

Regional News cont.

The Club table at the Cookeville, TN show had 'counterstamped' Liberty Seated coins on display from the Bill Groom Collection. Here are some fascination details on the coins shown:

H. WETTSTEIN on an 1875-S 20c Piece

Hermann Wettstein was a jeweler in Harvard, Illinois. He advertised in the 1880 Illinois State Gazetteer that he would repair watches, clocks & jewelry.

Over two dozen coins of varied denominations were stamped by Hermann. The latest known date is 1880. It is likely around that time that he began stamping coins in order to promote word-of-mouth advertising.



N. DEHAVEN on an 1870 \$1



Whoever stamped this dollar remains a mystery.

Unidentified stamps like this piece are deemed "mavericks" by collectors. No others are known.

One Nathan Dehaven resided in Philadelphia, circa 1875. The two stampings on this coin illustrate a tiny font, suggesting Dehaven was a fine craftsman.

I.B.B. / ST. LOUIS / MO on an 1839-O Dime

Isaac B. Burbbayge was a self-professed "intelligence officer" and "general agent." He worked from 1839-59, largely assisting folks heading west. He advertised his agency in eastern newspapers. A less advertised facet of his work involved his helping slave owners recover their escaped property. (On next page see 1847 AD, citing Isaac's services offered)

Some sixteen specimens of this counterstamp have been recorded, the latest date of which is 1853. Isaac died in 1859. His wife then carried on the business.



Regional News cont.

GENERAL AGENCY.

I. B. BURBBAYGE'S IMPORTANT CIRCULAR TO PERSONS AT A DISTANCE.

*Intelligence Office, and General Agency, of Real Estate, Money, Newspapers, &c. &c.
Nearly ten years established.*

TO BUSINESS-GO-A-HEAD-MEN—For \$5 I can give you instructions, by following the same, ninety-nine times in one hundred, you can obtain employment or work in any large city you visit; and for \$3 I will make known to you a good business to travel; also, for \$3, a good business to be located in any large city, each equal to \$400 to \$800 per year.

TO MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, &c.—For one dollar I will make known the "true and indispensable key" to success in business.

All letters to be post-paid, and information to be personal and private.

Situations procured, and help for hire, in the city, country, on steamboats, to travel, &c

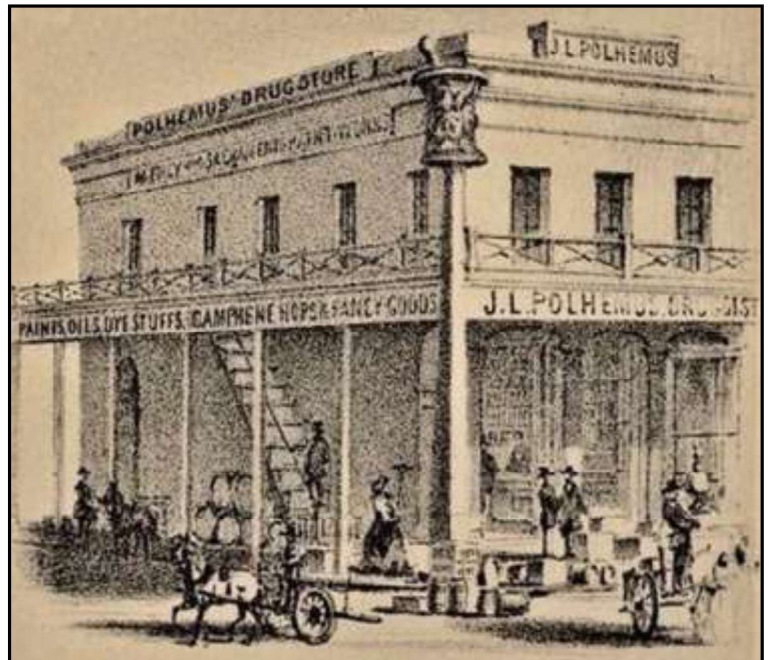
Post paid letters, with one dollar, soliciting information and intelligence "on any business," will receive a return answer.

Any citizen can tell you in what part of the city my office is located.

Reader, if you be near or three thousand miles off, don't overlook this card. Address I. B. BURBBAYGE, General Agent, St. Louis, Mo.

N. B. To publishers of newspapers in the United States and Europe, if you wish "items," as above, or any thing in my line, it will be given with despatch, and free of charge, provided you notice the circular.

I. B. BURBBAYGE, General Agent,
St. Louis, Mo.



ADVERTISEMENTS.

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**CORNER SEVENTH,
SACRAMENTO.**

Regional News cont.

J.L. POLHEMUS / DRUGGIST / 190 J St. COR. 7th

SACRAMENTO. CAL. on an 1849 25c Piece

James L. Polhemus was born in NY in 1825. He sailed to California during the gold rush of 1849 and opened his pharmacy in 1850. His was a retail and wholesale business. (On previous page, see PRINT of his SHOP, ca. 1857 & AD dated 1863)

Note that this stamp incorporates a tiny mortar & pestle, a pictorial, symbolizing the apothecary profession. Pictorial images like this appeal to collectors; thereby, enhancing the value of counterstamps.

James stamped many dozens of coins, the latest date of which is 1857. One of his stamped coins was a privately minted, \$50 gold slug, recovered from the ocean floor wreckage of the *S.S. Central America*. This historic piece realized \$48,000 in a 2001 auction!



R.I. LOMAS on an 1877-S Trade \$1

Given this relatively uncommon Scotch surname and initials, the probable issuer of this counterstamp was Robert I. Lomas of NY City. He operated a popular restaurant at 243 Centre St. from 1859-86. Robert and partner, Wm. Abbott, also ran a dry goods store at 303 Grand Avenue. Like many issuers of counterstamped coins, Robert was a Free Mason. When Robert died in 1899, the *Trenton Times* described him as “a famous restaurant man of older NY.” (see OBIT from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, dated May 4, 1899)

Brunk recorded a mere five Lomas counterstamps, one on a quarter and four on Trade Dollars; with the latest date being 1878. Interestingly, Trade Dollars weren't then legal tender in the U.S.A., but they were valued for their silver content.



Robert I. Lomas, a well known citizen of the Twenty-third Ward, died at his home, 189 Van Buren street, yesterday, in his 72d year. His death was due to general weakness, the result of old age. Mr. Lomas was the former owner of the Center Market Coffee House, in Manhattan. It had been in existence more than half a century when he gave it up and retired to Brooklyn, about twenty years ago. Mr. Lomas was born at Mamaroneck, N. Y., and was the son of the Rev. William Lomas, a Methodist preacher of prominence. Mr. Lomas was largely identified with lay work in the church, and was one of the first members of Lexington Avenue Methodist Church, in Manhattan. The Rev. R. M. Stratton, D. D., who was contemporary with him, will preach his funeral sermon. Mr. Lomas was a member of Putnam Lodge of Free-Masons. He was also a Veteran Volunteer Fireman, having been a member of Engine No. 28 and Hose No. 9, in Manhattan. He is survived by his wife and three children, Mrs. Edward Osborn, Robert T. Lomas and William B. Lomas, better known in Brooklyn as "Will Lyle." Mr. Lomas' funeral services will be held at his late home to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

Regional News cont.

SPRAGUE & BLODGETT / GEORGIA MINSTRELS /

ADMIT ONE on an 1853 50c Piece

Zenas W. Sprague and his theatrical promotions agent, Wash Blodgett were based in Chicago. They operated a traveling minstrel show. Featured performers were black. As the cost of admission was fifty cents, these stamped half dollars were given out in change; this, as a means of promoting word-of-mouth advertising on the circulating coins... Brunk's "little billboards."

Some sixteen of these stamped half dollars have been recorded. The latest date seen is 1877. As Blodgett died in 1880, the use of these promotional coins was likely within a few years prior to Blodgett's demise.



USE G.G.G. on an 1854 Half Dime

Charles H. Goodwin, born in 1829, was an apothecary or druggist, located at 49 Water St. in Exeter, New Hampshire; this, during the 1850's. Charles secured patents on two of his concoctions. Goodwin's Grand Goose Grease was a hair tonic. Goodwin's Grand Grease juice, this G.G.G. counterstamp, was a breath perfume. (see ADVERTISEMENT, dated 1856)

Over fifty of Goodwin's counterstamped coins are known to exist on a variety of denominations. The smallest coin is a silver three cent piece. The latest of his stamped coins is dated 1857.



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DRUGGIST & MANUFACTURING CHEMIST.
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The great AMERICAN Compound for the embellishment, preservation, growth, and beauty of the Human Hair.
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