

U. S. Revenue Stamps.

The collecting of Revenue stamps, I think, has in the past been neglected. The various purposes for which they were issued are not so generally known as one might suppose. I will not dwell on the common Internal revenue stamps but let us look at the Document stamps. Each set was intended for an express purpose that for which it was designed. We often meet with rare revenues in private stamp collections for they are of historical value, as they played an important part in the late war.

State revenues are so high priced that collectors get discouraged in trying to get a complete set. So as yet these stamps are comparatively unknown to the majority of collectors although they came into existence in 1862. California has the largest number of varieties, 284 in all, mostly State tax stamps. But let us return to the general issue of revenues. Take the set of seven perforated Document stamps, second issue of July 1864 for example. First is the Bill of Lading, used and made for shipment bills. This stamp is worth but 3c. Next comes Certificate catalogued 3c. Contract is next used for written contracts and agreements, this is worth 4 cents. Next in order is Foreign Exchange, quite scarce; followed by Inland Exchange, quite common, worth but 2c. Power of Atty is next in order, and last but not least is Proprietary, and is worth nearly \$1.00 to any Revenue collector. This closes the 10 cent line of the second issue of document stamps issued in 1864 by this government. They were blue with various borders with head of Washington in oval. Greater care was taken in the manufacture of these stamps, especially the higher values. Document stamps cover all forms of business transactions on legal paper. The second issue in July 1864 were all perforated and ranged in value from 1 cent to \$200 and a full set would be a fortune in

itself to any collector of Revenue stamps. Revenue stamps when placed in an album should be pasted on a piece of white paper and lines in red, blue or green ink should be drawn around the borders, which add beauty to their appearance.

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Montenegro and its Postage Stamps.

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Montenegro is a small European principality which in 1878 became independent after the Russo-Turkish war.

The state has been subject to repeated incursions from the Turks for hundreds of years, but never conquered.

In hostile times the people would take to the rugged mountains where in perfect security they would watch their enemies lay waste to their villages and at an opportune moment descend upon their unsuspecting foe, commit terrible slaughter and before their enemies could realize what had taken place, would seek refuge again in their native hills, impenetrable to any but themselves, thus with a mere handful of men Montenegro has held its own, till finally with other nations as allies has established its independence and is now a peaceful, prosperous little country.

The total area of this state is but 3,550 square miles, and has a population of 250,000, according to the census of 1879.

Montenegro has no standing army but in case of necessity it could easily muster a force of 25,000 of the finest soldiers in the world.

The Government is a limited monarchy; executive power rests with the reigning prince. Prince Nicolas, born the 7th October, 1841, is now in power, he was proclaimed in 1860. Cetigne the capital, situated in the southern part a few miles