

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

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In the May 2022 issue of *The Philatelikid*, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter “B,” “BK,” “C,” “CB,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CO,” “CVP,” “D,” “E,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “JQ,” “K,” “L,” “LO,” “O,” “-P,” “PC,” “PN,” “PR,” “PS,” “Q,” “QE,” “QI,” “R” (Part 1), “R” (Part 2), “RC,” “RD,” “RE,” “REA,” “REF,” “RG,” “RH,” “RK,” “RN-D,” “RV,” “RY,” “SPCVP,” “U,” “UC,” “UX,” “UY,” “WS,” “WX,” “#X,” and State, followed by a number. This month we will look at “RL,” “RO,” and “RS.” All stamps illustrated are from the author’s personal collection, unless otherwise noted.

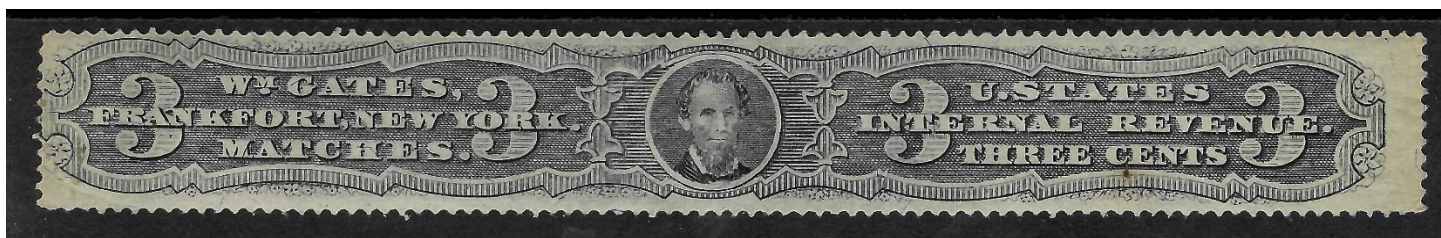
Stamps Beginning with the prefixes “RL.”



Stamps with an “RL” prefix are Customs Fee Stamps. The Scott Catalogue lists only 8 different stamps in this category. They were issued in 1887 and use was discontinued on February 28, 1918. There are 8 different denominations, each with a different color and different background: 20¢, 30¢,

40¢, 50¢, 60¢, 70¢, 80¢, and 90¢. The Scott Catalogue says that these stamps were NOT used to pay customs duties. I do not know what they were used for. If any reader knows what these stamps were used for, please let me know, and I will put the information in a future edition of *The Philatelikid*.

Stamps Beginning with the prefixes “RL.”



Scott RO 89a (silk paper) – enlarged to see details

Stamps with an “RO” prefix are Private Die Match stamps. The 2023 Scott Catalogue devoted 13 pages to this category. In this category are stamps of many different colors and sizes. They are listed in alphabetical order according to the first letter of the name that appears on the stamps, or the first letter of the last name of the person for whom the company is named. For example, **Alligator Match Company** is listed under category “A” but **J.J. Allen’s Sons** is NOT

listed under “J” but under “A.” The stamp illustrated above, Wm Gates Matches is listed under “G.” These stamps often have illustrations not found anywhere else, often a picture of the founder of the company. Proprietary Dies stamps were in response to a law passed in 1862 by the U.S. Congress to raise funds to help pay for the costly Civil War in progress. These taxes were not repealed until July 1, 1883, almost 18 years after the Civil war had ended. Not only were Matches taxed (at a rate of 1¢ per 100 matches) but also medicines, perfumes, and playing cards required tax stamps. These stamps were affixed to the product in such a way that to open the bottle, or box, the stamp would be torn into two or more parts.

Stamps Beginning with the prefixes “RS.”



Stamps with an “RO” prefix are Private Die Medicine stamps. The 2023 Scott Catalogue devotes 17 pages to this category, with approximately 395 different stamps listed, but with many stamps having different types of paper.

<<< **Scott RS 118a**

At left is a Proprietary Medicine stamps for Herrick’s Pills and Plasters. The term “plasters” is no longer in common terminology in the U.S. It used to mean an adhesive strip of material covering cuts and wounds. The product “Band Aid” is a type of modern plaster.

Private Die Proprietary stamps can be quite expensive, with some carrying catalog values of more than \$10,000. However, many are very reasonably priced. The above Scott RS 118a has a catalog value of \$2.75.

Other Private Die Proprietary stamps

Scott Catalogue also lists Private Dies Proprietary stamps for perfumes (“RT” prefix) and for Playing cards (“RU” prefix) Those stamps will be examined in a future edition of *The Philatelikid*.

More about Consular Service Fee stamps “RK” and Cigarette Tube stamps “RH”

From Ron Leshar, November 5, 2024:



Consular Service Fee stamps are known in mint condition, without cancellation and with gum.

Cigarette Tube stamps continued in use after WWII.

Ron Leshar is a stamp collector, exhibitor, and a nationally and internationally accredited judge of stamp exhibits. His column, The Tax Collector, has appeared more than 170 times in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. He is a life member of the American Philatelic Society, which in 2021 bestowed upon him the Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research.

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