

STATE

REVENUE

NEWSLETTER

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PLATE VARIETIES OF THE ONE PINT MAINE BEER STAMP

Kenneth P. Pruess, SRS 48

Charles Hermann mentioned some of the constant varieties which occur on Maine B1 (State Revenue Newsletter, No. 72) and indicated that they can occur in different positions in different panes and do not occur at all in some panes. In this article I would like to describe additional constant varieties and explain how their position in individual panes is determined. The ultimate goal is to reconstruct the original sheet which was obviously broken into many panes.

Figure 1 (page 15) shows the major constant varieties which I have found. No doubt there are others yet to be discovered, but just those listed here should keep the interested reader busy for a few hours if he has a pane or two of stamps. These may be described as follows:

1. dot under B of BEER
2. dot under R of BEER
3. dot outside upper left frame
4. dot above left figure of central seal
5. dot above E of EXCISE
6. dot outside lower left frame
7. dot above frame over second O of GOOD
8. dot under X of TAX
9. dot under E of MAINE
10. irregular line to right of MAINE
11. dot above and to right of hyphen after "Sub-"
12. dot above and to right of hyphen after "coun-"
13. dot above left figure of central seal (smaller and higher than variety 4)
14. wavy line over X of EXCISE
15. line over A of TAX
16. irregular lines or dots below frame below central seal

In addition to the above, there are at least three constant and distinct frame breaks. Hubbard's B1h is the first of these:

17. small 2 mm break upper right frame $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm from top (this extends diagonally as a white line into top frame)
18. double frame break lower left, a $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm break at very bottom and another $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm break 13 mm from bottom

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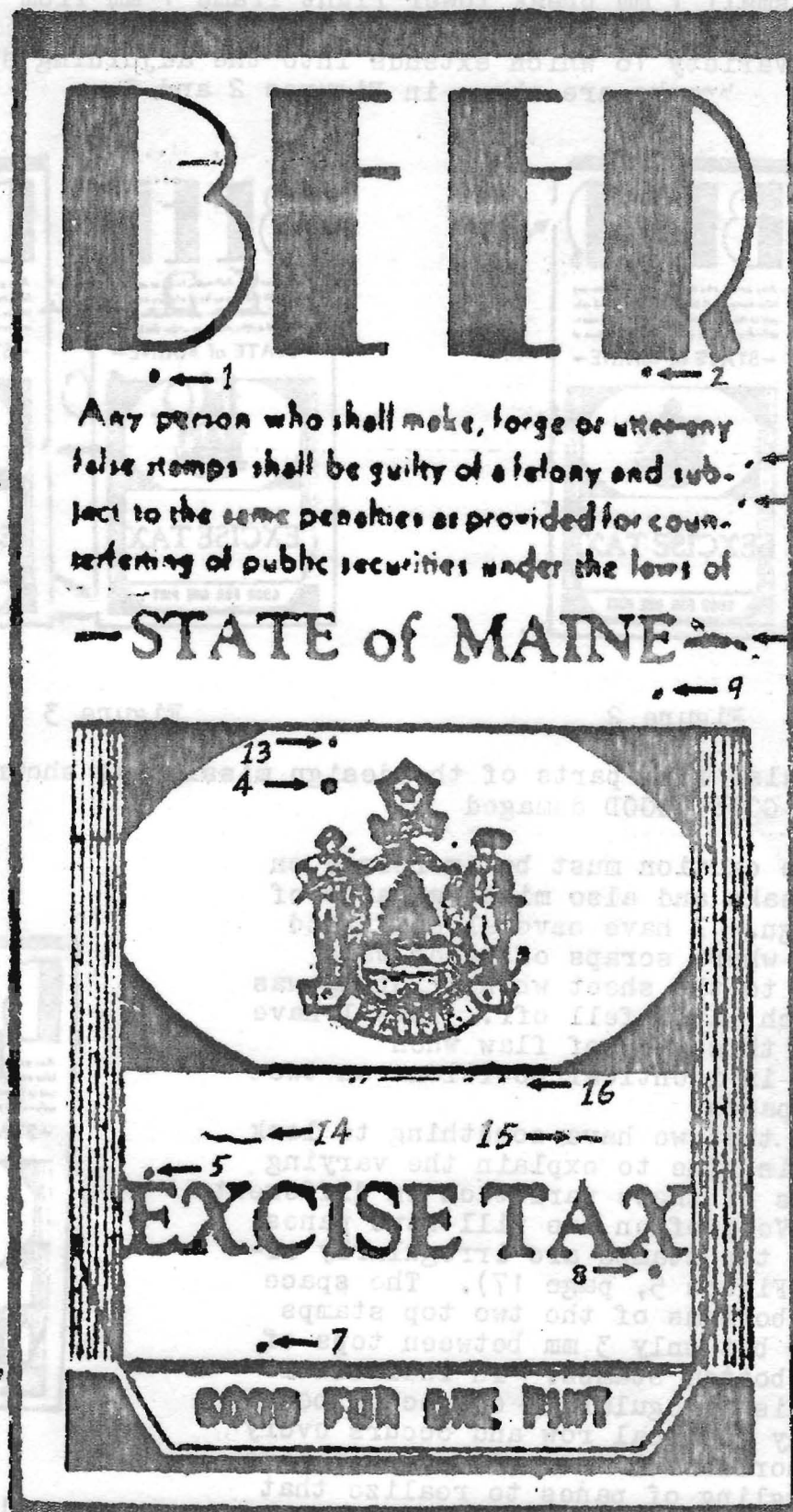


Figure 1

(Cont. page 16)

MAINE ONE PINT BEER (Cont. from page 16)

19. small 1 mm break lower right frame 1 mm from bottom
(this is actually an extension of the bottom break in
variety 18 which extends into the adjoining stamp)
These frame breaks are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

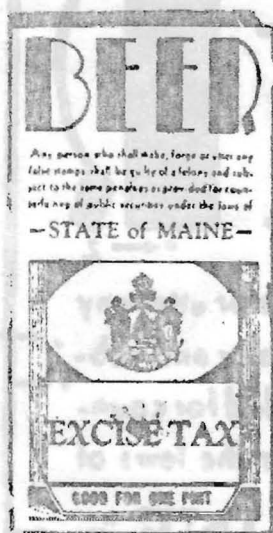


Figure 2



Figure 3

One can also find parts of the design missing as shown in Figure 4:
20. GO of GOOD damaged

Some caution must be exercised on frame breaks and also missing parts of the design. I have several confirmed examples where scraps of paper were adhering to the sheet when printing was done which later fell off. Thus I have included this type of flaw when observed in identical positions on two or more panes.

Now that we have something to look for, it is time to explain the varying positions of these varieties in different panes. Very often one will have panes in which the stamps are irregularly arranged (Figure 5, page 17). The space between bottoms of the two top stamps is $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm but only 3 mm between tops of the two bottom stamps. In individual panes this irregularity can occur between any vertical row and occurs every second horizontal row. It doesn't take much juggling of panes to realize that the original sheet must have been composed of setting of 10 stamps (5 x 2) which, at this time, we can only say

(Cont. page 17)

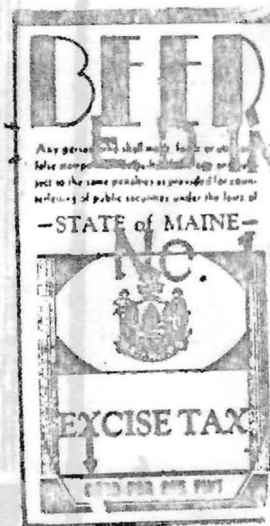


Figure 4

MAINE ONE PINT BEER (Cont. from page 16)

were repeated an unknown number of times to form the entire original sheet. The uneven spacing is always between positions 10 and 6 (upper stamps) and 5 and 1 (bottom stamps). Thus panes which include this uneven spacing permit ready identification of cliché positions of all stamps.

All of the constant varieties can now be ascribed to definite positions in the individual settings (cliches) of 10 stamps. It was the manner in which the sheet was cut into panes that causes the position to jump around in individual panes. The most common pane size seems to be 24 stamps (4x6) and was so cut for convenience in providing the stamps needed for a standard 24 bottle case.

To further confuse the issue, cutting of the sheet was not in a constant manner. Sometimes it seems to have been cut from right to left, other times from left to right. Further cutting then could be either from top to bottom or bottom to top. The leftover scrap formed smaller panes which were also used. At first glance, this might seem very complicated. However it is this very variance in cutting methods which permits matching various panes and should ultimately make possible reconstruction of the entire sheet.

While varieties occur only in certain positions in the settings of 10, very few are constant in the sense that they occur in all settings! Thus one has a huge variety of combinations with which to work. The positions in the settings and constancy of these plate varieties in individual settings as observed to date is as follows:

1. Position 10. Constant.
2. Position 7. Frequent, but lacking in some settings.
3. Position 5. Frequent; observed missing in one setting.
4. Position 7. Frequent, but lacking in some settings.
5. Position 3. Constant.
6. Position 9. Frequent (this dot is sometimes very weak).
7. Position 6. Frequent, but lacking in some settings.
8. Position 2. Frequent, but lacking in some settings.
9. Position 5. Frequent; observed missing in one setting.
10. Position 6. Constant.
- 11 and 12. These occur in various combinations in Positions 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. They are sometimes very weak and further study is needed.

(Cont. page 18)

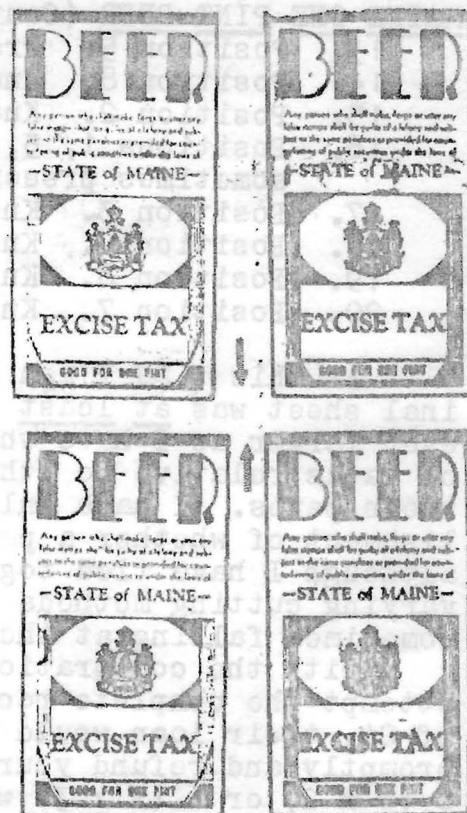


Figure 5

MAINE ONE PINT BEER (Cont. from page 17)

13. Position 5. Frequent, but lacking in some settings.
14. Position 8. Known from only one setting.
15. Position 2. Known from only one setting.
16. Positions 1, 5, and 10. Constant in position 10; only sometimes present in 1 and 5. More study needed.
17. Position 3. Known from only one setting.
18. Position 9. Known from only one setting.
19. Position 8. Known from only one setting.
20. Position 7. Known from only one setting.

At this time I can state with certainty only that the original sheet was at least 240 stamps (20 x 12). Probably it was even larger as I have what would seem an excess of certain types of panes relative to others and some interesting "matches" between panes. I have only a few miscut panes which permit establishment of whether a pane came from the bottom or top of the sheet, although I have tied together segments of the sheet where the varying cutting methods have resulted in conspicuous varieties sometimes falling at the bottom of a pane, sometimes at top.

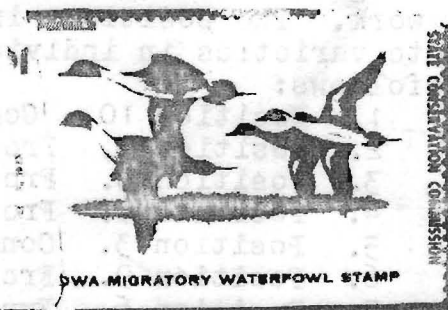
With the cooperation of SRS members, it seems feasible to attempt the complete reconstruction. If any readers have panes of 24, their loan would be greatly appreciated. I will return promptly and refund your postage. Also I want smaller panes of 8 (4 x 2) or 6 (2 x 3) which are straight edge on all four sides of the pane. Especially useful would be any miscut panes which show even tiny traces of the border of a stamp from another pane. Also I would like very much to see any multiples (even pairs) of Hubbard's Big (perforated vertically). It is entirely possible they provide part of the key.

And if you spot any other distinctive plate varieties, let me know as the more combinations I have available, the more certain I can be in linking panes. My address is 1441 Urbana Lane, Lincoln, NE 68505.

IOWA DUCK

The 1973 issue is again in natural colors on a white background and shows Pintails.

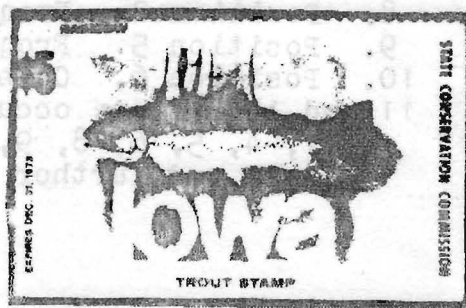
--Ken Pruess



IOWA TROUT

Iowa again changed the design on their \$5 trout stamp in 1973. This issue is in full color, showing a rainbow trout superimposed on a map of Iowa.

--Ken Pruess



OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our organization has reached a significant landmark in that for the FIRST time we are being co-hosted at a major stamp show. On behalf of the membership of the SRS I have accepted the invitation of the Lincoln Stamp Club to attend LINPEX '74 which will be held October 5 and 6 (note the change in dates from that announced in the January Newsletter) at the Ramada Inn in Lincoln. Mr. Kenneth P. Pruess will be the coordinator for the SRS, and is preparing a prospectus for the show which will be made available to each collector with this Newsletter. Although plans at the present time are still in the tentative stage, progressive reports on the status of the show will be available with each forthcoming Newsletter. We no longer have to appear to take a back seat to the rest of the philatelic world, since the collection of state revenue stamps is being allocated a special category for just this at the show. We have several months before the show so let's start promulgating your plans NOW to attend and DISPLAY your proud possession. The LINPEX committee is providing a first, second, and third award for each category and the Board of Governors of the SRS plans to add something UNIQUE also.

An SRS program is being scheduled for Saturday afternoon, October 5, which will include a 60 to 70 slide presentation being made by Mr. Pruess. An awards banquet will also be held this same evening and who's going to be the first recipient of an award for state revenue stamps?

If this has but WET your appetite, there is MORE to come. Let's start your plans NOW and advise me or Mr. Pruess. Don't pass on this opportunity, let's ACT....

M. E. Matesen, President

MONTANA HUNTING STAMPS - No information on the 1958-59 Bow and Arrow Hunting Stamp was available at the time Vanderford's Handbook was published. A copy of this stamp has now turned up. This is black on white like the other early issues and perf 11 3/4.

I have a copy of another unlisted Montana hunting stamp. This is very similar to the listed Special Area Elk Hunting stamp, but is inscribed "Special Area Permit to Hunt Deer". This is also black on white and shows a deer and moonlight scene. The stamp is perf 11 1/2 like the elk stamp. While I have been unable to obtain further information, it was probably intended for use in a manner similar to the elk stamp.

--Ken Pruess



Your short news item would have filled this space. Send your news to EDITORIAL OFFICE, Box 242, Pineville, PA 18946.

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