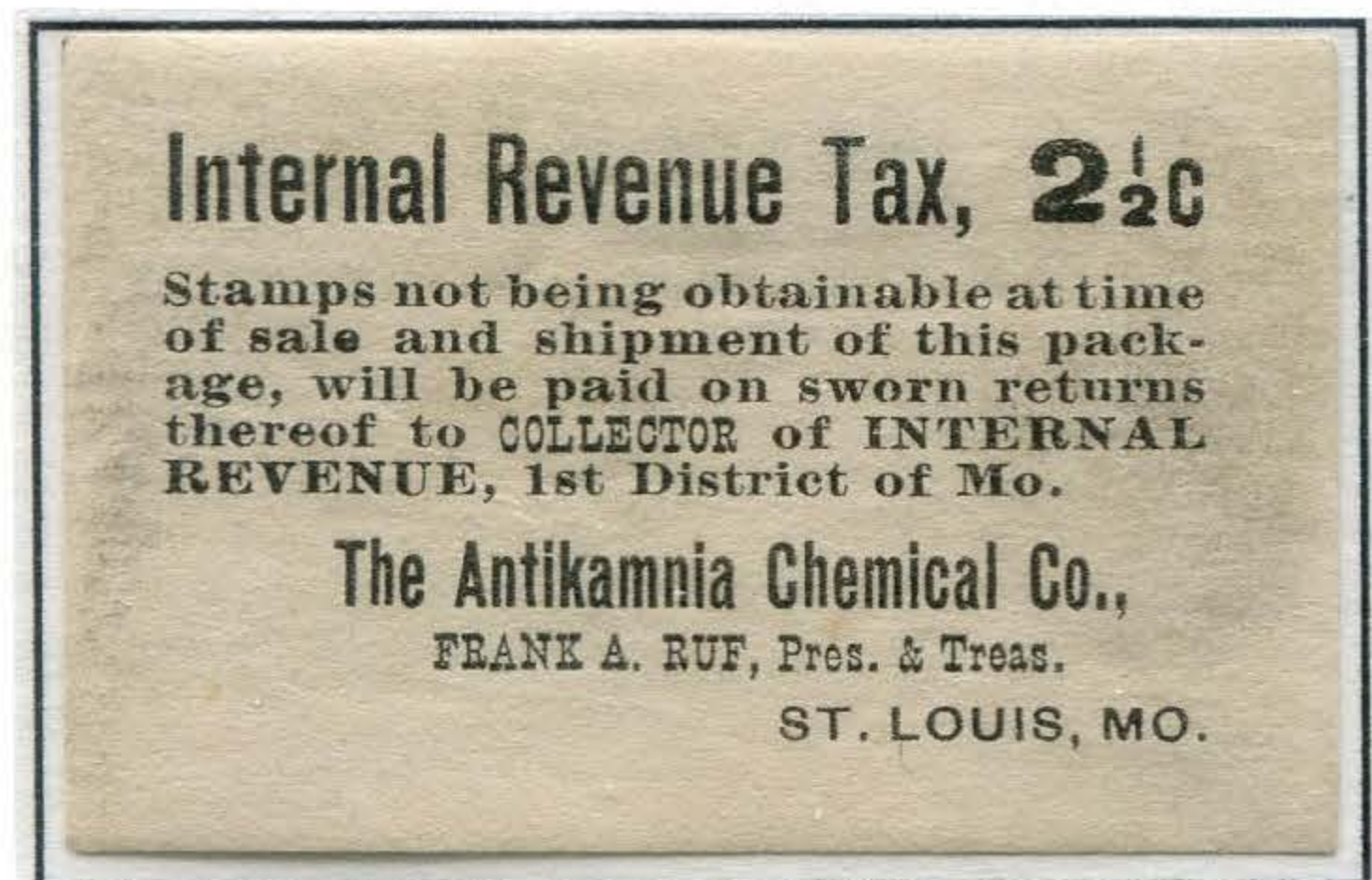
Background: The Spanish American War tax act was signed into law on June 13, 1898, effective July 1 of that year. One new tax imposed in the act covered "medicinal proprietary articles and preparations."

Ten medicine companies in Saint Louis (and one in Macon, Georgia) were concerned that government stamps would not be available by July 1. The local Collector of Internal Revenue agreed to allow them to print their own stamps and pay the proprietary tax by sworn returns for several weeks, until sufficient government issues became available. No other companies are known to have made a successful arrangement of this kind with the Internal Revenue Service.

Use of the provisional stamps ended on or around July 21, 1898.

The tax depended on the price of the product.

Selling Price	Tax
5¢ or less	1/8¢
over 5¢, through 10¢	1/4¢
over 10¢, through 15¢	3/8¢
over 15¢, through 25¢	5/8¢
each additional 25¢ or fraction thereof	5/8¢



Unused Antikamnia Chemical Company provisional.

Right: Antikamnia advertisement from an 1898 pharmaceutical journal.

The IRS ruling mentioned in the ad held that the tax was contingent on the unit price (\$1) at which Antikamnia sold products to druggists, who then used them in compounds sold to the public at various prices.

2 1/2 cts Correct!

COMMISSIONER SCOTT

Under date of September 24th, 1898, wires to
the following effect, to

THE ANTIKAMNIA CHEMICAL COMPANY,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

"Have instructed Collectors of Internal Revenue that
all Antikamnia stamped at the rate of two and one-half
cents per ounce is properly stamped."

THE TRADE will therefore, take notice, that all
Antikamnia Preparations are to be stamped two and one-
half cents **ONLY**, and to avoid any confusion, we stamp
every ounce, as required by law, before shipping.

The price remains **\$1.00** per ounce, as heretofore,
INCLUDING STAMPS.

The Antikamnia Chemical Company
FRANK A. RUF, PRES. & TREAS.

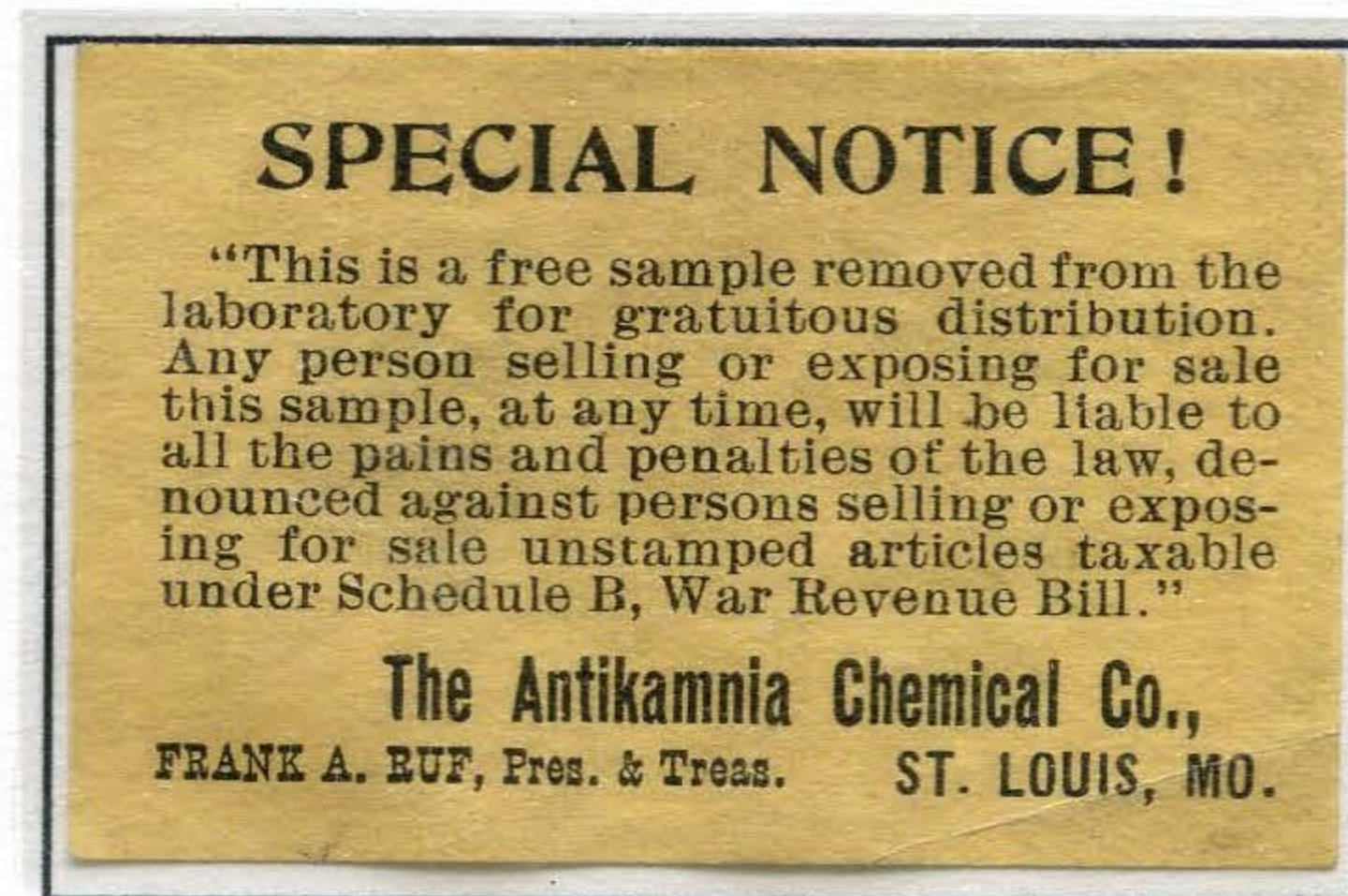
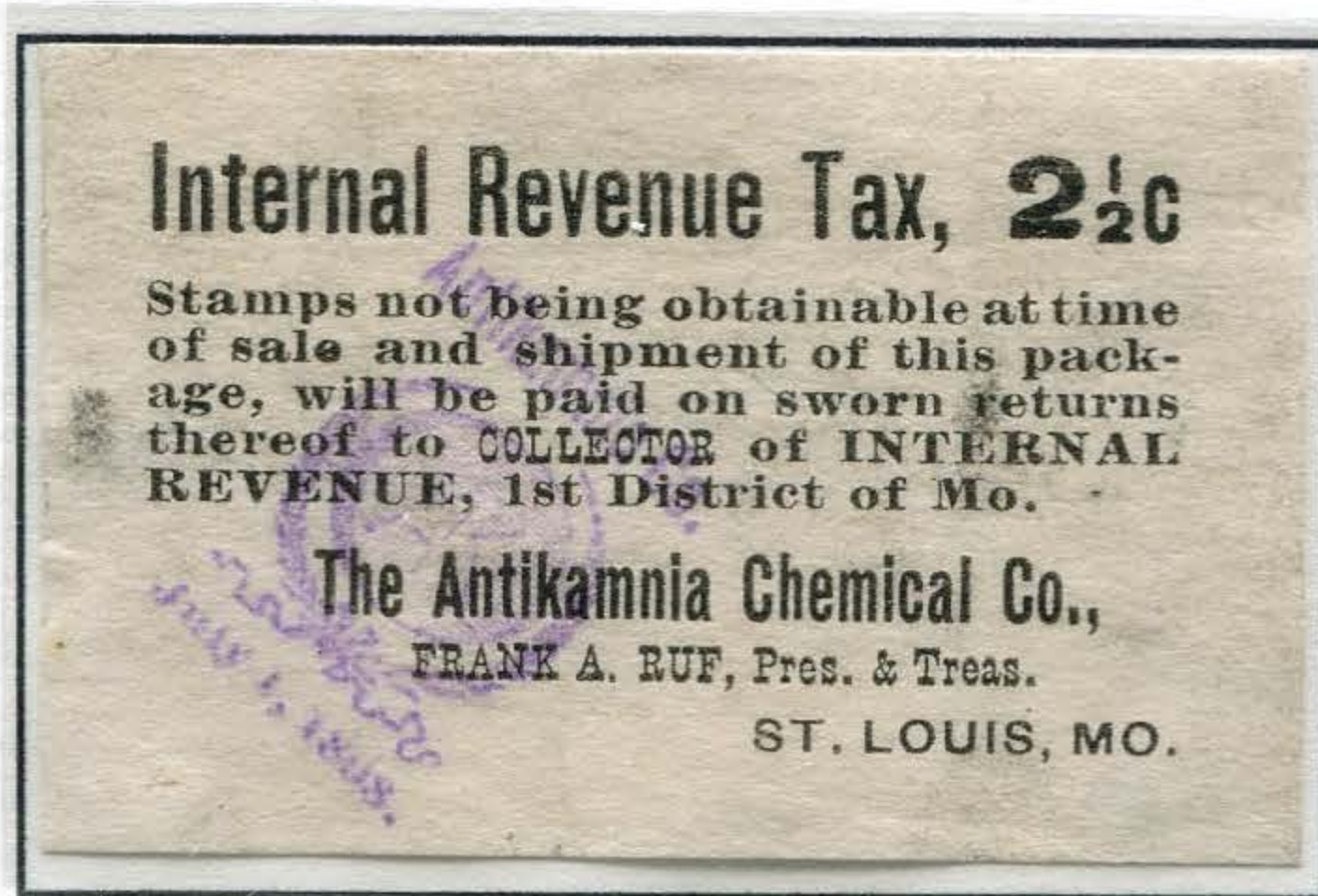
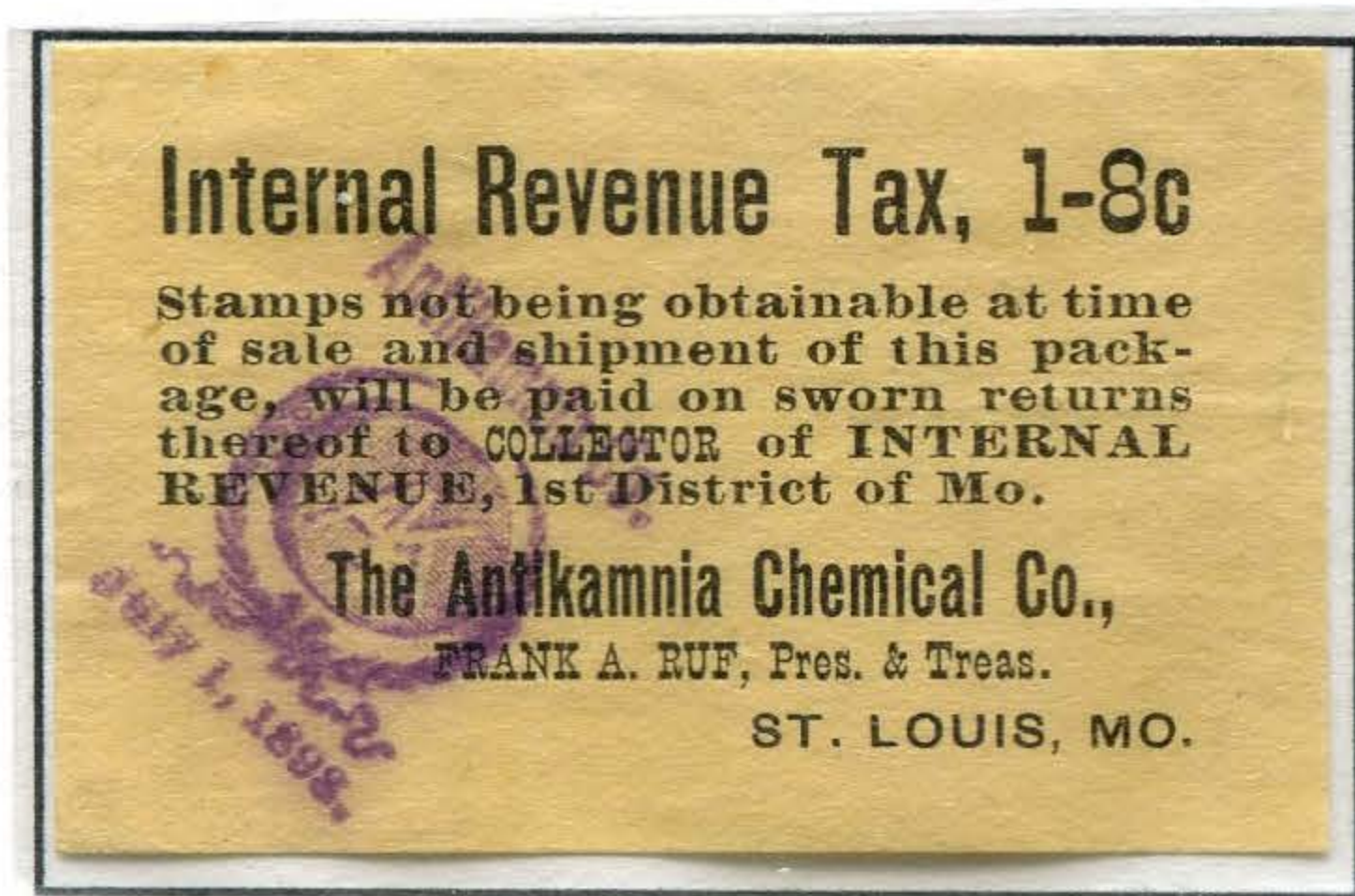
Exhibit Plan: Five of six varieties of wording on the stamps were used by Saint Louis companies: they are grouped by wording here. (Type V is assigned in the Scott *Specialized* catalog to the Macon, Georgia provisional, not in this exhibit.)

Type I	Antikamnia and Phenique	pp 2 - 4	Fourteen provisional stamps shown are currently believed to be one of a kind. These are identified by a double framed box and a ✓ at upper right.
Type II	Van Dyke	p 5	
Type III	Fairchild, Lambert, Milliken, Walker	pp 5 - 8	
Type IV	Prickly Ash Bitters and Meyer Brothers	pp 9 - 11	
Type VI	Sayman	p 12	

Antikamnia

Provisional issue, plus one tax-free stamp

Type I wording: lower-case "of"
in "COLLECTOR of INTERNAL REVENUE."



Antikamnia reported that when the tax law went into effect on July 1 it bought a 'job lot' consisting of stamps of various denominations from $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ from the Saint Louis Revenue Office. These only met its needs for two or three days.

As all sales were of dollar items, Antikamnia had a $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ provisional printed to combine with stamps from the job lot to make up $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ tax. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ provisionals were used alone, and the special notice stamps were placed on free samples. The $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ provisionals were printed on yellow paper to distinguish them from the $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ provisionals on white paper.

Government issue



Having the same first day cancel as the provisionals, these government-issue stamps must have been in the early job lot Antikamnia bought.



The cancel on the battleship revenue above indicates that by August of 1898 Antikamnia obtained government-issue stamps. This happened about July 21.



Only $\frac{5}{8}$ ¢ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ battleships are known with Antikamnia cancels dated before 1900. That year the company introduced a full line of retail products at various prices, requiring the use of other denominations.

The cancel on the fourth stamp is handstamped rather than printed, consisting of four of the company's AK symbols around "CO" and the date of June 15, 1901, fifteen days before the tax on patent medicines was rescinded. Antikamnia must have run out of $3\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ stamps with printed cancels and did not want to pay for reprinting that close to the end.

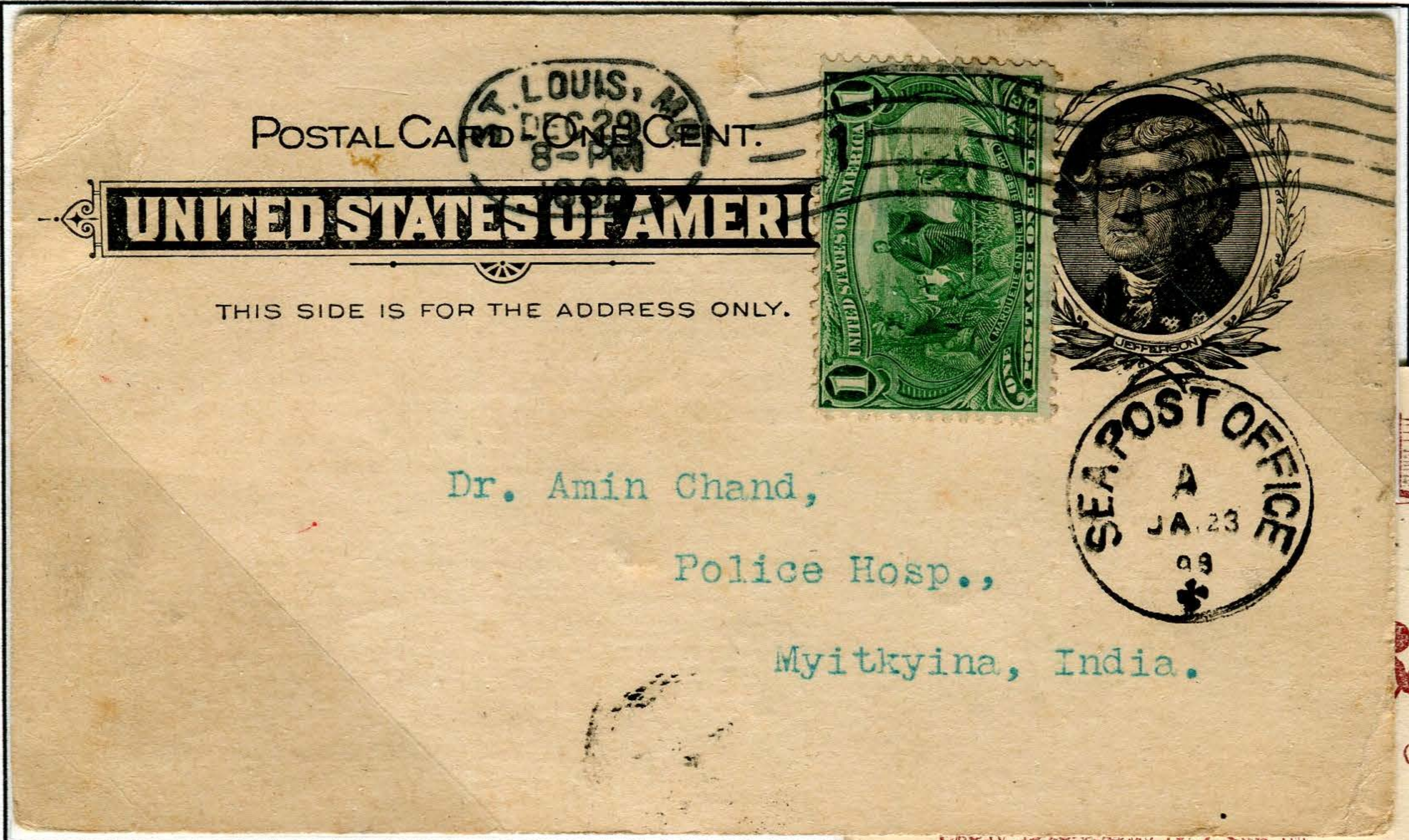


Antikamnia was the only company using provisional stamps which later had a private die proprietary stamp issued for its products. That stamp did not appear until 1900, so it could not have been used longer than a year and a half.

Antikamnia

Advertising

Antikamnia was a junk mail pioneer. By 1899 it was promoting its products to doctors and hospitals worldwide. In fact, the existence of the special notice provisional stamp is evidence that they were handing out a significant number of free samples in 1898.



At left, postcard mailed in 1899 to a police hospital in India.

Sea Post Office cancel applied by Bombay - Aden Sea Post Service Operated by Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company. Bottom sent to English hospital, turned to show message.

LITTLE SHORT OF AN INSPIRATION!

Are the words written to us regarding Five-Grain Antikamnia and Codeine Tablets, each containing $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. Antikamnia and $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. Sulph. Codeine. Prescribe as follows:

Antikamnia and Codeine Tablets, No. xxiv
Sig.—One or two tablets every two or three hours.
(Or as indications may require; also advisable to administer with a little water, diluted whisky, wine or hot toddy.)

This combination is particularly useful in La Grippe, Influenza and all Grippal Conditions, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Deep-Seated Coughs, Neuroses of the Larynx, Etc., Etc.
(See Brochure Mailed with Samples on Application.)

IF YOU HAVE NOT TRIED ANTIKAMNIA AND CODEINE TABLETS, SEND PROFESSIONAL CARD FOR SAMPLE TO
JOHN MORGAN RICHARDS,
British and Colonial Depot for Antikamnia,
46, Holborn Viaduct, LONDON, E. C.

Below, the back of an unsevered UPU postal reply card sent to a doctor in Dunedin, New Zealand in 1899. The offer of free samples included a copy of the 1900 calendar shown at right.

THE ANTIKAMNIA CHEMICAL COMPANY,
Please mail free samples, viz:—

Antikamnia (Five Grain) Tablets **Antikamnia and Codeine Tablets**
($\frac{1}{4}$ gr. Antikamnia, $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. Sulph. Codeine)

Name..... M. D.
(Write Plainly)

City.....
Country.....
Street Address.....

Dear Sir!
On receipt of this card properly filled in, you will also be listed for "The 1900 Antikamnia Calendar," which we shall mail in December.

Although Antikamnia surely didn't mean it to be taken that way, the use of skeleton figures on their calendars was appropriate for most of their medications. Their pills were more than half acetanilide, a somewhat dangerous, habit-forming compound. In addition, they offered it in combination with codeine, which is addictive.

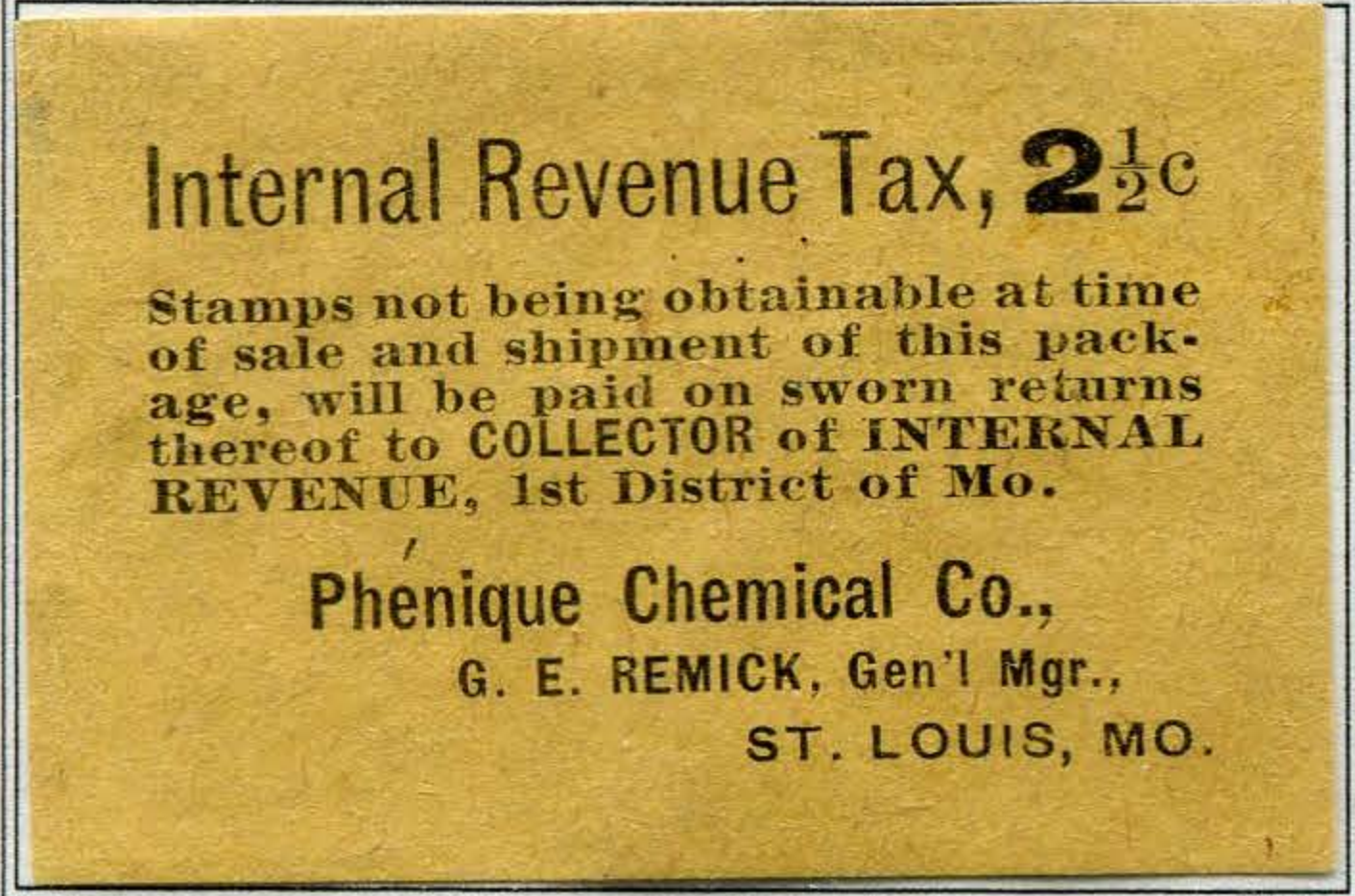
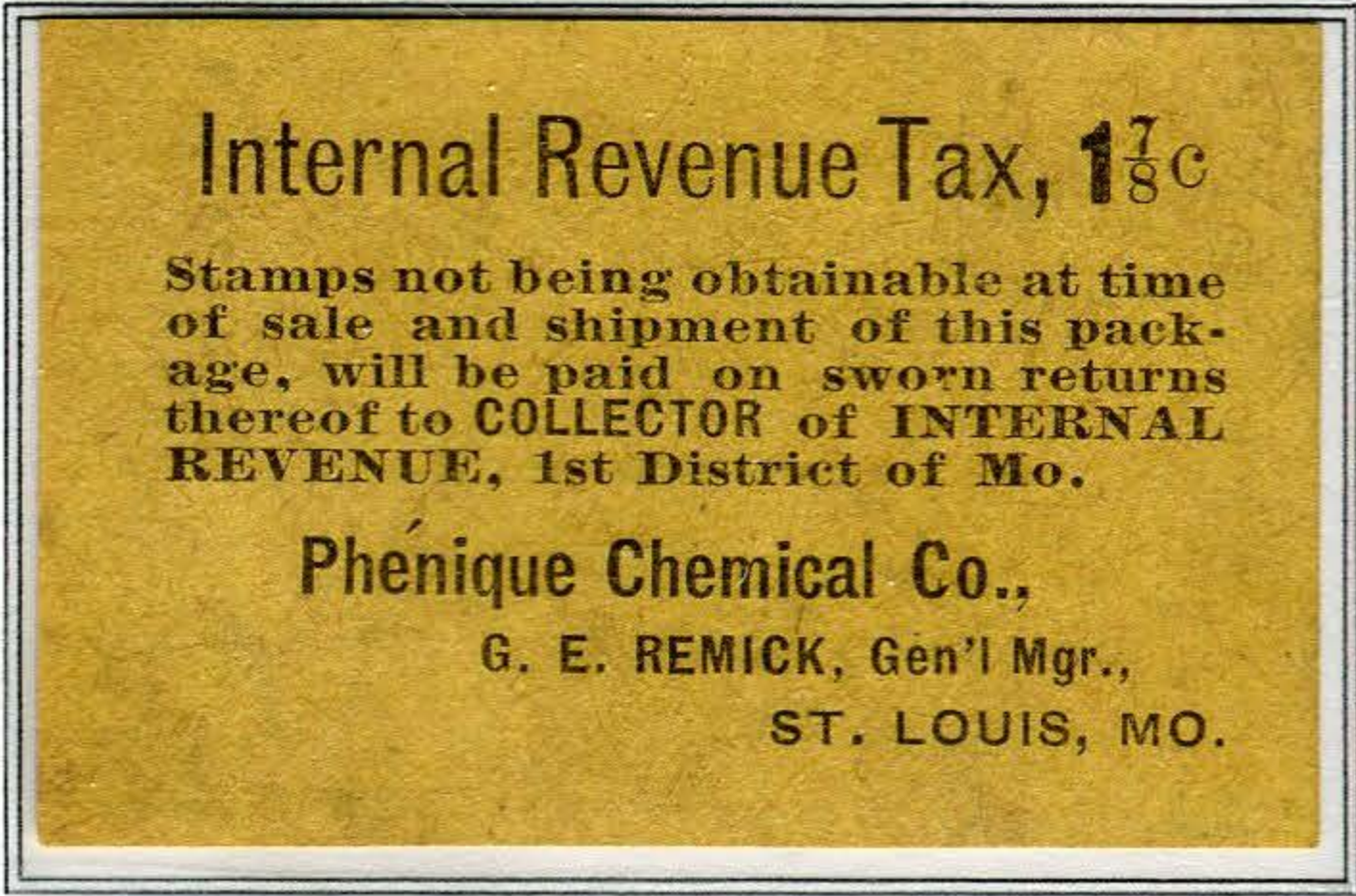
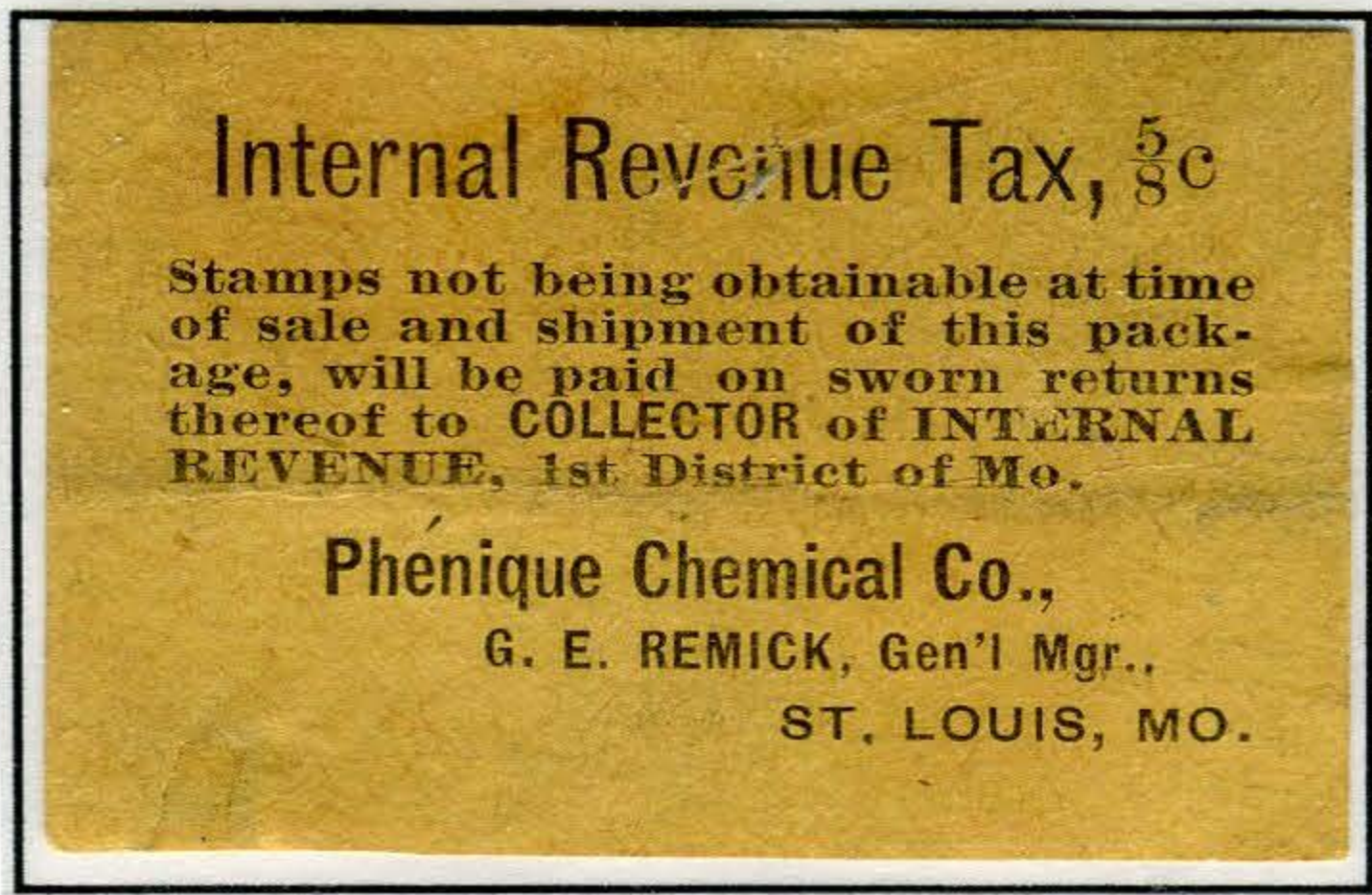
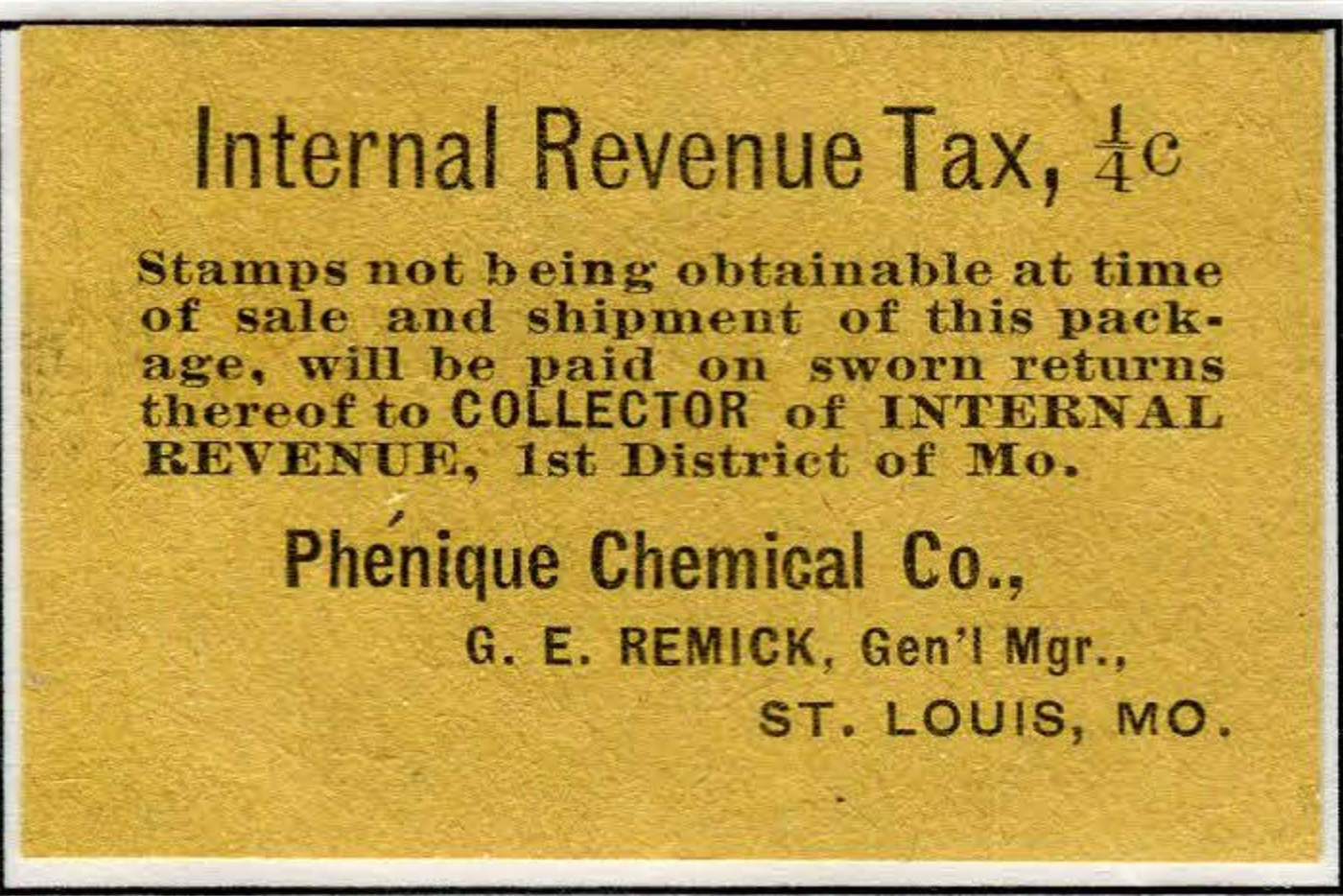
Recommended dosage for treating 'worry, nervousness, or the blues,' was one or two tablets with codeine every three hours. For shopper's headache two plain tablets every three hours were sufficient.

Antikamnia ran afoul of the Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906, but moved to the use of phenacetin, a habit-forming heart depressant in their tablets. Nothing is known of the company today.



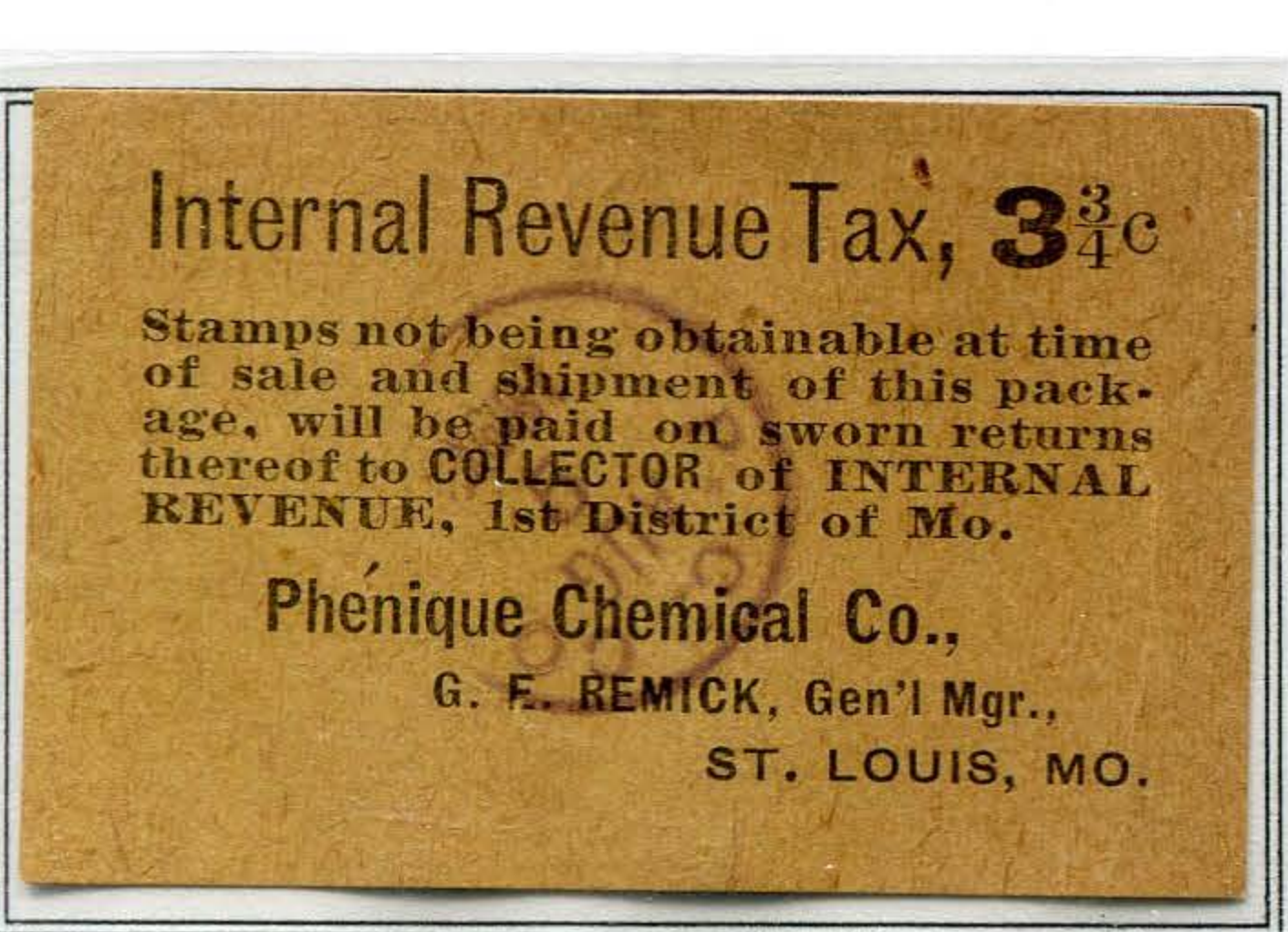
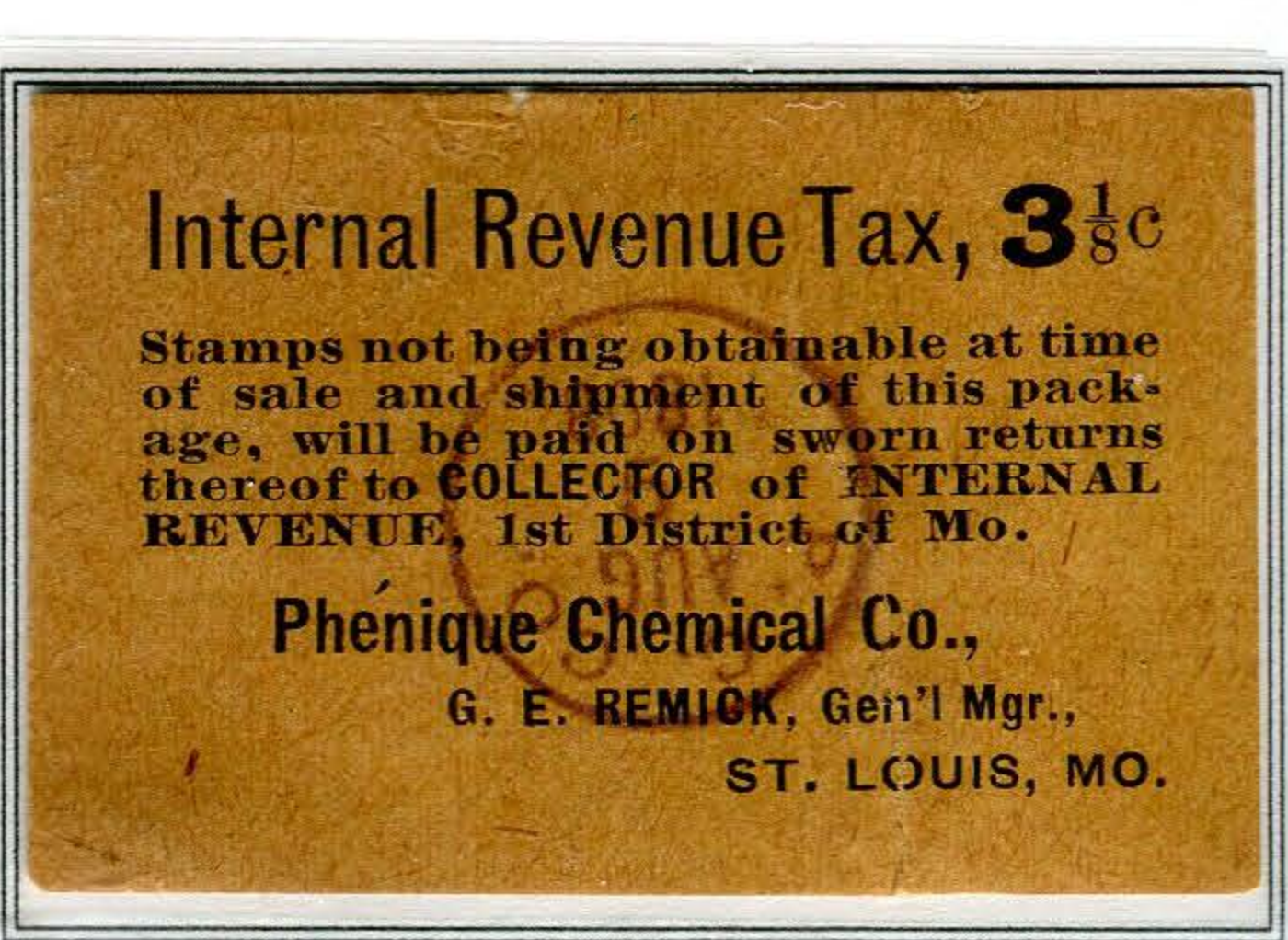
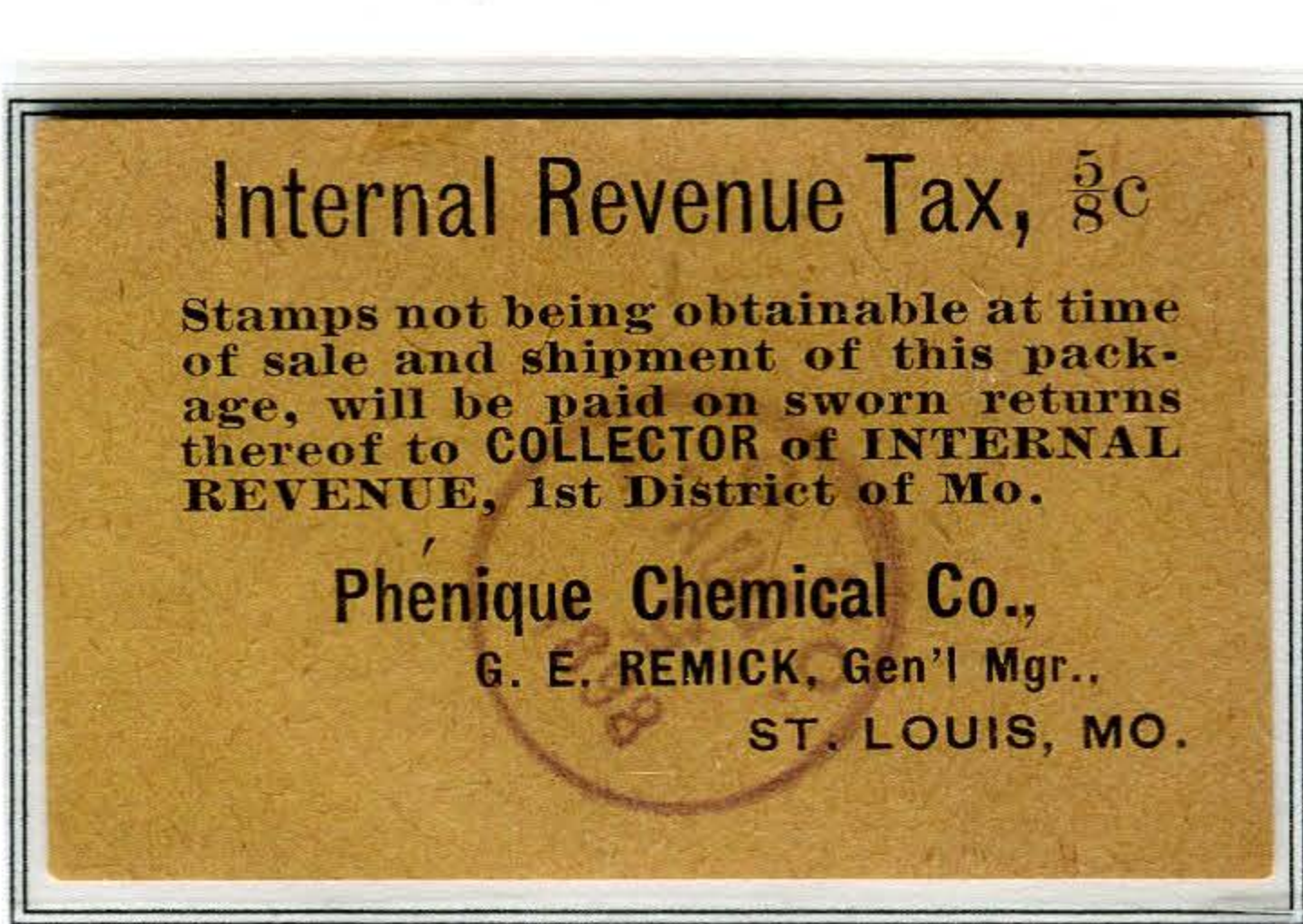
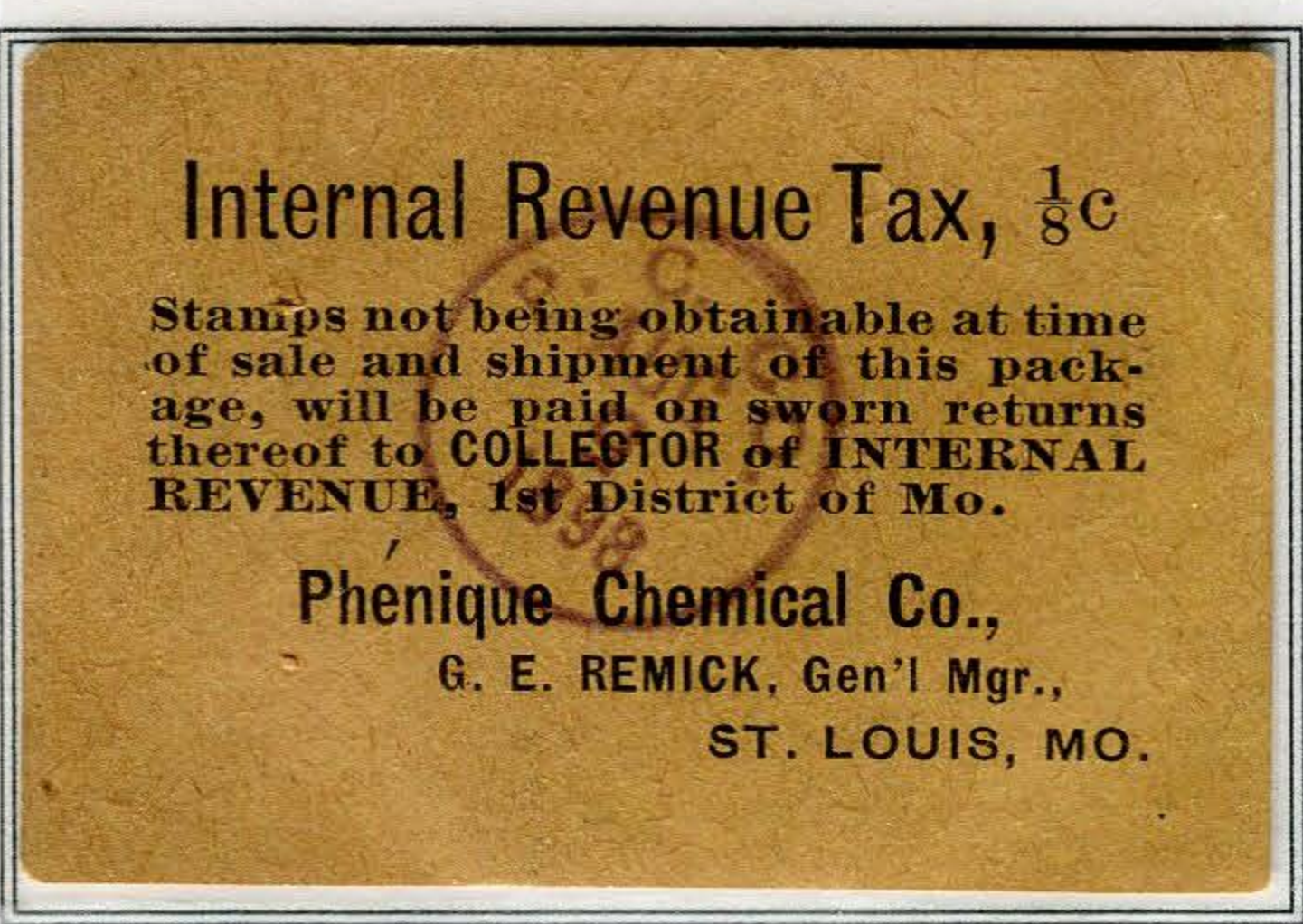
Phenique Chemical Company

Provisional issue



Note the same wording and format as the Antikamnia provisionals. The same printer undoubtedly produced both.

Phenique provisionals were printed in at least seven denominations. Four are known on yellow paper, uncanceled. Four are also known on buff paper with August 5, 1898 cancels, which is after the period that provisionals were necessary, so these are probably remainders.



In 1898 a small size of Campho-Phenique liquid or powder cost 30¢ and a large size, \$1.00. The tax rates were, respectively, 1 1/4¢ and 2 1/2¢, so it is interesting that a 1 1/4¢ provisional is not currently known. However, one was reported in 1908 and may still exist.

The smaller denomination provisionals were likely used with other stamps, since it appears that Phenique Chemical Company management was able to buy a small assortment of government issues as Antikamnia was. The higher denominations would have been used on larger packets or bottles, or packages containing several items.

Government issue



The cancels on these battleship revenues are the same as were used on the buff paper provisionals. Phenique used it throughout the tax period.

James F. Ballard owned Phenique Chemical Company, as well as companies making White's Cream Vermifuge and Smith's Bile Beans. His cancels on these battleship revenues dated July 6, 1898 prove that he had access to some government-issued stamps very early in the tax period.

As with Antikamnia, his supply apparently was not adequate. The need for make-up rates would account for the lower value provisionals.



Type I wording: lower-case "of" in "COLLECTOR of INTERNAL REVENUE."

Right: Phenique brochure used shortly after the tax period, when costs of the products had increased for the larger sizes.

	Small Size	Regular Size
CAMPHO-PHENIQUE LIQUID	30c	\$1.20
" " POWDER	30c	.75
" " OINTMENT		1.20

If you cannot get it at the Drug Store, Remit to us
We will send it by mail

CAMPHO-PHENIQUE CO. St. Louis, Mo.

Phenique merchant's draft asking for payment from C.W. Rogers and Company, due in three days. The cancel on the documentary stamp is the same as Phenique used on its proprietary stamps.

4-27-01

\$ 4⁰⁰/₁₀₀ St. Louis, Mo. 3/14 1902

At 3 days sight Pay to the order of First Nat'l Bank

Four ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars

WITH EXCHANGE ON NEW YORK OR ST. LOUIS

To C. W. Rogers & Co. Valge received and charge the same to account of

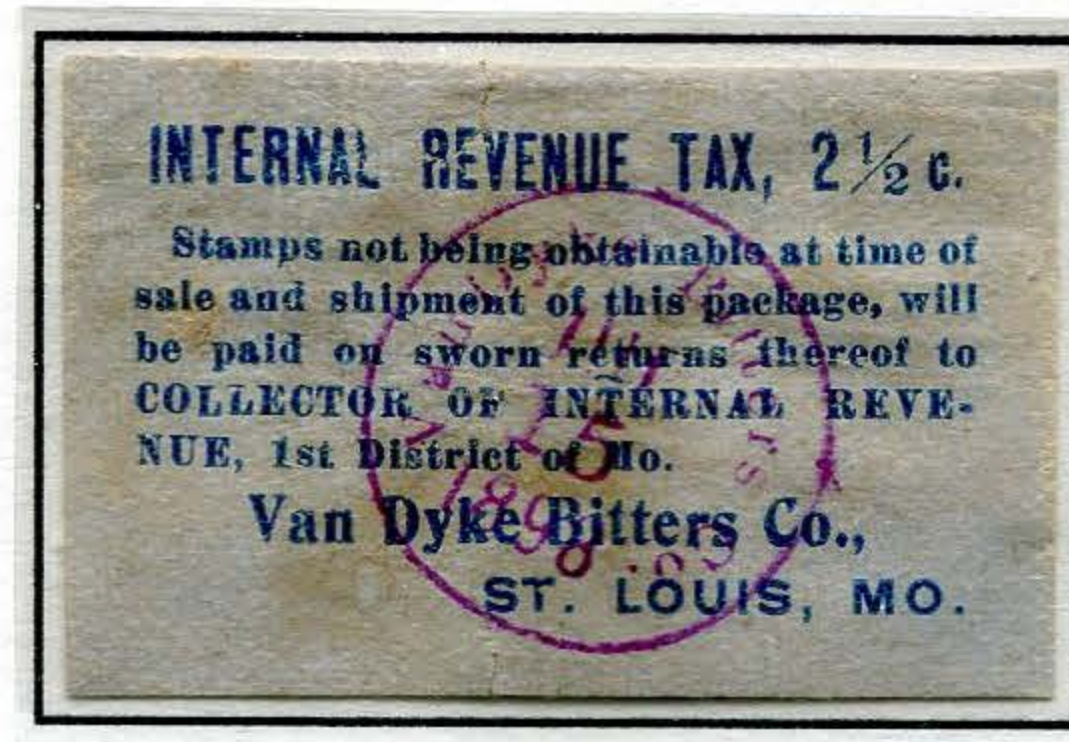
No. *W. Silanti, Mich* PHENIQUE CHEMICAL CO. *E. C. Gesch*

Buxton & Skinner, Stationery Co., St. Louis, Mo. CASHIER.

Van Dyke Bitters Company

Provisional issue

Type II wording: upper-case "OF"
in "COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE."



Only the 2½¢ denomination is recorded for the Van Dyke Bitters Company provisional. At least five copies exist.

The format of the stamp is close enough to Type I that it could be the work of the same printer.

Government issue

April 14, 1900 cancel, same format as that on the 1898 provisional.

Van Dyke advertised one product: Dr. Van Dyke's Holland Bitters, cure for dyspepsia, biliousness, constipation, and heartburn, and a sure preventative of malaria. However, in 1893 and again in 1914 the company was listed in the Saint Louis Directory as a liquor wholesaler. In 1901 a Reading, Pennsylvania newspaper noted that "Hollenbach, Dietrich & Company, liquor dealers...received a carload of Van Dyke Bitters from Saint Louis. They enjoy a large run on this brand."

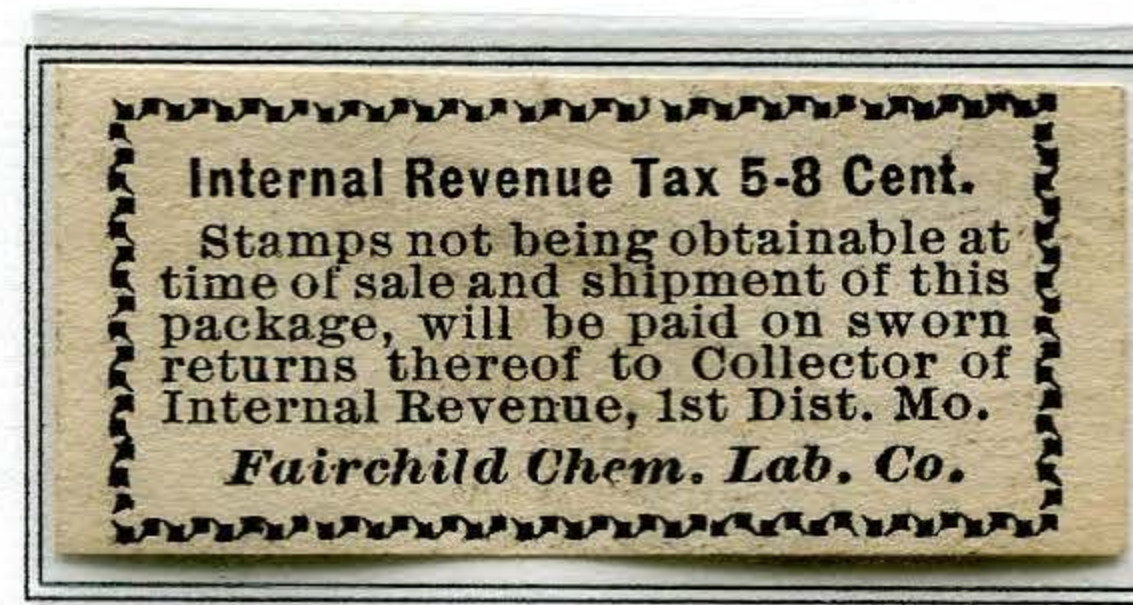


The liquor tax rate was \$1.10 per proof gallon at the time. If Van Dyke sold a pint of their bitters for \$1 and it was 80 proof, the proprietary tax per gallon would have been 20¢ versus 88¢ if sold as alcohol. Reason enough to claim medicinal properties for the product.

Fairchild Chemical Laboratory Company

Provisional issue

Type III wording: upper and lower-case lettering,
and "Dist. Mo." instead of "District of Mo."



Fairchild Laboratories produced Sanitol products, which at the time were tooth powder and toothpaste. Both sold for \$2 per dozen packets, making each packet 17¢ for a tax of 5/8¢ each, the denomination of the provisional.

Government issue



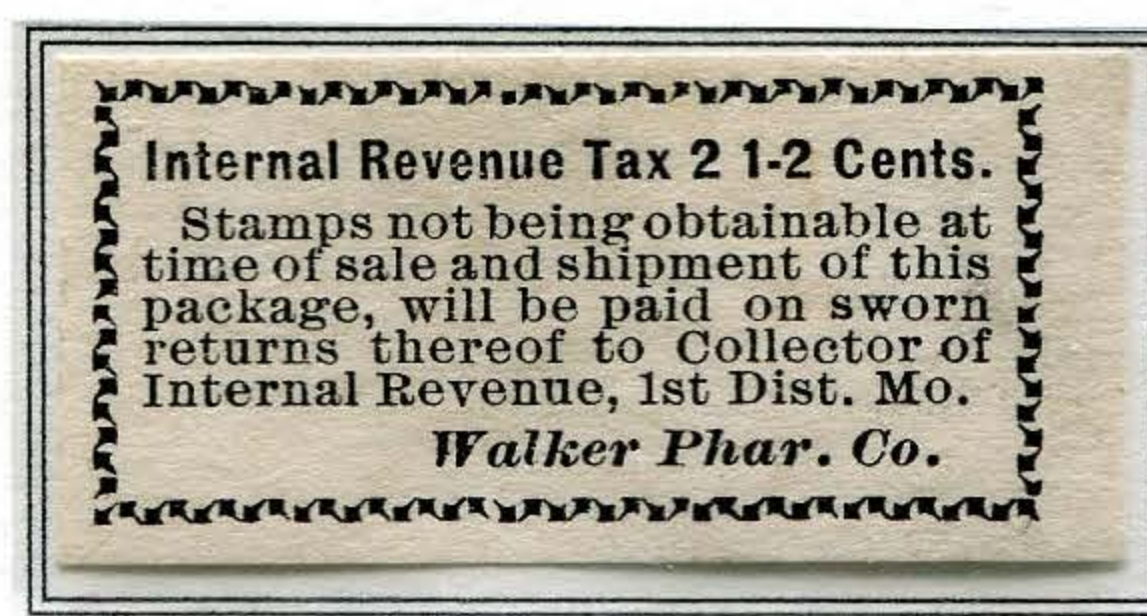
November 11, 1898 cancel. By then Fairchild was selling Sanitol liquid for \$4 per dozen bottles, or 33¢ each, requiring a 1¼¢ stamp.

Shortly after the turn of the century the company's name was changed to the Sanitol Chemical Laboratory Company.

Walker Pharmacal Company

Provisional issue

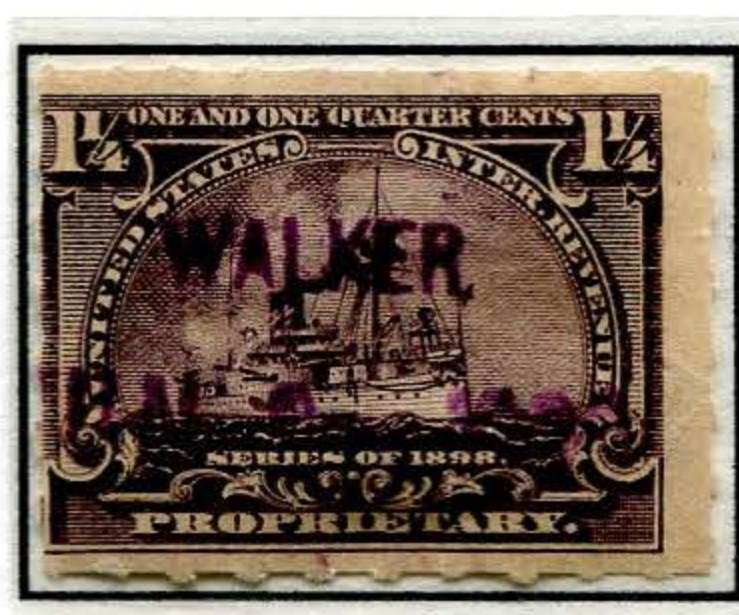
Type III wording: upper and lower-case lettering, and "Dist. Mo." instead of "District of Mo."



Walker Pharmacal Company sold Phytolene, a weight-loss preparation, for \$1 a bottle, requiring a 2½¢ stamp. It isn't known what the standard unit cost was for Pineoline, for skin infections, or Succus Cineraria Maritima, for cataracts, also sold by Walker, but the 2½¢ provisional is the only denomination known.

Compare this stamp to the Fairchild provisional on the previous page. They undoubtedly were printed by the same printer. Borders are identical and words are set in the same type.

Government issue



The 5¢ battleship has a July 2, 1898, cancel, showing that Walker had access to government proprietaries early in the tax period in a "job lot" of miscellaneous denominations, as did at least some other provisional stamp users. The other two are dated later, the 1¼¢ when Walker must have sold half-size bottles of Phytolene or other products at fifty cents.

The Absorption of Cataracts.

THE many excellent clinical reports of absolute cures received from physicians in all parts of the world on the action of SUCCUS CINERARIA MARITIMA (Walker) for the dissolution and absorption of both CAPSULAR and LENTICULAR CATARACTS, stamps it as the most valuable of the newer remedies that have been added to the armamentarium of the general practitioner.

Literature by Addressing

WALKER PHARMACAL CO., St. Louis.

An advertisement for Walker's Succus Cineraria Maritima from a journal contemporaneous with the provisional stamp.

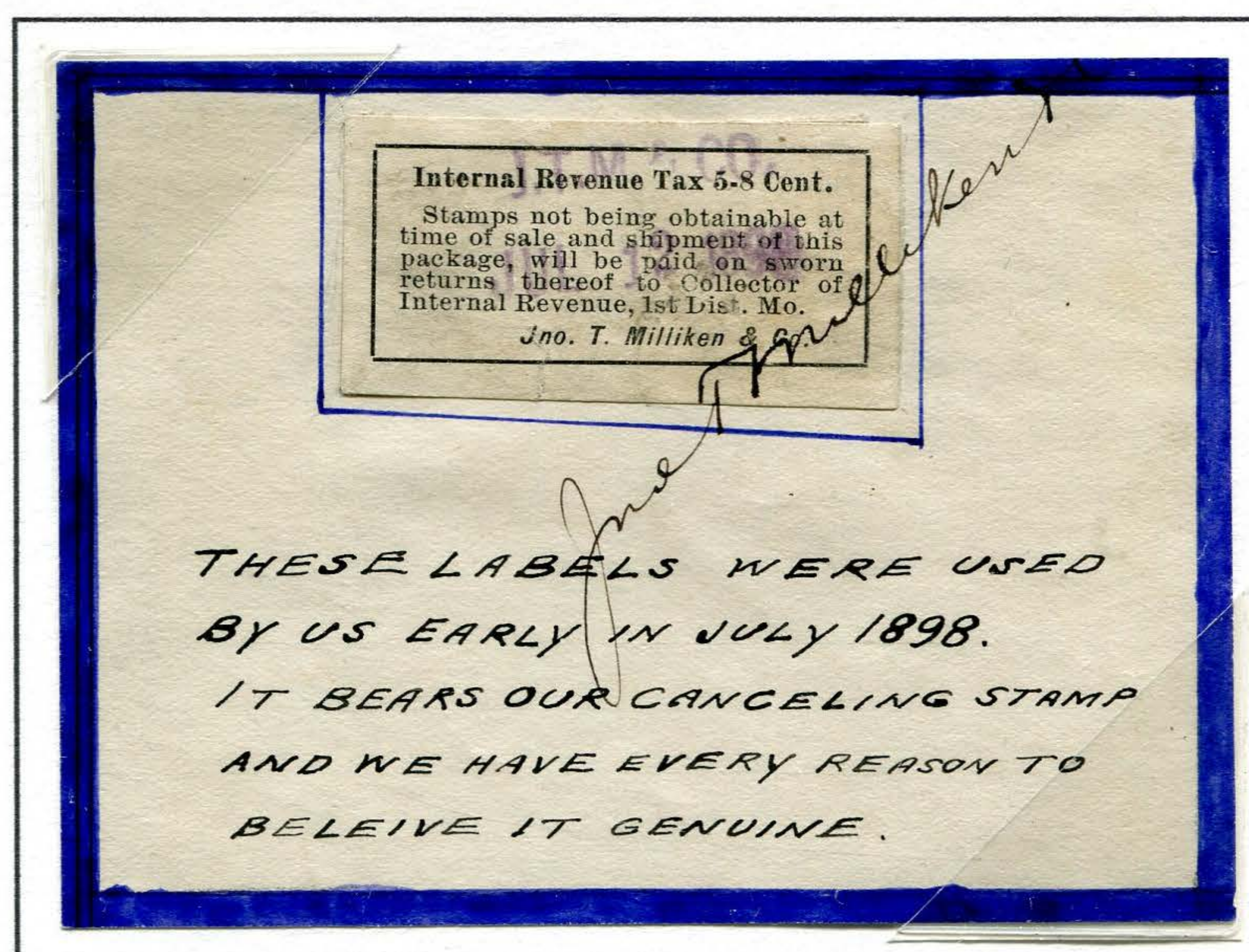
John T. Milliken and Company

Provisional issue



John T. Milliken and Company manufactured pharmaceuticals. It is likely that more than the $\frac{1}{8}\text{¢}$ and $\frac{5}{8}\text{¢}$ denominations shown here were produced as provisionals, but others are not known.

The frame of the Milliken stamps differs from that of the Fairchild and Walker provisionals, but identical wording is set the same way. The same printer likely produced all of these.



The $\frac{5}{8}\text{¢}$ stamp was signed by Milliken above a statement that the provisional stamps were indeed used. From the wording, this was done some time after the period of use.

Government issue

The cancels on the provisionals shown are July 16 and July 12. Some battleship revenue cancels that have been identified as Milliken's have July 19 dates, while provisional cancels are known as late as July 20. One of these recorded, but not illustrated, July 19 cancels is straight-line, so it is probably the same as those on the provisionals. It is on a one-cent battleship. The other is a circular cancel as below, on a $1\frac{7}{8}\text{¢}$ battleship. Both denominations are higher than those of the known provisionals, reinforcing the possibility that other denominations of the provisionals were produced, but have not been found.

These July date battleships are likely to have been from a small lot purchased around the beginning of the tax period. They would not have been useful unless there were products calling for higher taxes than paid by the known provisionals.



The cancels on these battleship issues are from October and August 1898, respectively.

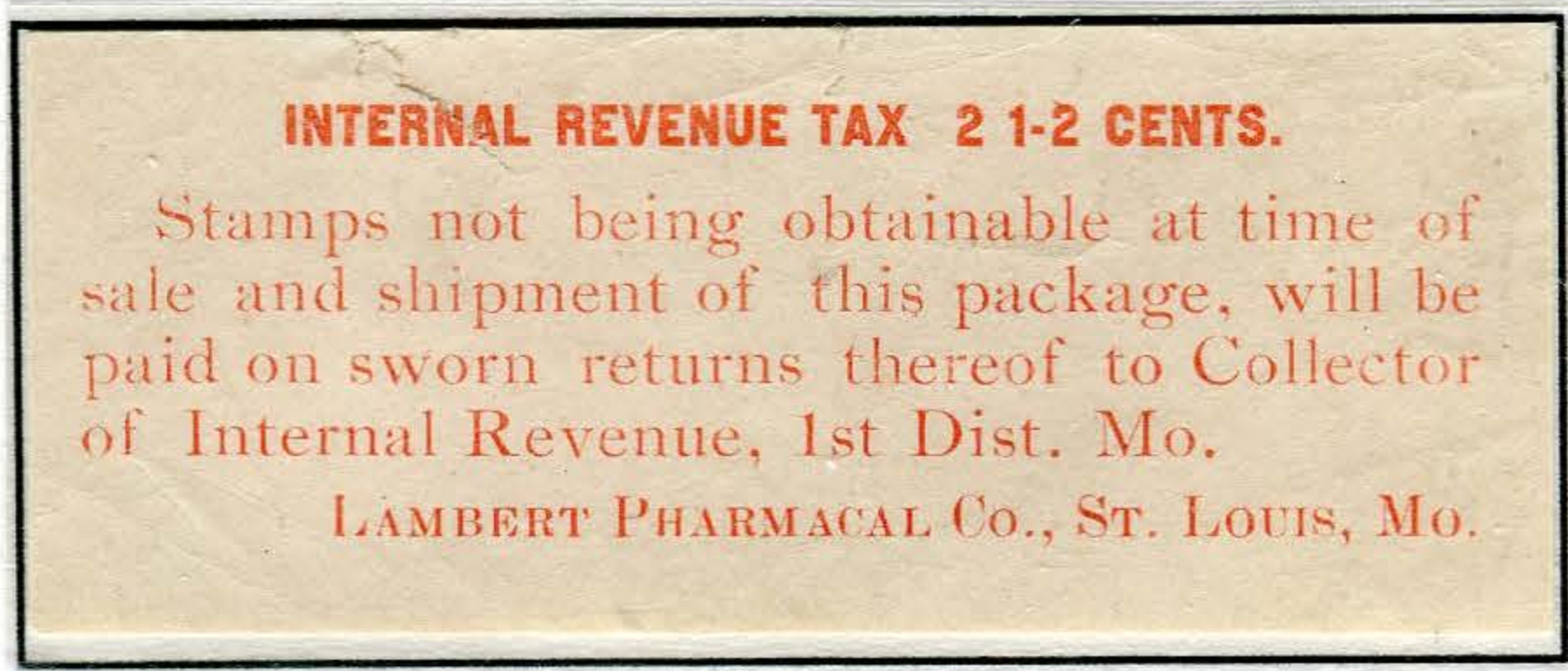
For a large company, few copies of battleships with Milliken cancels have been reported. The company may have used unidentifiable cancels for most of its products, which ranged from absorbent cotton to Milliken Mints and Pasteurine toothpaste.

Milliken also owned the Golden Circle mine in Cripple Creek, Colorado, so perhaps he was too busy with his mining interests to promote his drug business. The latter was sold to Abbott Laboratories in the 1920s.

Lambert Pharmacal Company

Provisional issue

Type III wording: upper and lower-case lettering, and “Dist. Mo.” instead of “District of Mo.”



The Lambert Pharmacal Company provisional was originally listed as having been printed in black, but none such has been seen since. That listing is likely to have been erroneous.

While the Lambert stamp shares identical text with those of Fairchild, Walker and Milliken, nothing else is similar. The same printer is likely, but it isn't clear why a different size and color was chosen for Lambert.

The main product of Lambert Pharmacal was Listerine. It was only sold to physicians during the tax period, apparently in two sizes - either a 20¢ or 25¢ size, and a one dollar size. 2½¢ is the only provisional denomination currently known.

Government issue

The only denominations of battleship stamps known to have Lambert cancels are ⅝¢ and 2½¢.



The first known Lambert cancels on battleships are straight-line, as on the left example. The circular cancel, middle example, is unusual, as Lambert did not use other circular cancels until late in 1899 on 2½¢ stamps.

Late in 1898 into early 1899 Lambert cancels appear to have been added by typewriter, as in the rightmost example.



By 1899 Lambert was using circular cancels again, but, unlike the earlier example, the later ones included “Saint Louis” at the bottom of the circle.

Right top: A 1900 advertisement for Listerine. At that time it was claimed to be an internal medicine and a general antiseptic.

Right bottom: A Lambert cover from 1891.

Lambert Pharmacal merged with Warner-Hudnut in 1955 as Lambert-Warner, which was acquired by Pfizer in 2000. Listerine is now the property of Johnson and Johnson, another company active in the Spanish-American war tax period.

ii THE MEDICAL TIMES. July, 1900.

SUMMER HEAT: Its Ill Effect Upon Infantile Life

Whilst it is not contended that summer heat, *per se*, exercises any ill effect upon infantile life, the intense heat of summer, coupled with improper diet and unsanitary surroundings, undoubtedly will increase the mortality among infants. Artificially fed babies especially suffer.

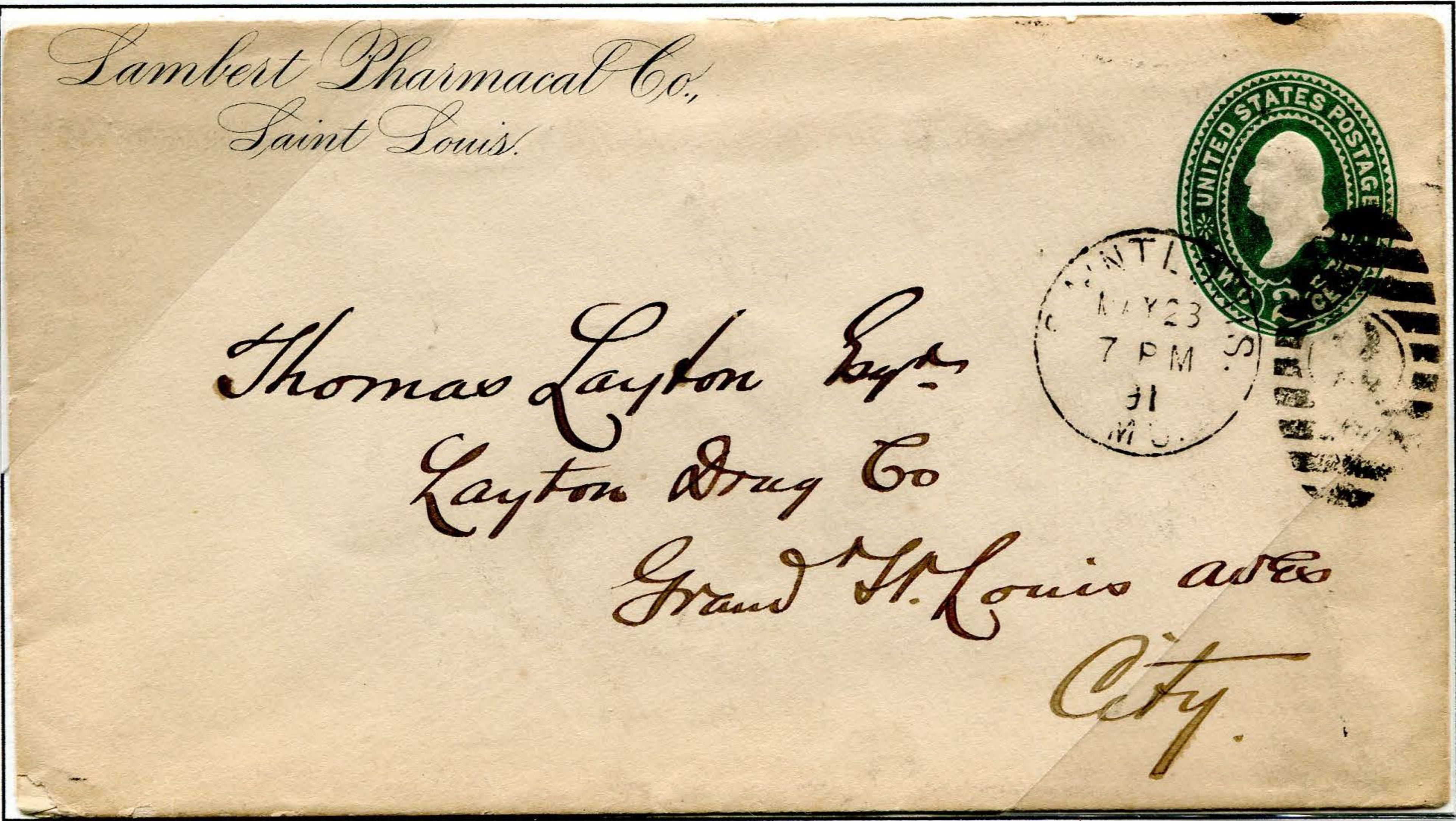
A wise saying of the ancients, *obsta principiis*, has special application here. The importance of cleanliness, appropriate food, and regularity in feeding should be impressed upon the caretaker of the infant.

From the writings of medical practitioners of wide experience in this special field, we have compiled a pamphlet which we designate the “Summer Pamphlet.” In it will be found many highly valuable suggestions for the care of infants and children during the heated term, together with various formulæ suggesting treatment for infantile digestive disturbances, all of which tend to show that the base of many successful prescriptions for “summer complaint” is

LISTERINE

LAMBERT PHARMACAL COMPANY

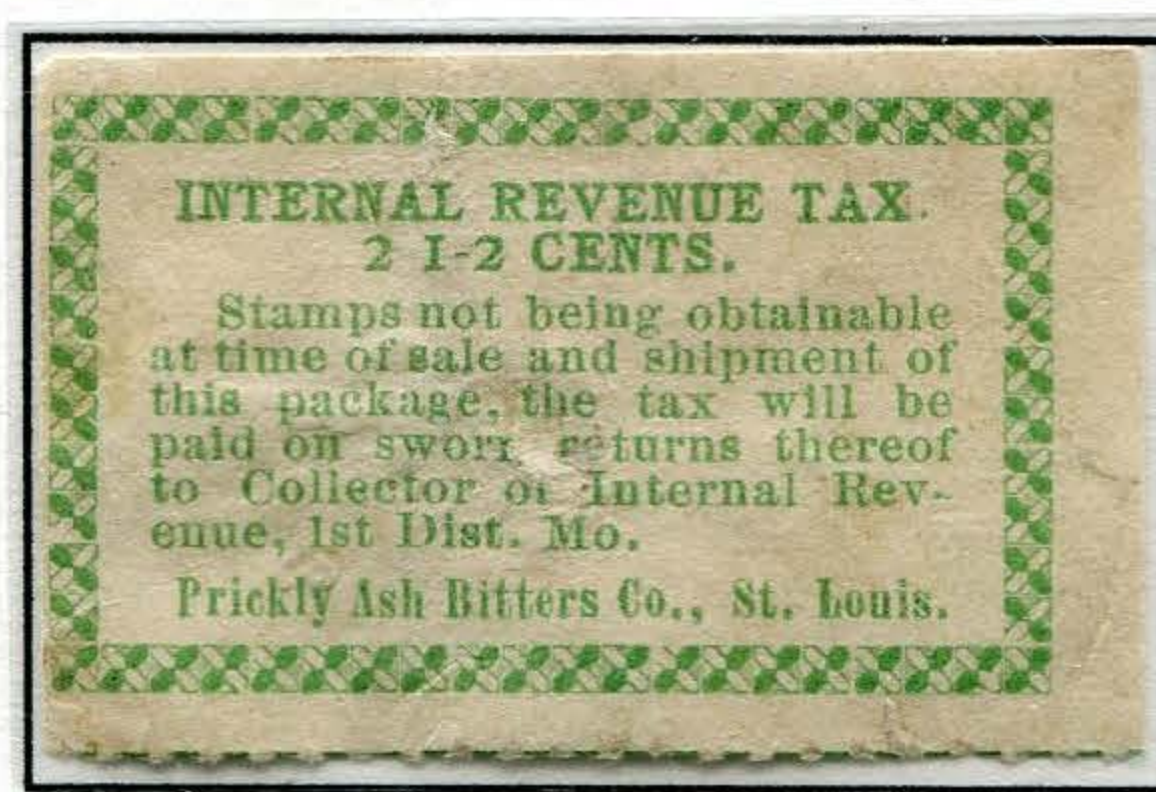
SAINT LOUIS



Prickly Ash Bitters Company

Provisional issue

Type IV wording: “the tax” inserted before “will be paid,,” otherwise as Type III.



At least three copies are known of Prickly Ash Bitters provisional stamps, all denominated 2½¢. Doctor B.F. Sherman's Prickly Ash Bitters sold for \$1 a bottle, requiring a stamp of that value.

Government issue



The logical denomination for the company's battleship use was 2½¢, but some 5/8¢ stamps are known with Prickly Ash Bitters cancels, some as early as July 1, 1898, undoubtedly from a miscellaneous lot available early.

The printed cancel at right is a later use, though also from 1898.



A Victorian-era Prickly Ash Bitters trade card.

Although some form of Prickly Ash Bitters is being sold today, it is unlikely to have much, if any, relationship to the concoction sold in the 1890's. The original company was bought by Meyer Brothers in the early Twentieth Century.

Was this a medicine or thinly-disguised liquor? Twenty years before the Spanish-American War tax period, the Weekly Statesman of Austin, Texas wrote in 1878, “No spirit is used in the manufacture of them, except a pure article of Holland gin.”

The Green Forest Tribune of Carroll County, Arkansas said in its December 28, 1899 edition, “A system regulator is a medicine that strengthens and stimulate the liver, kidney, stomach and bowels. Prickly Ash Bitters is a superior system regulator. It drives out all unhealthy conditions; promotes activity of body and brain, restores good sleep, and sprits. Sold by Harbert & Shelton.”

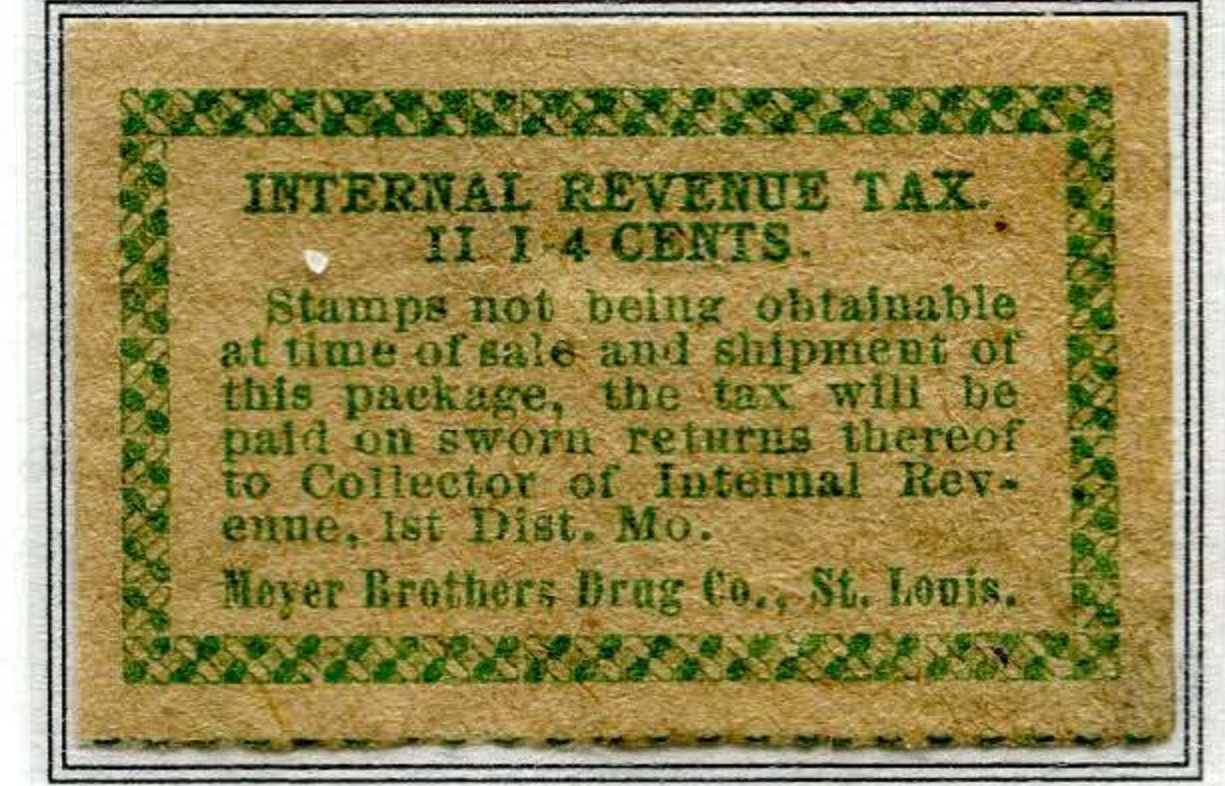
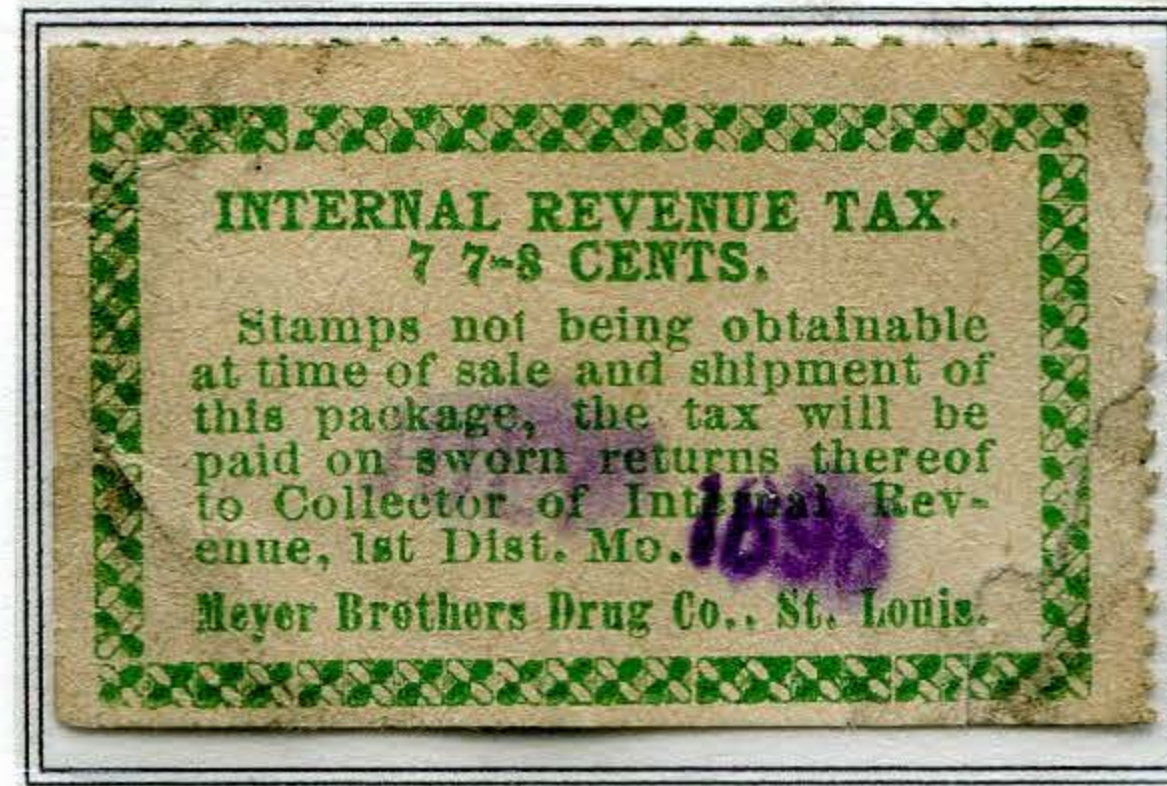
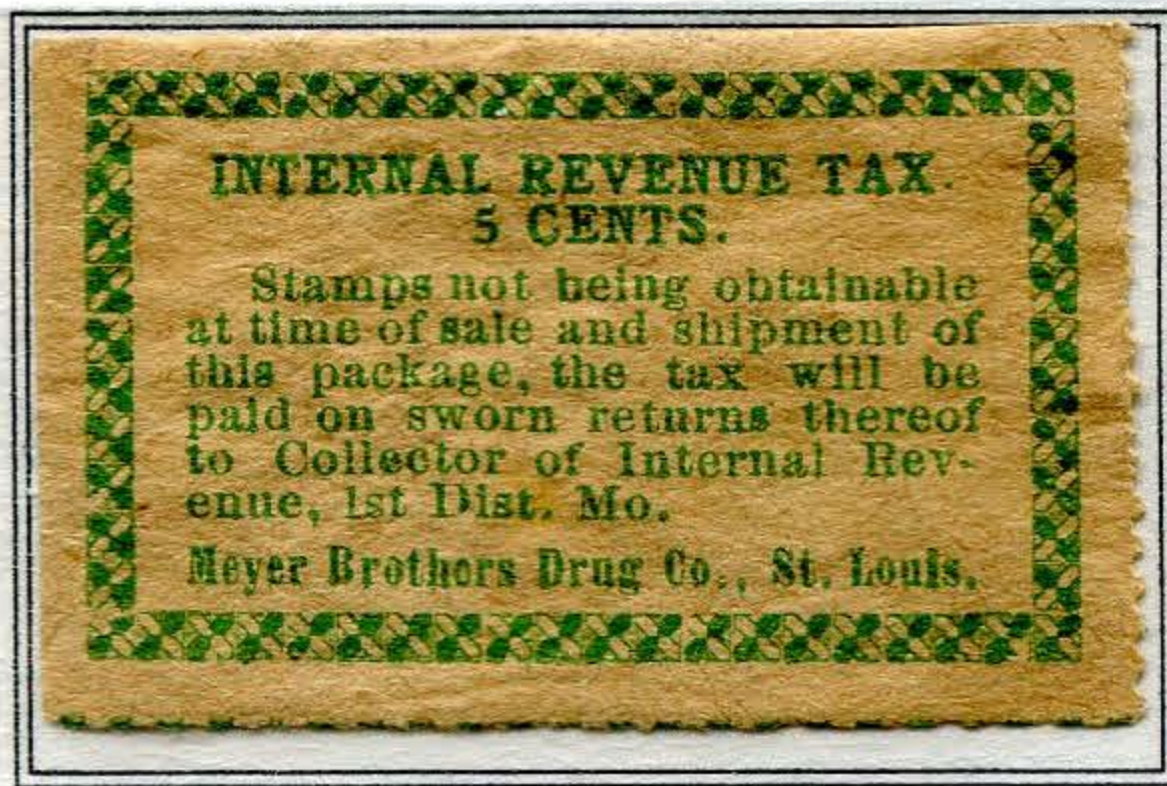
The nostrum probably was no better nor worse than other patent medicines of the time.



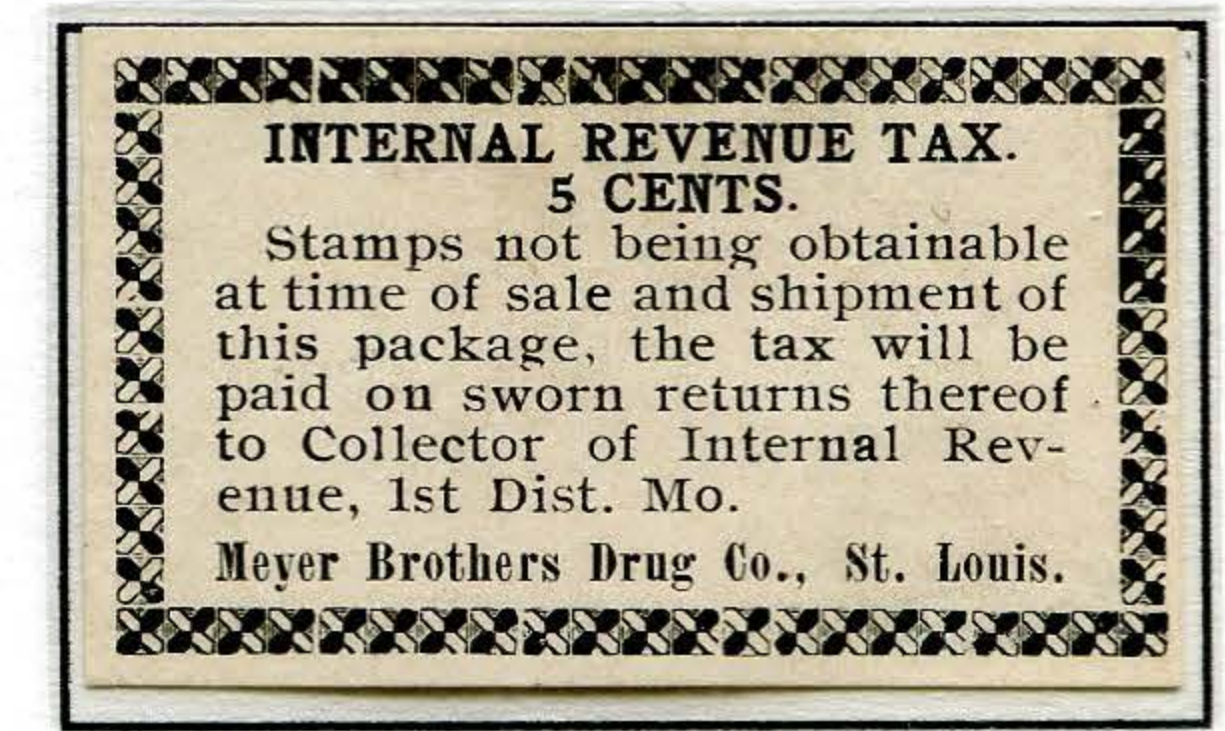
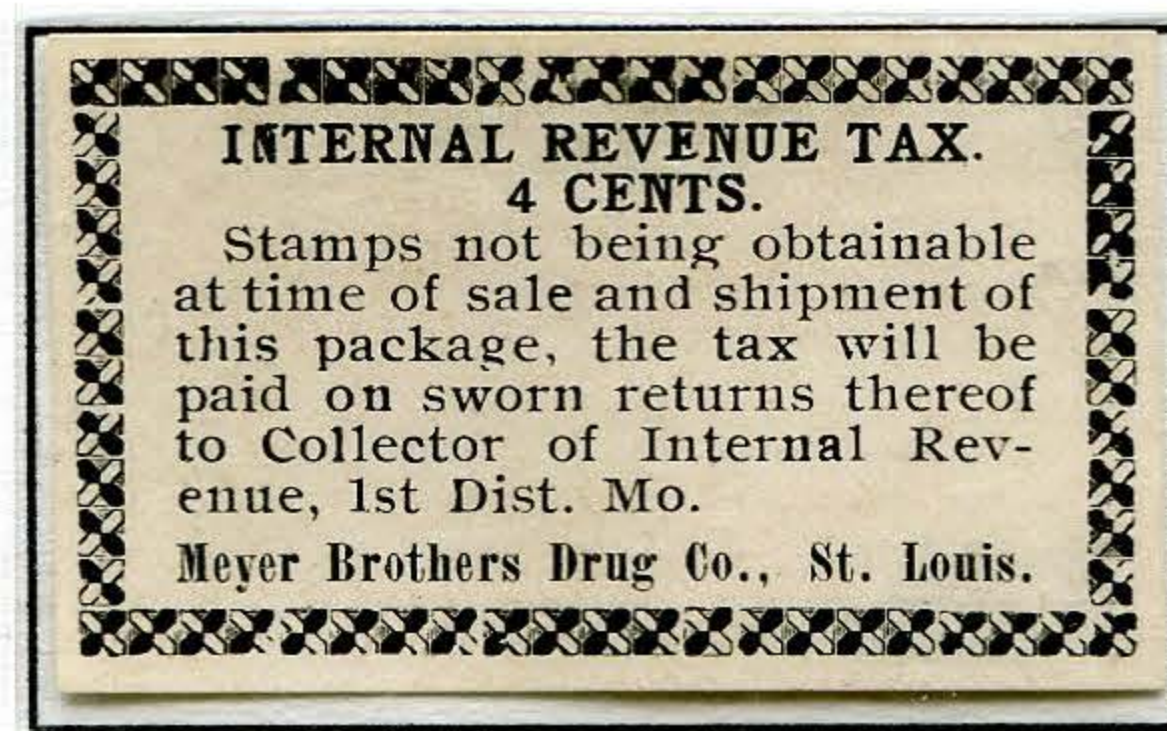
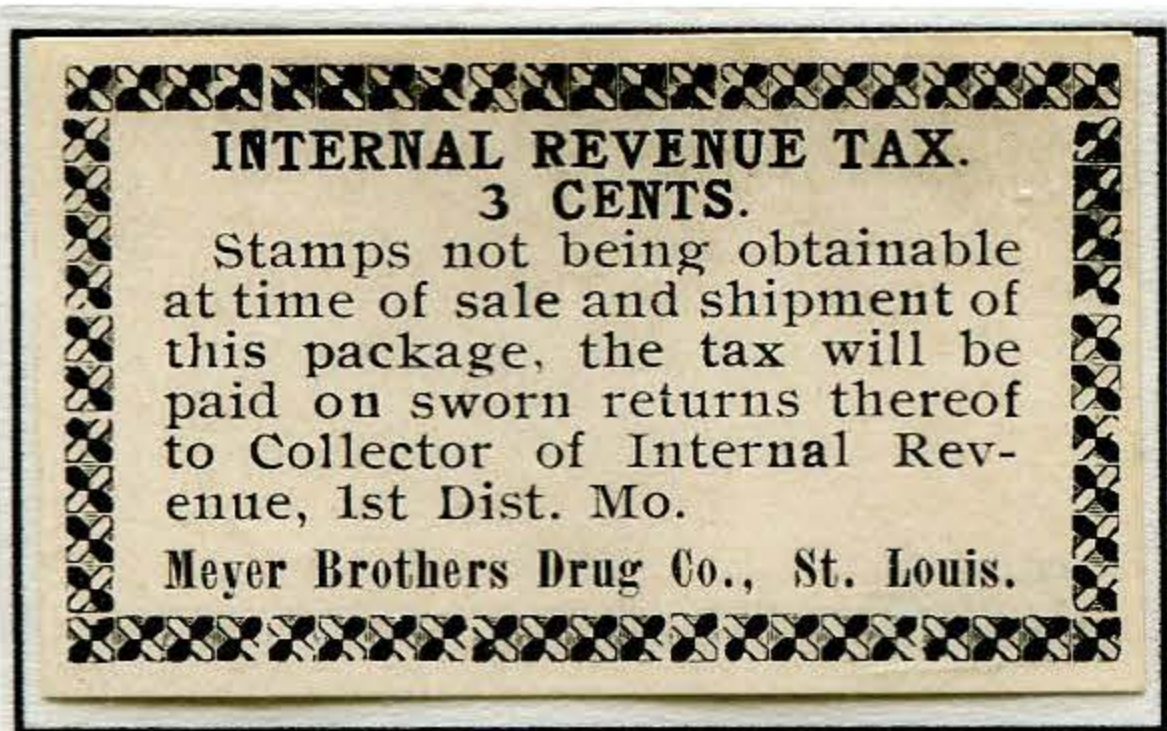
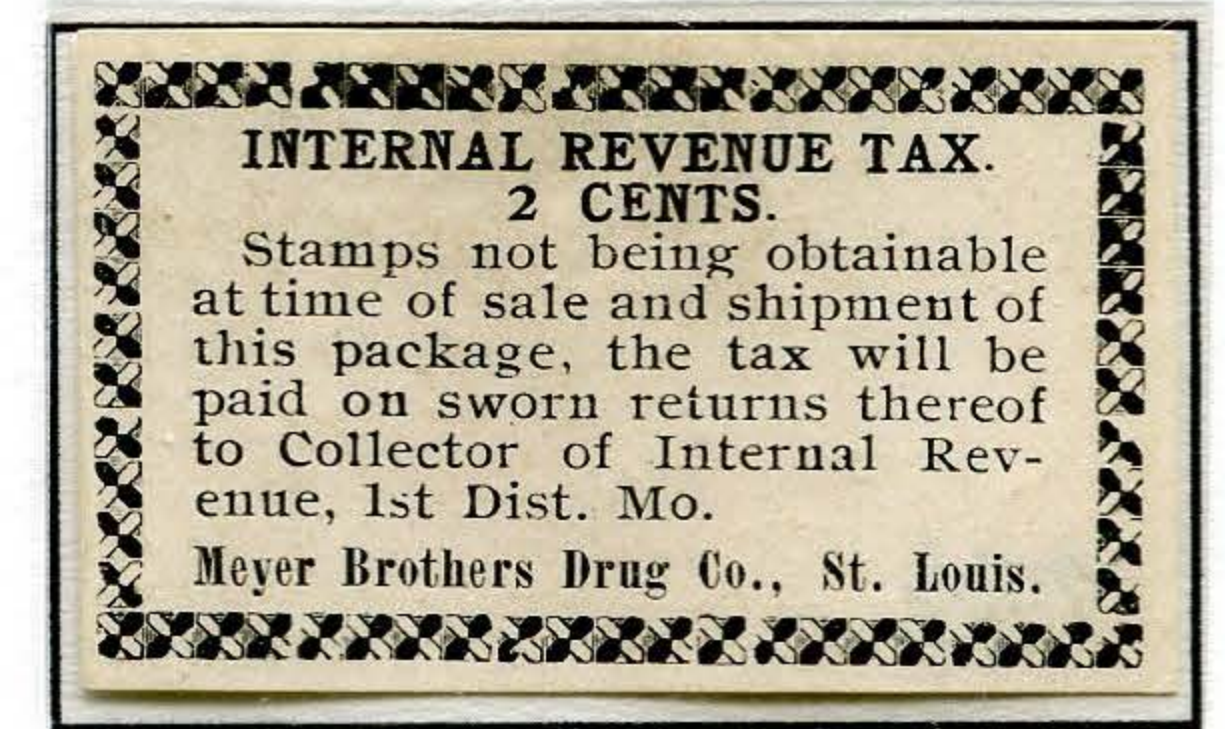
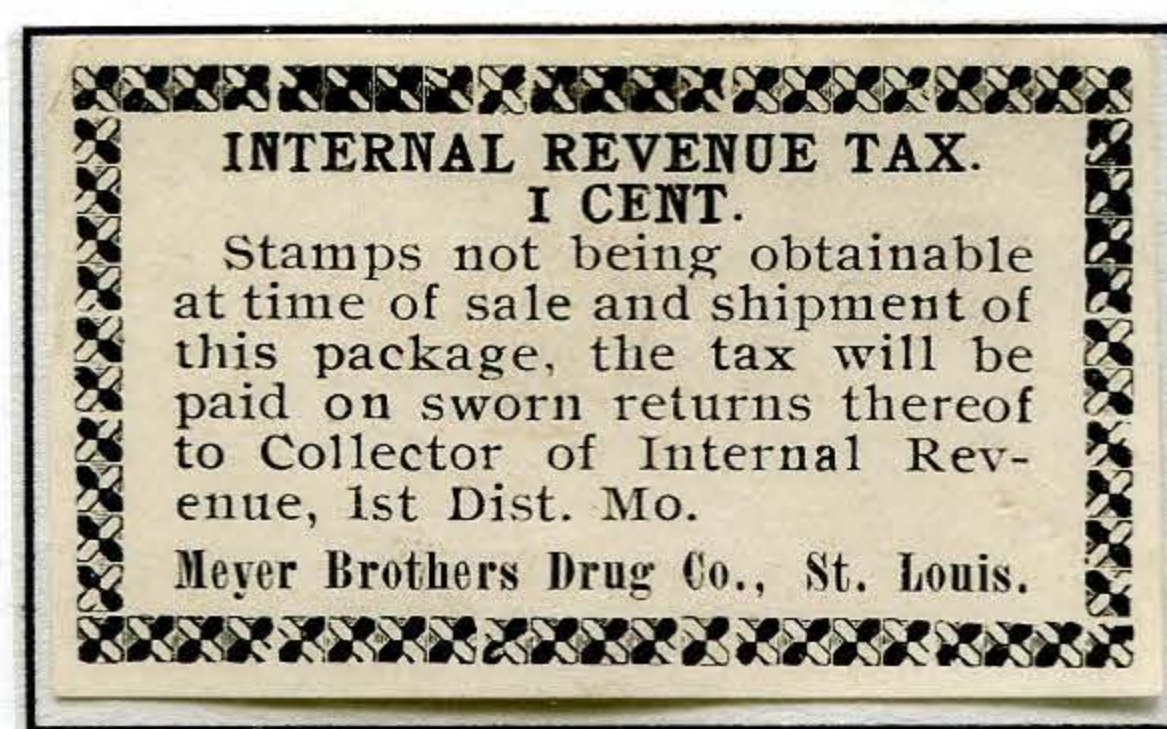
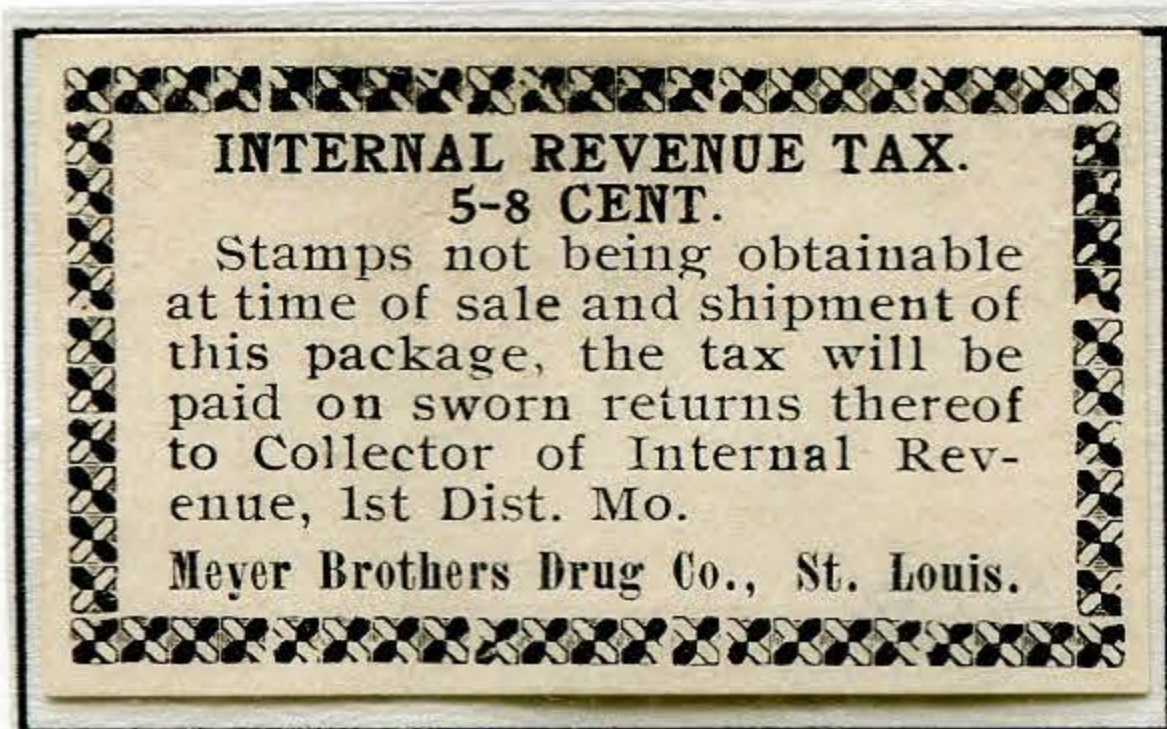
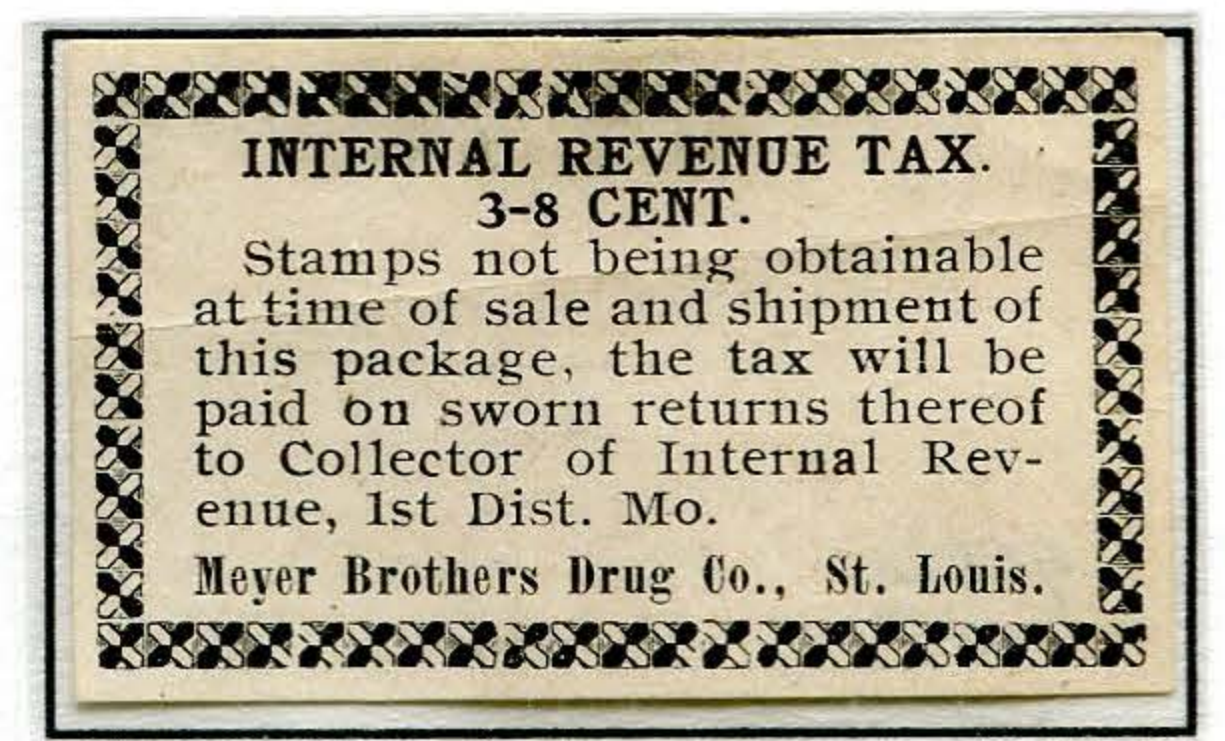
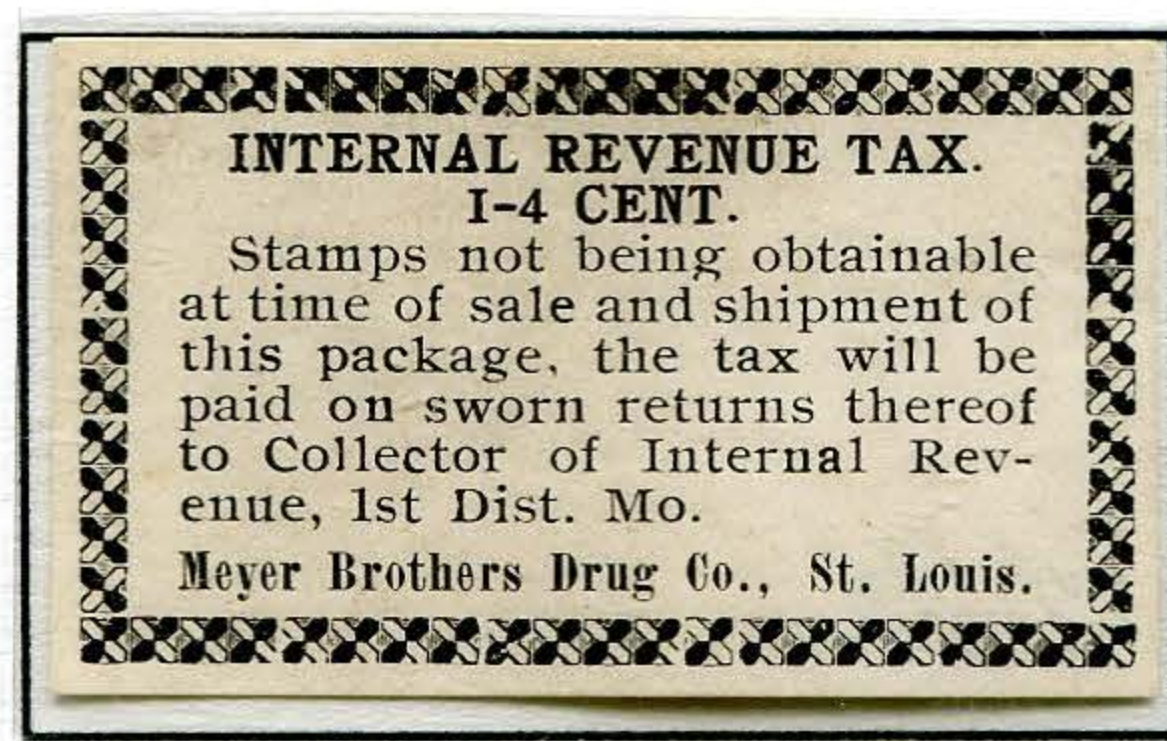
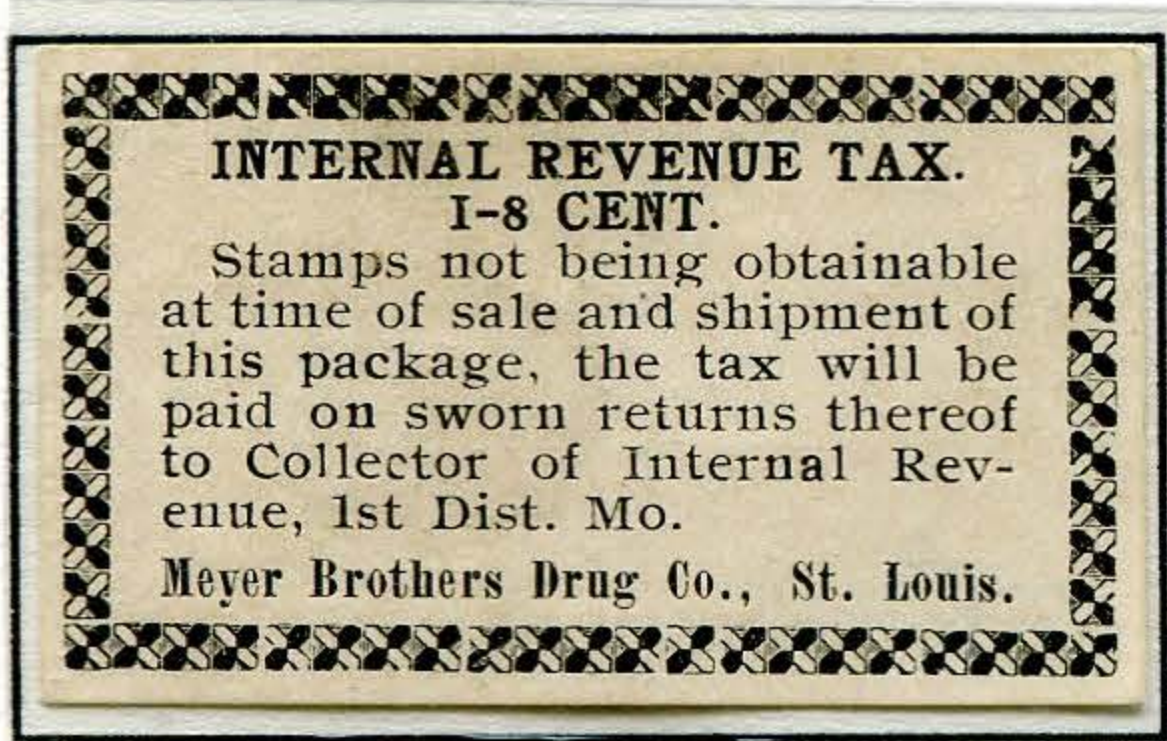
Meyer Brothers Drug Company

Provisional issue

Type IV wording: "the tax" inserted before "will be paid," otherwise as Type III.

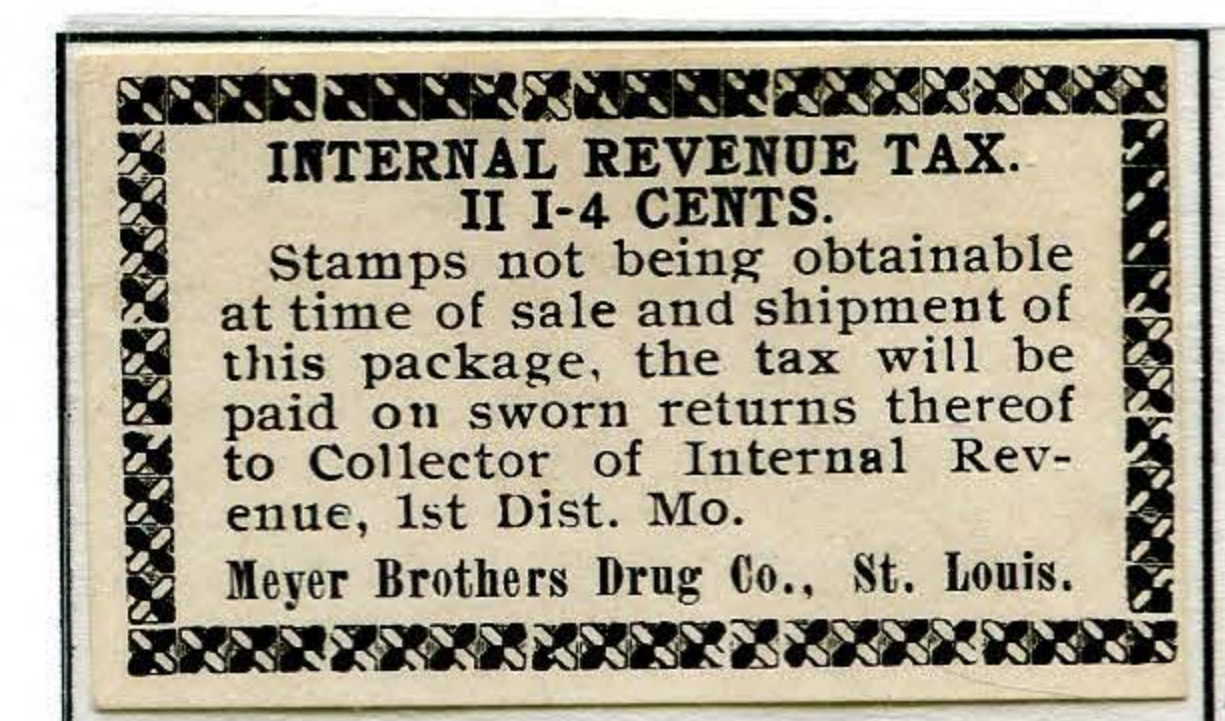


The Meyer Brothers provisional stamps were printed in two different colors, green and black, by the same company as printed the Prickly Ash Bitters stamp. Wording and borders are identical.



The black stamps were discovered in the Meyer Brothers files in 1905. They were prepared for use, but few, if any, may have been used. No used copies have been found.

Meyer Brothers used their higher denomination stamps on packages containing multiples of lower priced items. Each item should have been stamped individually, but applying the stamps to a group saved time.



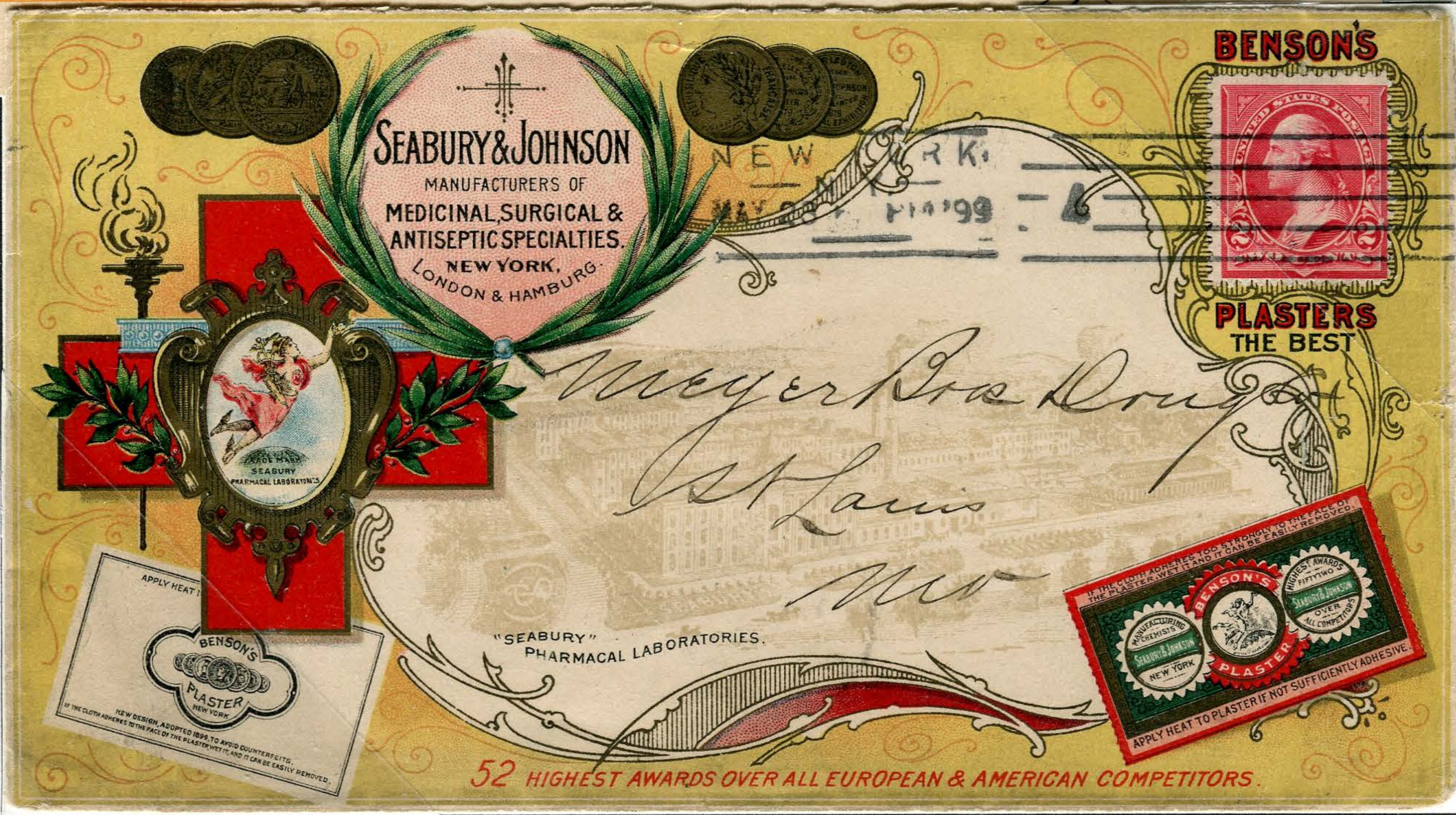
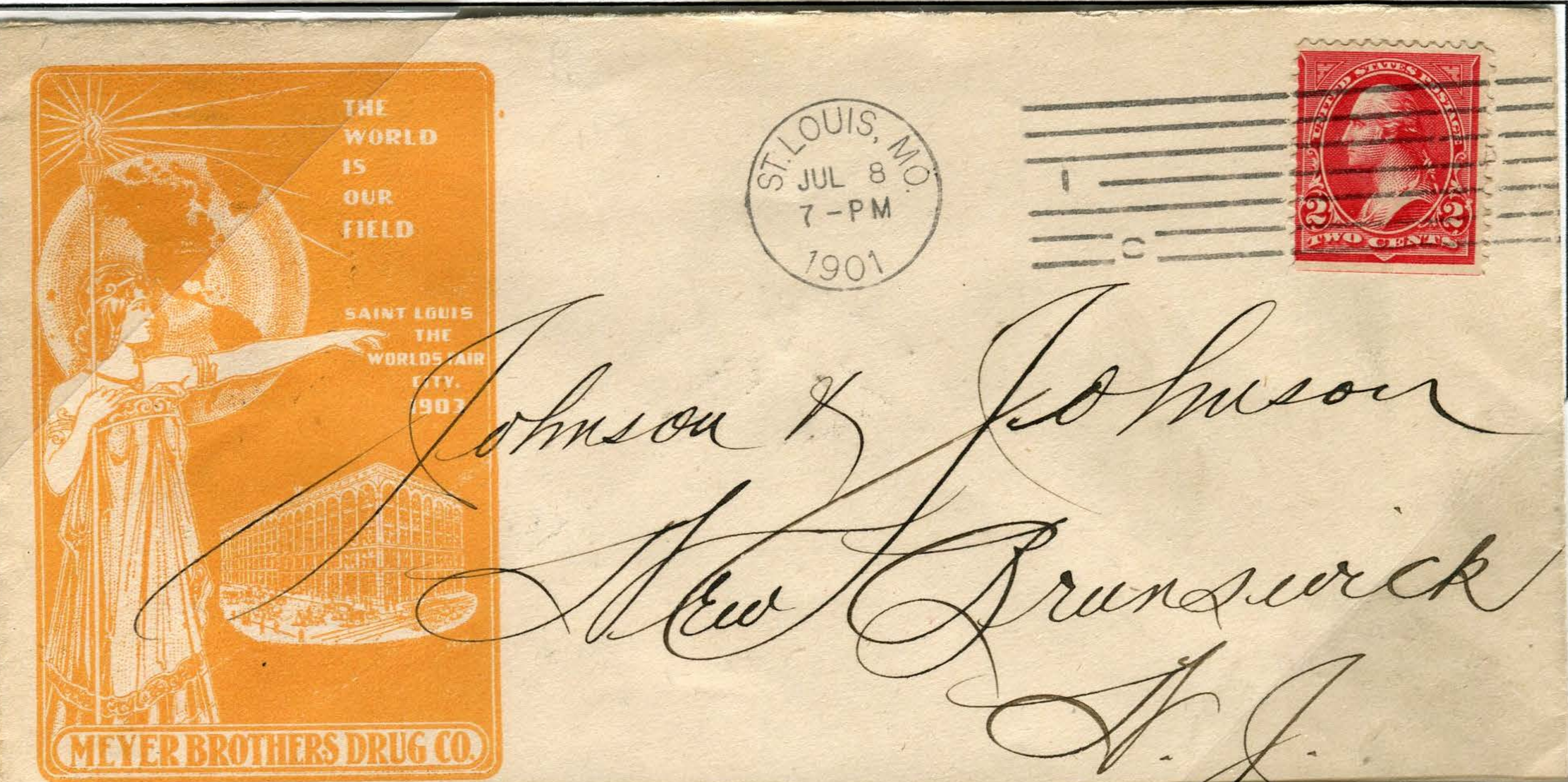
Meyer Brothers Drug Company

Government issue and collateral

Meyer Brothers cancels of July 1, 1898 on government issue stamps show they, too, had a small initial supply of these, or they used July 1 throughout July. The third stamp below, dated January 11, 1900, shows that Meyer Brothers did not use the same date all month, at least later. This suggests the July 1, 1898 date was used on that day.



Covers from and to Meyer Brothers during the tax period. Johnson and Johnson and Seabury and Johnson were separate units of the same medicine company, active today.



Imperial Crown Perfumery was a subsidiary of Meyer Brothers. During the tax period the parent company marketed Imperial Crown Cucumber Cream, Imperial Crown Rose Water and Glycerin, Imperial Crown Lemon Juice and Lotion and the like.

Note use of the same font for the cancel on this stamp as the printed Meyer Brothers cancel, suggesting that that was reserved for the cosmetic products sold under their Soul Kiss brand.



This Meyer Brothers check, used during the tax period, did not require a tax stamp, being issued after June 30, 1901 and payable on sight.

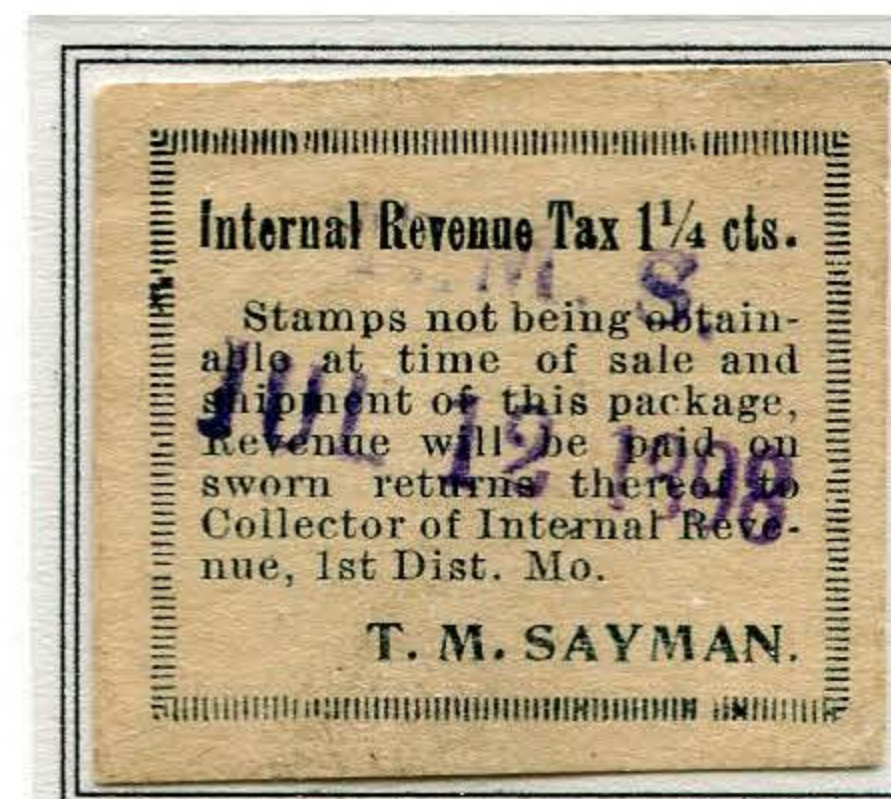
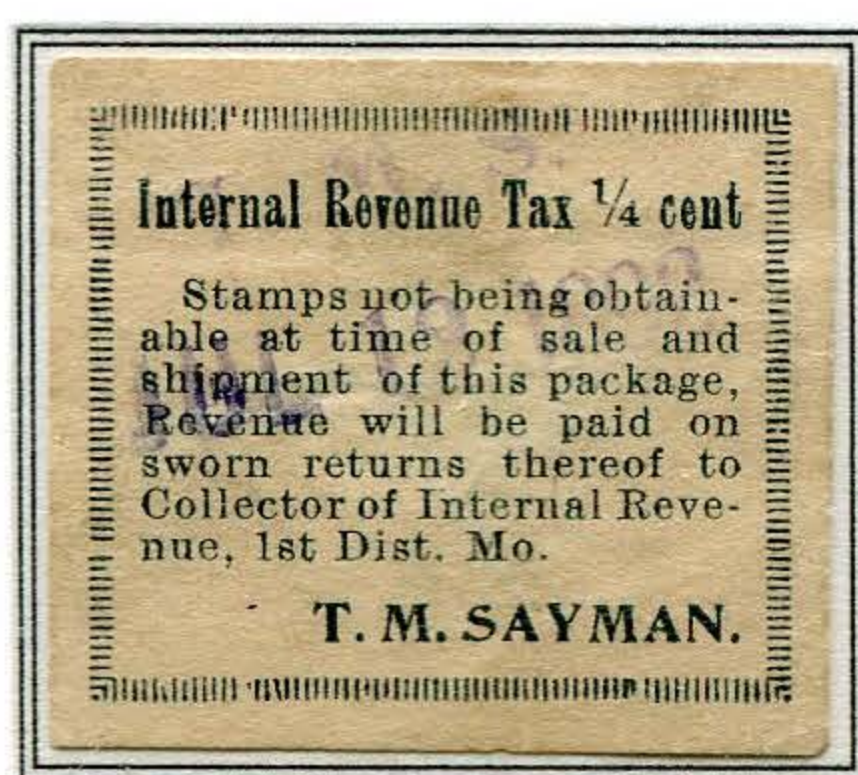
The check below, payable to Meyer Brothers, was written by a drug company in Stanton, Iowa during the tax period but before July 1, 1901, so required two cents tax even though payable on sight or demand. The orange imprint on it is the tax stamp.



T.M. Sayman

Provisional issue

Type VI wording: "Revenue" inserted before "will be paid," instead of "the tax," otherwise as Type III.



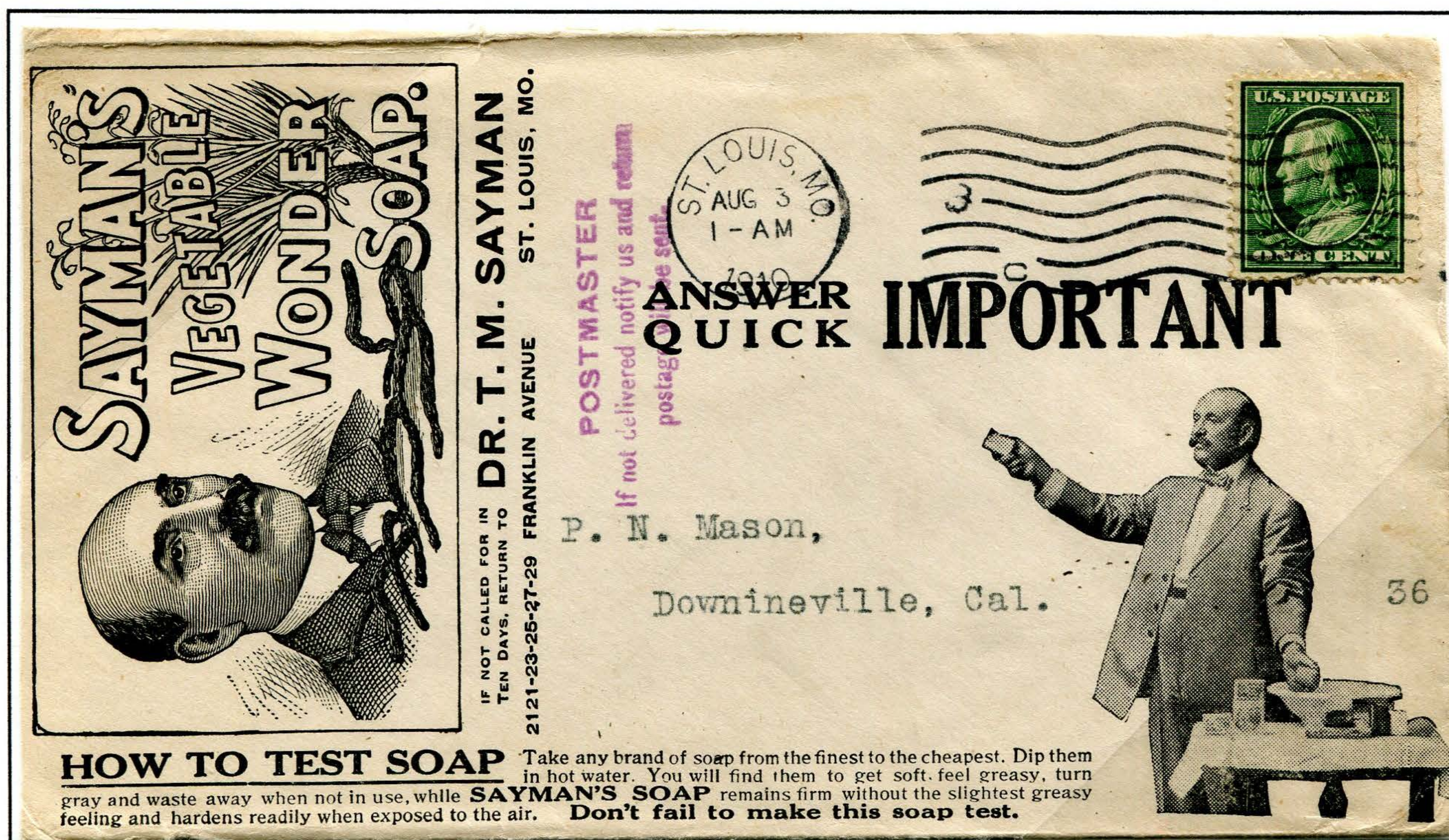
Sayman provisionals are known in three denominations - 1/4¢, 5/8¢, and 1 1/4¢. These amounts indicate products (salve, soap and vegetable liniment) retailing for 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢.

The size of and wording on the provisionals make it unlikely that they were printed by the same firm as any of the others.

Government issue



Sayman cancels on battleship revenues are known on the same three denominations as the provisionals. None have been found dated earlier than July 22, 1898. Either Sayman was not able to buy a supply prior to July 1, or early examples have not been identified.



A Sayman cover from eight years after the tax period. As a young man Sayman spent time with a traveling circus, where he learned to pitch his products to the masses, as in "How to Test Soap."

Like Listerine, Campho-Phenique, and even Prickly Ash Bitters, Sayman Soap can still be obtained today.

Use of the provisional stamps ended on or around July 21, 1898 when sufficient quantities of stamps issued by the government became available. All 37 of the St. Louis provisional stamps currently known are represented in this exhibit, although it is possible that additional provisionals exist and may come to light in the future.