

Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Nevada, 1865-1873

Introduction

This monograph is the result of efforts to revise the State Revenue Society catalog listings of Nevada's classic 1865–73 issues. The proposed listings comprise the final chapter here (pp. 50–51).

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The Imperforates: Introduction

The **stamp taxes took effect May 1, 1865**. From an observation of cancel dates it follows that **all ten denominations** were **initially issued imperforate**. The **earliest known usages (EKUs) on document** are as follows:

2¢ May 15, 1865
 4¢ Oct 3, 1865
 5¢ May 6, 1865 (also May 18)
 10¢ July 14, 1865
 25¢ May 3, 1865 (also May 4, 9)
 50¢ May 10, 1865
 \$1 Dec 18, 1865
 \$5 Aug 26, 1866
 \$10 Aug 26, 1866
 \$20 Apr 3, 1866

As hinted at by these EKUs, the **2¢, 5¢ and 50¢** were the **most often used**, next the 25¢.

For six denominations—the **4¢, 10¢, 25¢, \$1, \$10 and \$20**—the analysis and listings are straightforward; the stamps were **little used** and **very little color variation** is observed, suggesting a single printing, or at most a few. Typical examples are shown below.



4¢ carmine
 10.3.1865
 GoldHill



10¢ dark blue
 6.5.1869
 LincolnCtyMeadowValley



25¢ vermilion
 9.25.1865
 GoldHill



\$1 rose carmine
 \$5 red brown
 \$10 dark brown
 \$20 gray violet
 8.26.1866
 Austin

For a given denomination, **demand for the imperfs** is **indicated** by the **prevalence of the roulettes**, which first appeared in 1867 and were used until the expiration of the stamp taxes in February 1873. The **4¢, \$10 and \$20** were **never issued rouletted**. This fits with what we know a priori:

The **4¢** had been issued to facilitate payment of two **taxes of 2¢ per \$100** that were part of the original schedule effective May 1, 1865:

- on **bills of exchange**/drafts/notes **payable outside the state**;
- on **certificates of deposit**.

But these rates were **changed effective March 1, 1866**, after only ten months, and thereafter there was **virtually no use for a 4¢ stamp**. (It is true that after March 4, 1871, bills of exchange made in sets of

three were taxed at 2¢ per \$100; these would presumably have been drawn abroad, but I have seen just one foreign bill made in Nevada, of Wells, Fargo & Co., Carson City, drawn on London, dated 1875!)

And as for the **\$10** and **\$20**, there simply weren't that many used. I have recorded only **five documents bearing the \$10**, and **six with the \$20**.

Rarity of \$5 and 10¢ Roulettes

Two interesting developments, consistent with the above, show that after the 4¢, \$10 and \$20, the **next least-used** denominations were the **\$5** and **10¢**.

No examples of the \$5 roulette (10) have been recorded on document. In general, **uses of the \$5 imperf are rare**, and it has been recorded on documents made as late as 1868 (x4), 1869, 1870 (x3), and 1871 (x2, latest dated July 18). Mint remainders are readily available, but if the roulette was in fact ever issued, it must not have been until circa 1872. This information will be revisited later during analysis of shades of the \$5, for which both Hubbard (1960) and the SRS (2007) list two shades.

Only one document bearing the rouletted 10¢ has been recorded, a deed made **May 8, 1872**, bearing five copies. 10¢ imperfs have been seen used 1868 (x4), 1869, October 1870 and January 1871; in general, **uses of the 10¢ are rare**. There were a few 10¢ rates, but I have never seen an example; the 10¢ has been seen only making up various rates of 2¢, 5¢ or 50¢ per \$100. It makes sense that the imperfs would last until late in the game.

Judging from the numbers of **25¢** and **\$1 imperfs** surviving on and off document, these were used more frequently than the five denominations discussed above. Both were in fact issued rouletted beginning in 1867, along with the workhorse 2¢, 5¢ and 50¢. Nevertheless compared with those three, the 25¢ and \$1 imperfs were relatively little-used, and show little variation in color.

This leaves only the 2¢, 5¢, 50¢ and \$5 to be discussed.

2¢ Imperforate

For about a century the standard catalogs have listed the **2¢ imperforates** as follows (here with 2007 SRS prices):

D4	2c	orangish yellow	50.00	50.00
D5	2c	orange	5.00	3.00
D6	2c	orange, retouched, heavy outer line	20.00	5.00

Here are examples of each:



orangish yellow



9.25.1866Virginia



8.4.1865Austin

The **2¢ imperforate** with **heavy outer line all around the design** has always been described as “**retouched.**”

The **justification** for this appears to be simply that the **thick line resembles** what is seen in cases (usually classic postage stamps) where **plates are known to have been retouched:** design **elements** that have become **worn by heavy use** are “**retouched,**” often making them **thicker** than in the original state.

But I see **no evidence that this occurred here.** In fact, the **stamps with heavy outer line were used first!**

As preface, consider that when the Nevada taxes took effect in **May 1865**, the **2¢** was **not as heavily used** as it would soon become. The **Act of March 1, 1866**, placed a **2¢ tax on domestic checks**, and **receipts**, which had been exempt in the original schedule, after which **usage of the 2¢ skyrocketed.**

In the original **1865 schedule** the main **uses for a 2¢** would have been for **two taxes of 2¢ per \$100:** on **bills of exchange/drafts/notes** payable **outside the state;** and on **certificates of deposit.**

I have never seen an example of the latter. Of the **former** I have recorded **35 examples** [31 drafts of the Bank of California Agency in Gold Hill; one of the Manhattan Silver Mining Co. of Nevada in Austin; and

three proper bills of exchange, of Wells Fargo in Virginia City (x2) and the Bank of California, also Virginia City]. Of these, **20 bear a 2¢** stamp and **every one has the heavy outer line** (albeit a bit irregular, in some spots heavier than others).

The **same is true** for all other usages **through early 1866**. Only in **mid-1866** does the **imperforate 2¢** with **thin outer lines** appear.

The **earliest recorded document** bearing the 2¢ with **thin outer line** is dated **May 4, 1866**, a receipt of Wells, Fargo & Co. made at Virginia City to the Savage Mining Co. for seven bars of silver.

Applegate (1915) confirms that **two plates were used** for the 2¢ imperf, one **10x5**, which he believed was used first, and from which a **variety of shades** came, including the **bright yellow**; the other **8x8** with **thick outer line**, the stamps of **uniform color**. He got it **right except the order of use!**

In my reordering the 2¢ imperf with **thick outer line** will assume its **rightful place** as **D1** (moving the imperf thick papers, previously D1-3, after the thin papers where they belong), described simply as **“orange, thick outer line”**, no longer as “retouched”! Whatever the reason for the thick outer line, it was there from the start.

Courtesy of John Bowman, here are some **shades** of the 2¢ imperf with **thin outer line**:



8.6.1866Virginia 2.29.1867Virginia

I see **pale orange** leftmost, then **orange**, with the rightmost one or two perhaps shading into **yellow orange**. This bears further investigation.



orangish yellow

2¢ Orangish Yellow Imperforate: Remainers Only?

No used copies have been recorded of the **2¢ orangish yellow imperforate**. I suspect it was never placed in use, perhaps because its color was so different from the intended orange. Until a used copy appears, I propose deleting the used price, and adding a note stating that only mint remainders are believed to exist.

2¢ Imperforate Thick Paper

The **5¢** and **50¢ imperforates on thick paper** appear to have been used only for a **matter of months** beginning in mid-1865, and are found in essentially the **same colors** as the **early thin paper stamps** used before, during, and shortly after this brief period. Their paper has been traditionally described as “**(almost card)**.” Whether they came from the same press runs, during which the printers used different types of paper, or from a separate run in which only thick paper was used, will probably never be known; the former seems more likely.

The **2¢ on thick paper** is a bird of a different feather. Applegate (1914) and Heyden (1920) pointed out that the 2¢ on thick paper is found with **thin outer border only**. We have already established that stamps in this design did not appear until about May 1866; all earlier recorded usages of the 2¢ have the intermittent thick outer border. This tells us a priori that the **2¢ thick paper** cannot have appeared until **at least a year or so after the 5¢ and 50¢**. Moreover both Applegate and Heyden observed that the paper of this stamp was **less thick** than that of the 5¢ and 50¢. Judging from the catalog prices it is **considerably scarcer** than the 5¢ and 50¢.

One wonders **whether it should be grouped** in the listings **with the 5¢ and 50¢ thick papers**, with which it has nothing in common except that its paper, while different from theirs, is thicker than that of the other imperfs.

In fact it is an open question as to **whether the thick papers deserve** a separate category, and **separate numbers**. The 5¢ and 50¢ would seem to be **more properly included as sub-numbers**, i.e.:

D5	5c	dull green to gray green	7.50	3.25
D5a	5c	dull green to gray green, thick paper (almost card)	20.00	10.00
D5b	5c	green to yellowish green (1866)	7.50	3.50
D8	50c	brown purple (shades)	15.00	4.00
D8a	50c	brown purple (shades), thick paper (almost card)	20.00	12.00
D8b	50c	purple brown to red brown (1866)	7.50	2.50

As for the **2¢ on thick paper**, one hardly knows where to list it until more is known about it! What is known by direct observation about its period of use? I have searched my documents for examples and have found one that appears to be the genuine article, used **very late, February 17, 1868**, in Austin, some **six months after the rouletted stamps first appeared**; and another likely candidate, affixed **August 7, 1867**, in Washoe City, a small town in which not many stamps were used, also a **late usage** of an imperf. The Hubbard Nutmeg sale included a third example, dated **August 8, 1867**, and a fourth, uncanceled (lots 11063–4), said to be the only examples in the holding.



8.7.1867Washoe
Thick?



2.17.1868Austin
Thick

These **very late dates** are provocative. Who can add more?

Proposed Catalog Listings

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** with the thick paper as a sub-number, and possible illustrations. (Prices of 2007 SRS, subject to revision.)



D1



D2



D3

May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. Thin paper.

D1	2c	orange, heavy outer line	20.00	5.00
D2	2c	orange (shades), thin outer line (1866)	5.00	3.00
D2a	2c	orange, thin outer line, thick paper (1867)	85.00	65.00
D3	2c	orangish yellow, thin outer line	50.00	

5¢ Imperforate Shades

Specialized listings [e.g. Heyden (1920)] have identified many shades. Among the catalogs, **Kenyon (1920)** listed only **green** and **gray-green**. **Cabot (1940)** was content with D8 “**green (shades, yellowish green to gray green)**” and D8a “**dark green.**” **Hubbard (1960)**, whose work I distrust, changed this to D8 “**green to yellow green,**” D8a “**gray green (1866)**” and D8b “**dark green (1867)**”.

Below are most of the 5¢ imperforates I have on document (omitting multiple uses on the same document, or “matching” documents), arranged in chronological order, from the EKU of May 6, 1865, to a late use in February 1868.



5.6.1865Virginia



7.19.1865Douglas
Thick



7.21.1865Esmeralda



7.22.1865Genoa
Thick



8.7.1865Lander
Thick



8.8.1865Douglas
Thick



8.10.1865Lander
Thick



8.11.1865Ormsby



9.18.1865Lander
Thick



9.25.1865Gold Hill



10.13.1865Austin
Thick



12.9.1865Lander



1.3.1866Douglas
Thick



1.5.1866Churchill



1.5.1866Carson



1.13.1866Carson



2.13.1866Virginia



5.29.1866Virginia



6.30.1866Austin



7.19.1866Austin



9.8.1866Virginia



12.17.1866Virginia



4.1.1867Austin



4.5.1867Austin



4.30.1867Austin



6.3.1867Austin



9.7.1867.Sheba



10.11.1867.Carson City



1.26.1868Humboldt2



1.26.1868Humboldt1



2.5.1868Virginia

The minimalist approach, “green (shades)” is still viable. However, there appear to be **two colors**, or more precisely color groups, worth distinguishing, especially as they are **separated** not only **by color**, but **also by chronology**.

Among the **earlier stamps** one finds what may have been called “**gray green,**” “**dull green**” and perhaps “**dark green**” (especially on the thick papers); perhaps summarized as “**dull green to gray green**”?

In 1866–7 one sees a transition I see this beginning with the example dated 12.17.1866; in summary, “**green to yellowish green**”?

5¢ Imperforate Thick Paper

The 5¢ stamps on **thick paper** appear to have been used contemporaneously with the other early imperforates, and to have been printed in the same colors, “**dull green to gray green.**”



Proposed Catalog Listings

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** with the thick paper folded in as a sub-number, and illustrations. (The prices are those of the 2007 SRS catalog, and subject to revision.)



May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. Thin paper.					
D5	5c	dull green to gray green	7.50	3.25	
D5a	5c	dull green to gray green, thick paper (almost card)	20.00	10.00	
D5b	5c	green to yellowish green (1866)	7.50	3.50	

50¢ Imperforate

For the **50¢ imperforate**, **Kenyon (1920)** listed only a single color, which he called **“lilac.”** **Cabot (1940)** listed D11 **“violet brown”** (0.75 mint, 0.30 used) and D11a **“reddish purple”** (\$1.50 0.50). Hubbard (1960) made **no changes** to this, nor did SRS (except to bump the values about 10x).

Below are all the 50¢ imperfs from **15 documents** on hand here, supplemented by **15 more off-document** singles and multiples furnished by John Bowman, **arranged chronologically** (the two dated only “1867” I placed in the middle of the others of that year).

They break into **two obvious groups**, the **“reddish purple” early**, the **“violet brown” late!** To better see this, view at 400%.



It seems indisputable that there are two distinct shades that deserve listing, the later first appearing circa September 1866. After discussion it was decided that more appropriate color names were **“brown purple (shades)”** for the earlier stamps, and **“purple brown to red brown”** for the later. The **late use of the brown purple** on 12.4.1866 and 3.9.1867 in Humboldt and Douglas Counties, where fewer stamps were used, is **understandable**.

50¢ Imperforate Thick Paper

Data on the **50¢ imperforates on thick paper** is rather sparse. It appears to have been used primarily only for a **matter of months** beginning in **mid-1865**, and to be have been printed in essentially the **same “brown purple (shades)”** as the **early thin paper stamps** used before, during, and shortly after this brief period. Its paper has been traditionally described as **“(almost card).”** Whether the stamps on thick paper came from the same press run as those on thin paper, during which the printers used both papers, or from a separate run in which only thick paper was used, will probably never be known; the former seems more likely.



(Another example with ms. cancel dated 9.16.1865 was lot 11068 in the Hubbard Nutmeg sale.*

Proposed Catalog Listings

Here then are the **proposed listings** for the 50¢ imperfcs with possible illustrations, with the thick paper folded in as a sub-number, as suggested in a previous chapter: [Prices are those of SRS (2007), subject to revision.]



May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. Thin paper.

D8	50c	brown purple (shades)	15.00	4.00
D8a	50c	brown purple (shades), thick paper (almost card)	20.00	12.00
D8b	50c	purple brown to red brown (1866)	7.50	2.50

* Nutmeg Stamp Sales Mail Auction 114, *U.S. State Documentary Stamps from the Hubbard Estate*, February 27, 2006.

\$5 Imperforate

The **\$5 imperforate** was listed by Kenyon (1920) only in **“chocolate.”** Cabot (1940) made it **“red brown (shades).”** Hubbard (1960) added **“brown”** (at \$5 mint and unpriced used vs. \$2 and \$3 for red brown).

Here are all I have on document, in chronological order, along with selected strips from the Stanley Gibbons Colour Key.



8.26.1866Lander



1.17.1868Virginia
OpalSMCo



6.26.1868Virginia



12.7.1868SilverCity
Pioneer Mill



5.10.1869Lyon
EurekaMill



4.27.1870EmpireCity
Mexican Mill

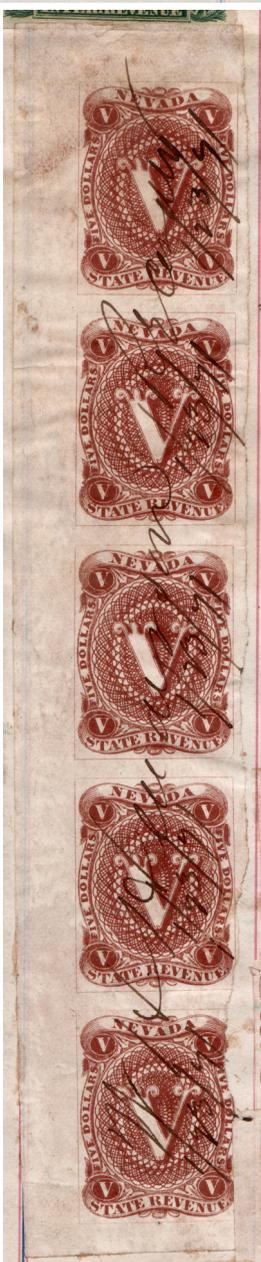
5.31.1870EmpireCity
Mexican Mill



11.26.1870Oreana

Cinnamon	Orange-Brown	Purple-Brown
Yellow-Brown	Reddish Brown	Chocolate
Buff	Brown	Red-Brown
Brown-Ochre	Light Brown	Lake-Brown
Ochre	Deep Brown	Chestnut

1.23.1871Pioche
Raymond&Ely Mine1



7.18.1871Ormsby
San Francisco Mill

1.23.1871Pioche
Raymond&Ely Mine2

Shades

With two exceptions, the colors of the stamps shown here fall into a fairly tight range. The two stamps on the 7.18.1871 deed, at far left, nicely bookend the range of shades. The contrast on seeing them side by side melts away when intermediate shades are placed between:



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



11.26.1870 Oreana
light reddish brown?



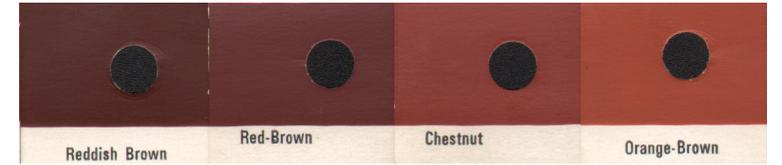
12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



8.26.1866 Lander
light reddish brown?



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
top
(darker) light reddish brown?



Previous catalogs called this “**red brown (shades).**” On the **Gibbons** key, “red brown” is **considerably darker**; there the best matches are what they call “**chestnut**” and “**orange brown,**” or better, something between the two. By Gibbons, “reddish brown” is even darker than red brown (as it ought to be). In **Methuen** the closest match for the SG “**chestnut**” is 9D7, one of many swatches that Methuen calls “**reddish brown.**” SG “**orange brown**” is between Methuen 8D8 (also “**reddish brown**”) and 7D8 (“**light brown**”). Take your pick of names! How about “**light reddish brown**”?

The only stamps that **do not fit** readily into this range are the **top two** on the document dated **12.7.1868**, shown at far left affixed alongside another \$5 in the more usual shade. Below they are juxtaposed with the five shown above.



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill

First at left:



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
top
orange brown?



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
middle
orange brown?



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



11.26.1870 Oreana
light reddish brown?



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



8.26.1866 Lander
light reddish brown?



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
top
(darker) light reddish brown?

Then placed
in the **middle**
for **maximum**
contrast:



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



11.26.1870 Oreana
light reddish brown?



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
top
orange brown?



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
middle
orange brown?



12.7.1868 SilverCity
Pioneer Mill
bottom
light reddish brown?



8.26.1866 Lander
light reddish brown?



7.18.1871 Ormsby
San Francisco Mill
top
(darker) light reddish brown?

Do these two belong with the others, being simply a shade that can be shoehorned in at the lighter end of the same range? Or are they different enough to merit a separate name? My impression is that they **do not belong** with the rest. As shown below, best **viewed at 1200%** or so, on the Gibbons color key the **others** are **poised between chestnut and orange brown**, but **these two cross the line to orange brown**.



The fact that they are on document alongside another \$5 in the usual light reddish brown argues that they are **not changelings from that shade**—or at least that any changes occurred prior to affixing! I propose to **list them separately as orange brown**.

Proposed Catalog Listings

Here then are the **proposed listings** with possible illustrations. [Prices are those of SRS (2007), subject to revision.]



D10a



D10b

NEW

May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. Thin paper.

D10	\$5	light reddish brown (shades)	20.00	20.00
D10a	\$5	orange brown		–

OLD

May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. Thin paper.

D13	\$5	red brown (shades)	20.00	20.00
D13a	\$5	brown	50.00	–

2¢ Roulette

On this and following pages are most of the **2¢ roulettes** I have on document, arranged in **chronological order**, with a few off-document examples thrown in. As usual, they are best viewed at 400% or higher.



18x15

9.21.1867Carson
Wells Fargo



15x18

10.2.1867Virginia
Savage



15x18

10.7.1867Virginia
G&C



15x18

10.25.1867Gold Hill
Kantuck



15

10.28.1867Carson
Wells Fargo



15

11.2.1867Belmont
PAXTON



15x18

11.4.1867Virginia
G&C



15x18

11.30.1867Austin



15

12.13.1867sr



15x18

2.18.1868Virginia
Opal



18x15

2.27.1868Virginia



15x18

3.20.1868Virginia



18x15

3.20.1868Austin



15

4.??, 1868Virginia
Savage



15

5.1.1868Virginia
Empire

The latest date shown here, circa July 1868, marks a logical assessment point. **All usages** to this date are in a **distinctive “pale orange”** with little shade variation.

All are **Single Stars**, with **one notable exception**.

Gauges **18x15**, **15x18**, **15** and **10** all appear. The first three of these gauges appear to have been used **simultaneously from the beginning**.

The **striking new development** here is the existence of the **pale orange Double Star roulette 10**. This stamp, used **June 20, 1868**, is at the same time **one of the latest recorded in pale orange**, the **earliest recorded Double Star**, and the **earliest recorded roulette 10!**



15

5.7.1868Virginia
Chollar



15

6.16.1868
COMBINATION



10

6.20.1868Virginia



15x18

7.2.1868
COMBINATION

Also circa July 1868 commenced a new phase, marked by a **new design, (the Double Star)** and **deeper orange colors**. (A lone Single Star straggler in October 1868 is the exception that proves the rule.)

The compound roulettes are no more; **gauge 15** appears early, but is mostly restricted to the **latter half of 1868**. With the exception of the lone pale orange stamp, **gauge 10** appears to follow by a few months, and becomes **predominant** during **1869–1872**.



15 Double Star
7.xx.1868Virginia



15 Double Star
8.1.1868Virginia



15 Double Star
8.10.1868GoldHill



10
10.3.1868Virginia



10
10.5.1868Virginia



15
10.7.1868GoldHill



10
10.31.1868Virginia



15 Double Star
11.25.1868Virginia



15 Double Star
11.30.1869SilverCity



15 Double Star
12.2.1868Virginia



10
1.4.1869Virginia



18
4.15.1869Virginia
Belcher



10
6.16.1869Virginia



10
8.4.1869Hamilton



10
8.12.1869Virginia



10
10.2.1869CarsonCity

By **mid-1869** harbingers appear of two minor themes: **gauge 18** and **yellow orange** shades. The first recorded **18**, dated **April 15, 1869**, seems anomalously early: the others are clustered in mid- to late 1870.



10
12.1.1869Virginia



15 Double Star
12.27.1869Virginia



10
2.1.1870Virginia



10
2.8.1870Virginia



10
6.4.1870Virginia



10
6.11.1870Elko



10
6.23.1870GoldHill



18
6.30.1870Virginia

Beginning mid-1869, and increasingly in 1870, a **yellow cast** was evident in many of the 2¢. The three Reno usages circa October 1870 are at least yellow orange, and perhaps **orange yellow?**



10
8.2.1870Elko



18
7.7.1870Virginia



18
7.23.1870Hamilton



10
8.10.1870Austin



10
8.12.1870MineralHill



10
8.31.1870Hamilton



10
9.1.1870Virginia



10
9.28.1870Reno
orange yellow?



10
10.1.1870Reno
orange yellow?



10
10.12.1870Reno
orange yellow?



18
11.1.1870Virginia



18
12.2.1870Virginia



18
12.5.1870Virginia



10
1.6.1871TreasureCity



10
1.17.1871Virginia



10
1.30.1871Virginia



10
3.7.1871TreasureCity



10
3.31.1871Hamilton



10
3.31.1871TreasureCity



10
4.3.1871Virginia



10
4.4.1871Virginia



10
11.4.1871Virginia



10
12.4.1871GoldHill



10
10.5.1872GoldHill

Double Star 10

The **Double Star roulette 10** dated June 20, 1868, is **pale orange**. To my eye the **next-earliest**, dated **October 3**, is **not the pale orange** found on the Single Stars (example far left) and the June 20 Double Star, but a lighter version of the orange found on the new run of Double Stars.



15 10 10 10 10
 5.7.1868Virginia Chollar 6.20.1868Virginia 10.3.1868Virginia 10.5.1868Virginia 10.31.1868Virginia

Double Star 15

The earliest are a striking **deep orange**, but the pattern does not hold. Listing: **“Orange (shades)”**!



15 Double Star
 7.xx.1868Virginia 8.1.1868Virginia 8.10.1868GoldHill 11.25.1868Virginia 12.2.1868Virginia 11.30.1869SilverCity 12.27.1869Virginia

Double Star 18

Even among seven examples, **orange** and **yellow orange** are evident. The 7.23.1870 Hamilton usage I see as distinct, perhaps **orange yellow?**



18 18 18 18 18 18 18
 4.15.1869Virginia Belcher 6.30.1870Virginia 7.7.1870Virginia 7.23.1870Hamilton orange yellow? 11.1.1870Virginia 12.2.1870Virginia 12.5.1870Virginia

Yellow Orange; Orange Yellow?

Now the **yellowish shades**. At top left three **strong oranges** for comparison, then what I see as **increasingly yellowish shades**, finally for comparison the imperf **orangish yellow** and roulette 10 **lemon yellow**. How many of these are yellow orange?



Actually, by the **SG Stamp Colour Key**, the first eight of the above candidates are best described by their **“yellow orange”**; however the **7.30.1870** Hamilton usage seems to stand apart as distinctly more yellow.

And by SG the three **Reno usages** circa October 1870 are best described as **“orange yellow”**!

Dull Brown Orange?

Catalogs list a **“dull brown orange”**; are these candidates?



Here are the previous roulette 10 listings:

		Cabot		Hubbard (1960)		SRS	
D21	(lemon) yellow	12.00	5.00	12.00	5.00	120.00	50.00
D22	orange	.50	.15	.50	.15	2.00	1.25
	a. yellow orange	.60	.15	.60	.15	6.00	1.50
D23	dull brown orange	1.50	1.00	1.50	1.00	15.00	10.00
	b. bright brownish orange			2.50	1.50	25.00	15.00

Everything was bumped 10x in SRS except orange, which got short shrift!

My analysis is pretty much consistent with these listings. I see orange (shades) as most common, yellow orange (shades) as about 1.5x scarcer. There is no clear separation of these two by date,; about all that can be said is that the orange first appeared in 1868, and the yellow orange in 1869.

However I would definitely **eliminate “bright brownish orange,”** a Hubbard addition. I also **question** the separate listing of the **“dull brown orange.”** In my opinion it may not deserve its own number, and perhaps should be subsumed under “orange (shades).”

For some time I had never seen a **lemon yellow used,** and hypothesized that both the imperf orangish yellow and roulette 10 lemon yellow were never issued as their colors were “off,” but survived as remainders. However during the review process **two used copies** of the **lemon yellow** emerged:

The **“orange yellow”** exemplified by the three Reno usages circa Oct 1870, while clearly different from the lemon yellow, may nevertheless deserve listing. It is **distinctly yellower** than the **yellow oranges,** and **matches** the **SG “orange yellow.”**

The 7.30.1870 **roulette 18** used in Hamilton is a clear **yellow orange,** previously unlisted, and this variety should be **added to the roulette 18 listings.**

And let’s not forget the **roulette 10 pale orange,** exemplified by the 6.20.1868 discovery copy shown above, another new variety to be listed.



10
lemon yellowsr



10
2.28.1870Virginia
lemon yellow



10
?.16.1870Hamilton
lemon yellow



10
10.1.1870Reno
orange yellow?



18
7.23.1870Hamilton
yellow orange?



10
6.20.1868Virginia
pale orange

Rouletted Pairs, Imperf Vertically

Cabot listed “**pair, imperf vertically**” for the **2¢ orange roulette “14 to 18.”** Until it is clear whether this refers to roulette 15 or 18 it must be left **unlisted**. Cabot also included a similar listing for the **5¢ roulette 10** (shade not specified); Hubbard added the **2¢ orange roulette 10** and **50¢ roulette 10** (shade not specified); the 2007 SRS dropped the 50¢ listing. Strictly speaking, these should specify “horizontal pair, imperf vertically”; vertical pairs would also be collectable, but less desirable, but hopefully the meaning is clear. I have not seen any such pairs, and am conflicted about which if any to list.

Single Star Roulette 18 Imperf Horizontally

I have a **Single Star roulette 18** single on a Virginia City receipt that appears to be **imperf horizontally**: As shown by the accompanying lineup, its color is reasonably consistent with that of the **Single Star pale orange stamps** dated shortly before and shortly after.



imperf x 18?
3.18.1868Virginia



15x18
2.18.1868Virginia
Opal



imperf x 18?
3.18.1868Virginia



15x18
3.20.1868Virginia



18x15
3.20.1868Austin



15
5.1.1868Virginia
Empire



15
5.7.1868Virginia
Chollar

If the stamp above it in the sheet was similar, they would have constituted a “**vertical pair, imperf horizontally**.” This makes me wonder if the listed “pair, imperf vertically”—i.e. “horizontal pair, imperf vertically”—is even described correctly. Who has one?

In any case, the Single Star design and color suggest strongly that the missing horizontal rouletting here was intended to be 15, not 18, i.e. that this is a **variety** of the **Single Star 15x18**.

Here then are my **tentative listings**, with possible illustrations. Prices are those of SRS (2007), subject to revision.]



D17



D20



D20c



D20d



D20e



D21



D34



D34a

1867–8. Compound Roulettes.

15x18

D17 2c pale orange, Single Star 25.00

18x15

D19 2c pale orange, Single Star (1868) 50.00

1867–72. Roulette 10. (2c all Double Star)

D20 2c orange (shades) (1868) 2.00 1.25

D20a 2c orange, pair imperf vertically – –

D20b 2c pale orange (1868) ??

D20c 2c yellow orange (shades) (1869) 6.00 1.50

D20d 2c brown orange (1870) 6.00 1.50

D20e 2c orange yellow (1869) ?? ??

D21 2c lemon yellow 120.00 –

1867–9. Roulette 15.

D29 2c pale orange, Single Star (1867) ??? ???

D30 2c orange (shades), Double Star (1868) ??? ???

1868–72. Roulette 18. (2c all Double Star)

D34 2c orange (shades) (1869) ??? ???

D34a 2c yellow orange (shades) (1870) ??? ???

Pushing the envelope:

I have included the **orange yellow** (D20e) as a subshade distinct from the lemon yellow. **Comments?**

Nevada Roulettes Overview

Gauges and Measurement

To begin, there is confusion regarding the gauges. The current SRS catalog, following Hubbard, lists gauges 10, 14, 14½, 15, 16 and 18, singly and in various combinations. Like Heyden (1920), I consider there to have been **three gauges**, best described as **10, 15 and 18**.

The **finest gauge** is described by Heyden as being “somewhat irregular” and “17 to 18.” So far I find it **always close to 18**.

In measuring the intermediate and fine gauges which I’ve called 15 and 18, it’s an open question as to whether it is the rouletting itself, or our measurement of it, that is “somewhat irregular”; I suspect it is more often the latter.

It can be **very challenging** to **measure** the **intermediate** and **fine** gauges. Consider Heyden’s list headed “Rouletted 15 to 18,” which lists 17 varieties (including many shades). He states “I have indicated the gauge in brackets where I have copies as to which there can be no question, but as a rule the exact gauge is not very easily determined, when as is usually the case the stamps have been somewhat roughly separated.” He was able to state the gauge with certainty in only eight of the 17 cases!

Present-day technology helps with the measurement. My method is to scan at a minimum of 600dpi, and to superimpose a scan of a ruler. As long as a run of four or five clear cuts can be measured, or in a pinch as few as three, that is sufficient; extrapolating to 20mm yields the gauge. For example, five teeth/cuts in 7.2mm is equivalent to 13.9 per 20mm. That’s sufficient for me to call it gauge 15.

It should be emphasized that **precise measurement** of the **intermediate gauge** yields a figure of **about 14.6**. I have several strips of the 2¢ roulette 18x15 with vertical rouletting intact, also stamps scissors-cut leaving the intermediate rouletting intact. Measurements consistently put the gauge at 14.5–14.6. For the catalog listings “**14½**” would be **more accurate** than “15” but also **more cumbersome**; I prefer the latter, with a **note that the precise gauge is about 14.6**.

So in the example above, we’re measuring the gauge not so much to furnish a precise result as simply to choose between 15 and 18; 13.9 is close enough!

Three Stages of Roulettes

All denominations were **first issued imperforate**, in May 1865. The little-used **4¢, \$10** and **\$20** were **never issued rouletted**, as supplies of the imperforates were sufficient throughout the entire period of stamp taxes. The **10¢** was issued **imperforate until circa 1872**, and the **\$5** until at least that late, and possibly until the end of the stamp-issuing period on February .

Roulettes appeared in **three stages**:

1. **Early/Experimental roulettes. July 1867–June 1868.** The first roulettes appeared circa July 1867, after which the State's **rouletting program** for the next year or so was **chaotic** if not downright schizophrenic. No fewer than **six gauges were employed—15x10, 10x15, 15, 10, 15x18** and **18x15**—but **each on only one or two of the five denominations** issued rouletted during this period! The table below furnishes a summary:

2. **Broad-spectrum roulette 10.** The roulette 10 had been used during the early/experimental period, but only on the 5¢ (EKU Sep 16, 1867). Beginning about **June 1868** it became the **standard gauge**, used on the **2¢ Double Star, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1** and **\$5**. The 10¢ and \$5 were issued imperforate until circa 1872.

3. **Roulette 18 and 15 interlude.** Beginning **circa April 1869** the gauge was **changed from 10 to 18** on the most-used denominations, **2¢, 5¢, 25¢** and **50¢**. For the 2¢ and 50¢, and possibly for the 5¢ and 25¢ as well, the roulette 18 appears to have been **in turn superseded** by the roulette 10 after a brief period of use. Beginning circa June 1869, the **5¢** also was **rouletted 15** for a brief time.

A summary of the proposed listings follows.

Proposed listings of roulettes:

10x15

5¢ (circa Aug 1867)
25¢ scarlet vermilion (circa Apr 1868)

15x10

25¢ scarlet vermilion (circa Jan 1868)
50¢ (circa Jul 1867)

15x18

2¢ Single Star (circa Oct 1867)
50¢ (circa Nov 1868)

18x15

2¢ Single Star (circa Feb 1868)

10

2¢ Double Star (circa Oct 1868)
yellow
5¢ (circa Aug 1867)
10¢ (circa 1872)
25¢ scarlet vermilion (circa Jun 1868)
25¢ vermilion (circa Jun 1868)
50¢ (circa Jun 1868)
\$1 (circa Nov 1867)
\$5 (circa 1872?)

15

2¢ Single Star (circa Oct 1867)
2¢ Double Star (circa Apr 1868)
25¢ scarlet vermilion (circa Jan 1868)
5¢ (circa June 1869)

18

2¢ Double Star (circa Apr 1869)
yellow orange (circa Jun 1870)
5¢ (circa Dec 1868)
25¢ (circa Jan 1872)
50¢ (circa Apr 1870)

	10x15	15x10	15x18	18x15	10	15	18
2¢ Single Star			circa Oct 1867	circa Sep 1867		circa Oct 1867	
2¢ Double Star					circa Oct 1868	circa Jul 1868	circa Apr 1869
5¢	circa Aug 1867				circa Sep 1867	circa Jun 1869	circa Dec 1868
10¢					circa 1872		
25¢ scarlet vermilion	circa Apr 1868	circa Jan 1868			circa Jun 1868	circa Jan 1868	
25¢ vermilion					circa Jun 1868		circa Jan 1872
50¢		circa Jul 1867	circa Dec 1868		circa Jun 1868	circa Oct 1867	circa Apr 1870
\$1					circa Nov 1867		
\$5					circa 1872?		

Thanks to John Bowman,
Ken Harrison, Mack
Matesen, Sean Roberts
and Joe Ross for
contributions!

5¢ Roulette

When last we visited the 5¢, it was for the **imperfs**. To reprise, it was agreed there were **two shades** that deserved catalog status, with examples below:



5.6.1865Virginia



10.11.1867.CarsonCity

1. The **first-issued** color we agreed to call “**dull green to gray green**” (“5.6.1865Virginia,” at left);
2. Shades first appearing **circa December 1866**, which we agreed to call “**green to yellowish green**” (“10.11.1867. CarsonCity,” at right).

5¢ roulette 10x15

The **5¢** is found **rouletted 10x15** very early on; two on hand on document are dated **September 13** and **December 22, 1867**, and two more used in **September 1867** have been recorded.



10x15

9.13.1867GoldHill



10x15

12.22.1867Austin

5¢ roulette 10

Normally the **roulette 10** did not appear until about **mid-1868**, after which it became pretty much the standard gauge. The **5¢ roulette 10**, though, was an exception, with four usages recorded between **September 1867** and **February 1868**. Below are the usages on hand on document, in chronological order (with the 10x15 thrown in), all on the same page for better comparison. All catalogs list the roulette 10 in “**green**” with a “**dark green**” **subshade**, with nearly identical prices.



10x15
9.13.1867GoldHill



10
9.16.1867Austin



10
11.7.1867Virginia



10x15
12.22.1867Austin



10
2.18.1868Austin



10
4.29.1868GoldHill



10
7.2.1868Aurora



10
8.5.1868GoldHill



10
8.1.1868Storey



10
8.21.1868GoldHill



10
10.21.1868Austin



10
12.21.1868GoldHill



10
4.6.1869TreasureCity



10
9.11.1869TreasureCityA



10
9.11.1869TreasureCityB



10
11.25.1869Elko



10
1.26.1870Washoe



10
3.29.1870CarsonCity



10
5.22.1870Belmont



10
6.13.1870Hamilton



10
10.3.1870GoldHill



10
11.1.1870Virginia



10
12.9.1870Eureka



10
1.3.1871Elko



10
3.6.1871Humbolt



10
4.10.1871Virginia



10
6.17.1871Hamilton



10
4.23.1872CarsonCityD



10
4.23.1872CarsonCityA



10
4.23.1872CarsonCityB



10
4.23.1872CarsonCityC



10
4.27.1872GoldHill



10
9.18.1872Lyon



10
10.14.1872GoldHill

The **current catalog listings** for the **5¢ and 50¢ roulette 10** are similar: both list **two shades priced almost identically**. The underlying chronological arrays, though, appear to be fundamentally different.

For the **50¢** the purported light and dark shades were difficult to distinguish, with no obvious corresponding chronological break point; it seems appropriate to collapse the two listings into one.

For the **5¢**, though, there seem to be **two clearly distinct shades**, with a rather **sharp chronological break point**. Their order in the current listings, though, is backwards. The **dark green stamps came first**, beginning circa September 1867, continuing through 1868; I see all the above stamps through December 21, 1868, as dark green.

Circa early 1869 lighter shades appeared, and continued through 1872. The occasional late usage of dark green stamps in sparsely populated or out-of-the-way places such as Elko (11.25.1869) or Washoe City (1.26.1870) is to be expected.

For the early stamps **“dark green”** seems appropriate. For the later, **“green (shades)”** may be adequate. They are lighter than the dark greens, but **“light green”** may be a step too far; some have a bit of yellow, but not enough to justify **“yellowish green.”**

5¢ roulette 15

A handful of the **5¢ roulette 15** have been recorded; on hand are two on document and one off, all from **mid- to late 1869**, shown below.



Their **shades** appear **similar** to those of the **contemporaneous roulette 10s**.

5¢ roulette 18?

A single bedraggled **5¢ with gauge 18** has been recorded, dated **December 28, 1868**. Gauge 18 is apparent on top, bottom and left. The right side is too rough to allow precise measurement; it has been suggested that it is best fit by gauge 10, and that the stamp may have been rouletted 18x10x18x18. While this cannot be ruled out, it seems a priori unlikely, and until more examples surface, the most prudent course is to list this one as **roulette 18**.



18?
12.28.1868

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** and possible illustrations. (Prices are those of 2007 SRS, subject to revision.)



D22



D22a

1867–8. Compound Roulettes.

10x15

D13	5c	dark green		100.00
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1867–72. Roulette 10.

D22	5c	dark green (1867)	7.00	2.00
D22a	5c	green (shades) (1868)	6.00	2.50
D22b	5c	pair imperf vertically	–	–

1867–9. Roulette 15.

D31	5c	green (shades) (1869)	???	???
-----	----	-----------------------	-----	-----

1868–72. Roulette 18.

D35	5c	green (1868)		150.00
-----	----	--------------	--	--------



imperf
brown purple
5.10.1865Austin



imperf
purple brown
1867,jb



15x10
blackish purple
11.7.1867Virginia

25¢ Roulette

For the **50¢**, the **transition from imperfs to roulettes** was **accompanied** by a **distinct color change**, from the **purple brown** of the late imperfs to the **blackish purple** of the new roulettes. This change was rather **short-lived**, giving way to brownish violets as the roulette 10s began to appear in mid-1868.

For the **25¢**, exactly analogous changes occurred, albeit somewhat more subtly. The **imperfs** had been consistently **vermilion**; when

the **roulettes** appeared, they were in a distinctly different shade, **scarlet vermilion**. Again, the change was **short-lived**, as the color of the 25¢ **reverted to vermilion** with the shift to the uniform roulette 10 in mid-1868.

This change is a bit hard to portray, as the distinction between vermilion and scarlet vermilion, readily apparent to the eye in good daylight, tends to melt away upon scanning and display.

Here are the **five earliest 25¢ roulettes** recorded on document; I see them all as **scarlet vermilion**. While the **scarlet vermilion** had a short life span, its **gauges** ran the gamut: **15, 10x15, 15x10** and finally **10!**



15
1.25.1868Virginia
VirginiaWaterCo.



10x15
3.30.1868Austin
Magnolia



15x10
4.8.1868Virginia
Bullion



15x10
4.23.1868GoldHill
SouthOverman



10
6.10.1868Virginia

For comparison here are four **imperfs** in **“vermilion (shades)”**. Hopefully the rather subtle color difference between these and the **scarlet vermilion roulettes** is not entirely lost in capture and display.



Imperf
6.12.1865Virginia
Bishop



Imperf
8.24.1865Virginia
Cannel



Imperf
4.9.1866Virginia
Bullion



Imperf
9.16.1867Virginia
Bullion



10
vermilion
1.9.1869Virginia
Lady Bryan



15x10
scarlet vermilion
4.23.1868GoldHill
SouthOverman



10
scarlet vermilion
6.10.1868Virginia

old ink
new gauge



10
vermilion
1.9.1869Virginia
Lady Bryan

Searching for a Pattern

The **25¢ scarlet vermilion roulette 10** dated **6.10.68** is reminiscent of the **2¢ Double Star pale orange roulette 10** dated **6.20.1868**, discussed earlier.

For their respective denominations, both are the **earliest recorded** of the **new roulette 10s**, which by **mid- to late 1868** became the **standard gauge** for all denominations.

They are also similar in that both are in the **“old colors”** characteristic of the **earlier compound and gauge 15** stamps.



15x18
pale orange
10.2.1867Virginia
Savage



10 Double Star
pale orange
6.20.1868Virginia

new design
old ink
“new” gauge



15 Double Star
orange
8.1.1868Virginia

But the similarities go only so far. A simple plausible hypothesis explains the **rarity** and **early date** of the **25¢ scarlet vermilion roulette 10**: that when the decision was made to switch to gauge 10, very few sheets remained in scarlet vermilion, and a new printing was then made in vermilion. In any case, only the gauge was new.

On the **2¢**, an **exactly analogous** stamp would be simply a **Single Star pale orange roulette 10**. Here, though, it is not simply the gauge that was new, but the design as well: the **new design** was printed with the **old ink**—**“the last drops from the old inkpot!”**

To further complicate matters, the **gauge 10**, while new, was **not immediately followed by a long run in that gauge**, for the 2¢ would next have a **brief interlude of gauge 15** before the 10s commenced in earnest. In fact, one wonders why the gauge of this stamp was 10 and not 15! There is one other denomination for which 10 was an early gauge—the 5¢, for which gauge 10 has been recorded as early as September 1867, contemporaneous with the 10x15. This 2¢ roulette 10 might better be classed as an “early” gauge rather than as an example of the uniform gauge 10 of 1868–72.

Another illustration that Nevada classics are a fascinating hodge-podge!

25¢ Pale Orange?



10
1.9.1869 Virginia
Lady Bryan



10
6.21.1869 Virginia
V&T

Hubbard added a “**pale orange**” to the **25¢ roulette 10** listings, with a hefty price. As with other such additions, I am skeptical; the discovery of a new color after a century or so is on its face unlikely. New gauges, yes; new colors, no.

At near left the “palest” 25¢ roulette 10 I have seen on document, alongside the usual vermilion. It is a long way from orange. Can anyone produce a 25¢ pale orange? I propose deleting it from the listings.

25¢ Roulette 18

The **roulette 18s** were **latecomers**, the **25¢ especially so**. I have recorded on document:

2¢ Double Star 1870 [June 30, July 23 (yellow orange!), Nov 1, Dec 2]
50¢ 1870 (April 8, Sep 14)

And off-document:

2¢ Double Star 1869 (Apr 15), an eye-opening addition as it is a year+ earlier
5¢ 1868 Dec 28
25¢ 1872 (Jan 25, Aug 14, Oct 16, Oct 23)

Below are the 25¢. I am inclined to list it with date 1872; can anyone produce one from 1871 (or earlier)?



18
1.25.1872



18
8.14.1872



18
10.16.1872



18
10.23.1872

Catalog Listings

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** and possible illustrations. (Roulette 10 prices are those of 2007 SRS, subject to revision.)



D15



D36

1867–8. Compound Roulettes.

10x15

D14	25c	scarlet vermilion		100.00
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15x10

D15	25c	scarlet vermilion		100.00
-----	-----	-------------------	--	--------

1867–72. Roulette 10.

D24	25c	vermilion (1869)	12.50	5.00
D24a	25c	scarlet vermilion (1868)	10.00	3.00

1867–9. Roulette 15.

D31	25c	scarlet vermilion (1868)		100.00
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1868–72. Roulette 18.

D36	25c	vermilion (1872)		???
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50¢ Roulette

When last we visited the 50¢, it was for the imperf. To reprise, it was agreed there were two shades that deserved catalog status, with examples below:



5.10.1865Austin

1867.2jb

1. The **first-issued** color we agreed to call **“brown purple”** (“5.10.1865Austin” at far left);

2. a more brownish shade first appearing circa **December 1866**, which we agreed to call **“purple brown to red brown”** (“1867.jb” at near left).

Roulette 15x10

One of the **earliest recorded NV roulettes** is the **50¢ 15x10**, with ECU July 1, 1867. Along with this change in the method of separation came a **marked change in the shade**, from the purple brown imperf to a **blackish purple**. [Cabot (1940) called this **“dark plum”** (albeit for the roulette 15)]. Below are the seven recorded examples (two on document, three used, two mint), with the imperf shades in the middle for comparison. (Thanks to John Bowman, Ed Lovegren and Sean Roberts.)



15x10
7.1.1867jb

15x10
8.14.1867Virginia

15x10
8.17.1867el

15x10
10.15.1867.jb

imperf
5.10.1865Austin

imperf
1867.2jb

15x10
11.7.1867Virginia

15x10

15x10

Given the age of the stamps and the differences in scanners, the **colors** of the 15x10s are **encouragingly consistent**, and quite distinctive: there is little or none of the red present in the early “brown purple” imperf. The November 7, 1867, example on document is particularly vivid and might best serve as a catalog illustration. As usual, these are best viewed at 400%. The dates are likewise encouragingly consistent, all within a **four month span**. An eighth example, ex-Stritzinger, seen only in a black and white photocopy, is dated August 1867. The **50¢ 15x10** is a flower that bloomed early and quickly disappeared!

50¢ Roulette 15

Seven stamps have been recorded in this **same distinctive shade** but rouletted **15**, not 15x10.

The **date range** is again very tight, about **five months, slightly later than that of the 15x10**, with a small overlap.

(The roulette 10s don't begin to appear till mid-1868.)



Now here they all are together, along with a newly-discovered 15x18, to check for shade differences:



50¢ Roulette 15x18!



15x18
11.19.1868jb

Here is a stunning benefit of this type of detailed survey. In the course of this investigation of the 50¢ roulette 15x10 and 15, a **heretofore unlisted** stamp has been discovered: the **50¢ roulette 15x18**. It already stood out from the other “blackish purple 15s” because of its late date, **November 19, 1868**, some **eight months later** than the others. The vertical gauge is unmistakably 18, the horizontal gauge rougher but is clearly 15 rather than 18. Please view at 400%.

Besides the date and gauge, is the shade different? It is rather similar to the three rightmost/latest 15s, which are themselves a little different from the other “blackish purples”; a little less black. **“Violet gray”** has been suggested for the three latest 15s and the 15x18. Opinions? It may be preferable to subsume under **“blackish purple (shades).”**

Note that gauge **15x18** was also used for the **2¢ Single Star**; it is scarce but not rare, with examples recorded dated from June 1867 to July 1868.

Roulette 10

Now let us pass to the **50¢ roulette 10**. To reprise, below at top left are representative examples of the colors encountered thus far. They are followed by all recorded **50¢ roulette 10s** on hand on documents, in **chronological order**:



imperf
brown purple
5.10.1865Austin



imperf
purple brown
1867.jb



15x10
blackish purple
11.7.1867Virginia



15x18
???
11.19.1868jb



10
7.2.1868Storey



10
8.29.1868CarsonCity



10
11.8.1868WhitePine



10
12.21.1868WhitePine



10
3.17.1869
WhitePine

10
3.26.1869
WhitePine

10
3.30.1869
WhitePine

10
4.xx.1869Hamilton

10
11.13.1869TreasureCity



10
11.24.1869
Virginia



10
7.7.1870
Esmeralda



10
8.13.1870MeadowValley



10
9.8.1870
Galena



10
10.25.1870
Lyon



10
12.24.1870
WhitePine



10
8.21.1871
GoldHill



10
1.15.1872
Virginia



10
6.24.1872
CarsonCityB



10
10.8.1872
Virginia



10
6.24.1872
CarsonCityA



10
6.24.1872CarsonCityC



10
8.30.1872
ElyMD



imperf
purple brown
1867.jb

The colors of these **50¢ roulette 10s** are quite consistent, not far different from the “purple brown to red brown” of the late imperfs (see example here bottom row, far right, yet clearly distinct from it.

10
1.24.1872
CarsonCity

Cabot listed “**light violet brown**” (0.50 mint, 0.25 used) and a scarcer subtype “**dark violet brown**” valued at **3x** the basic prices (\$1.50, 0.75). Simply “**violet brown (shades)**” appears to be more appropriate. If light and dark shades can even be distinguished, there is certainly no obvious corresponding chronological distinction.



10
gray

50¢ Gray

Hubbard added a rare “**brownish gray**” (\$7.50, 3.00). I am not aware of any evidence for this, but the 50¢ roulette 10 does exist in a clear **gray**, so far recorded **only mint**.



18



18

4.12.1870CarsonCity 9.14.1870Humboldt

50¢ Roulette 18

Two **50¢ roulette 18** have been recorded on document, in distinctly different shades, shown here.

The color of the example dated **April 12, 1870**, is within the range seen on the roulette 10—i.e., “**violet brown.**”

That dated **September 14, 1870**, does not, and deserves a **separate listing**.

“**Brown**”? **Light reddish brown**”?

Catalog Listings

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** and possible illustrations. (Roulette 10 prices are those of 2007 SRS, subject to revision.)



D16



D25



D25a



D37



D37a

1867-8. Compound Roulettes.

15x10

D16 50c blackish purple 100.00

15x18

D18 50c blackish purple (1868) 150.00

1867-72. Roulette 10.

D25 50c violet brown (shades) (1868) 5.00 2.50

D25a 50c gray ???

1867-9. Roulette 15.

D33 50c blackish purple (1867) 100.00

1868-72. Roulette 18.

D37 50c violet brown (1870) ??? ???

D37a 50c brown (1870) ??? ???

\$1 Roulette

The \$1 is known only imperf and **roulette 10**; the **earliest recorded** use of a **roulette** on document is **November 11, 1867**. Kenyon (1920) listed the roulette in **carmine, crimson** and **salmon rose**. It seems curious that he did not distinguish between the **presence or absence of outer lines**. All catalogs since Adenaw et al (1921ca) have made this a fundamental distinguishing characteristic, listing three types:

	Adenaw et al (1921)		Cabot (1940)		Hubbard (1960)		SRS (2007)	
\$1.00 carmine rose, with outer line	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	10.00	5.00
\$1.00 crimson, without outer line	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	30.00	10.00
a.bright carmine, without outer line	2.50	1.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	25.00	25.00

The \$1 has survived on **surprisingly few documents**; often two 50¢ were used in lieu of a \$1. Below are all on hand here on document, nearly all being the 100 copies on the deed to the famed Raymond & Ely mine (which has \$300 apiece in US and Nevada stamps!), and a couple off document, in chronological order.



10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
 11.17.1867 (1.1.1868) 3.18.1868 6.26.1868 11.24.1869 11.20.1869Hamilton 4.12.1870 12.28.1870
 Virginia CPRR Virginia Virginia CarsonCity MeadowValley1



10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
 12.28.1870 12.28.1870 1.23.1871Pioche4B 7.8.1871 8.12.1871
 MeadowValley2 MeadowValley3 GoldHillA

The rest of the stamps from the 1871 Raymond & Ely and Gold Hill deeds are shown on the following pages.



10
1.23.1871Pioche1A



10
1.23.1871Pioche4A



10
1.23.1871Pioche2



10
1.23.1871Pioche1B



10
1.23.1871Pioche5



10
1.23.1871Pioche3B



10
1.23.1871Pioche4C



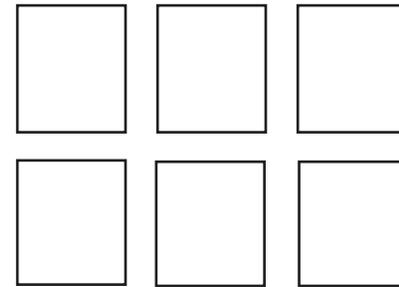
10
1.23.1871Pioche1A



10
8.12.1871
GoldHillB

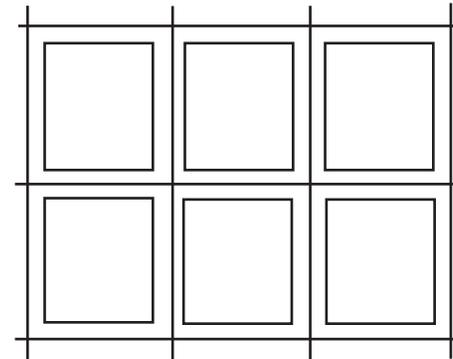
Let's be clear about the difference between **outer** and **inner lines**. All the imperfs have an **independent rectangle** surrounding the design:

(On the **\$1** these are usually **very faint**.)



On some of the \$1 roulettes there are also **intersecting outer lines** between the stamps:

These are the lines we are referring to in distinguishing the **two basic types** of the **\$1 roulettes**.



Note that on the roulettes a **faint inner line** is often also visible, most often at the top. Some examples (view at 400%):



10
1.1.1868CPRR



10
4.12.1870
CarsonCity



10
12.28.1870
MeadowValley1



10
12.28.1870
MeadowValley2

To determine whether the **outer lines** are absent, it is necessary to know **where they are expected to be**. The spacing of the rouletting was rather irregular. I measured the distance from the closest part of the design to the outer lines, or if there was no line, to the outer edge of the stamp. For the 1871 deed with 100 stamps, I measured only three as a sample. Here are the results (mm):

Date	Left	Right	Top	Bottom
11.17.1867	1.4 (no line)	2.0 (no line)		
(1.1.1868)	1.2		1.5	1.7
3.18.1868	1.1 (no line)	1.9 (no line)	1.5, 1.3 (no line)	2.5, 2.4 (no line)
6.26.1868	2.1 (no line)		1.9, 1.7 (no line)	2.1 (no line)
11.20.1869A			2.1, 1.9	
11.20.1869B		0.8	2.0, 1.8	
11.20.1869C		0.8		
11.24.1869	1.5 (no line)		2.0 (no line)	
4.12.1870			2.0, 1.9	
12.28.1870.1	1.4	1.1	2.0, 1.9	1.4, 1.3
12.28.1870.2		1.1	2.0, 2.0	
12.28.1870.3			1.8	
1.23.1871.3B.1		0.9		
1.23.1871.3B.2			1.9	
1.23.1871.3B.3		1.0		
7.8.1871				1.6, 1.5
mint huge	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5

The results are reasonably consistent. From the above singles it emerges that the distances from the design to the outer lines were about **1.3mm** at **left**, **0.9mm** at **right**, **1.9mm** at **top**, and **1.5 mm** at **bottom**.

It is not clear whether the **small differences** in measurements are the result of **errors in measuring** such small distances with a rather crude ruler, or actually demonstrate **different settings**; in particular, the values from the 1.1.1868 stamp (on which the cancel is very probably backdated) and the mint copy showing all four lines seem to be genuinely different from the others.

This measurement would be **much simpler with blocks!** Can anyone confirm/add?

The **diagnostic point** here is that if a stamp shows **clear space greater than the above distances** on even one side, it is the **“without outer line”** variety. Usually the stamps are so irregularly rouletted that only one or two sides will be available to make this judgement.

(Courtesy of Sean Roberts, here is a stamp showing **lines on all four sides**, and another so tightly rouletted that **no lines show**, but which, judging from its shade, is from a lined sheet. I suspect that such examples occur only once in several hundreds of stamps.)



10
four lines!



10
no lines!

“Without Outer Line” Issued First

From the meager data presented above, it appears that the stamps without outer lines appeared first. Cancel dates on 16 more loose stamps (in blue below) solidify the conclusion:

Date	Outer Lines
9/10/1867	without
9/19/1867	without
11/5/1867	without
11.17.1867	without
12/23/1867	without
(1.1.1868)	with
1.25.1868	without
3.18.1868	without
6.26.1868	without
8/6/1868	without
2.13.1869	with
2.17.1869	with
2.27.1869	with
3.17.1869	with
4.10.1869	with
6.26.1869	with
7.28?.1869	with
11.20.1869	with
11.24.1869	without
11.29.1869	with
4.12.1870	with
12.28.1870	with
1.23.1871	with
7.8.1871	with
8.12.1871	with
2.6.1872	with
7.27.1872	with

Reserving judgement on the lined stamp with cancel dated 1.1.1868, which I believe to be back-dated, the **nine earliest recorded usages**, spanning a period of about a year, are all of stamps **without dividing lines**. And all but one of the 17 **latest recorded usages** are of stamps **with dividing lines**. Case closed!

There is **precious little overlap**, suggesting that the two plates were **not in use at the same time**.



10
11.17.1867 Virginia
no lines



10
3.18.1868
no lines



10
6.26.1868 Virginia
no lines



10
11.24.1869 Virginia
no lines

As to Shades

After some initial skepticism, I am beginning to see **color differences** that may merit recognition in the catalog listings.

The stamps **without lines**, at left, besides being the earliest, appear to be a **deeper, distinct red**. I don't see it as crimson or bright carmine as in the catalogs, better just **"red (shades)"**?

Among those **with lines**, a different, **lighter, rose shade** is clearly evident and abundant, examples below. This must be the **current D28, "carmine rose, with outer line."**



10
(1.1.1868) CPRR



10
4.12.1870
Carson City



10
12.28.1870
Meadow Valley 1



10
12.28.1870
Meadow Valley 2



10
12.28.1870
Meadow Valley 3



10
7.8.1871



10
8.12.1871
Gold Hill A



10
four lines!



10
no lines!

Rare Exceptions (I): Lined Stamps in Red

So far so good; these **two types**—red (shades) without outer lines and carmine rose (shades) with lines—account for **virtually all \$1 roulettes**. But the **lined stamps** also include a **rare shade** distinct from carmine rose. The 11.20.1869 examples shown again here are so far the only ones recorded; the color is rather similar to that of the **red** stamps without lines, reprised here for comparison.



10
11.20.1869 Hamilton
lines



10
11.17.1867 Virginia
no lines



10
3.18.1868
no lines



10
6.26.1868 Virginia
no lines



10
11.24.1869 Virginia
no lines

Lined Stamps, Carmine Rose Shades

The **carmine rose lined** stamps come in a range of subshades; indeed **light and dark subshades** were used together on the 1871 Raymond and Ely deed. The darkest of these, though, still appear to have a **distinct rose tint missing from the red lined stamps** used 11.20.1869 at Hamilton. Am I wrong?



10
8.12.1871 Gold Hill A
carmine rose



10
11.20.1869 Hamilton
red



10
1.23.1871 Pioche 4B
carmine rose shades



10
1.23.1871 Pioche 1A
carmine rose shades

Rare Exceptions (II): Unlined Stamps in Carmine Rose

Just as the lined stamps, typically seen in carmine rose, can be found in red (albeit rarely), so too the **unlined stamps**, typically found in red, also **exist in carmine rose**, as exemplified by the mint block shown at left (courtesy of John Bowman).

For some time it appeared that these **unlined carmine rose** stamps existed **only as mint remainders**, as **no convincing used examples** had been recorded. Of course it takes only one counterexample to disprove this hypothesis. At bottom left is a candidate, with cancel dated February 13, 1869. Close examination, though, suggests that it is from a **lined sheet**, but rouletted so closely that no lines are evident: the

distances from design to edge at left, top and bottom are roughly 0.8, 0.95 and 1.0mm, less than the average measured distances from design to lines of 1.3, 1.9 and 1.5mm; and the distance at right, roughly 1.0mm, is within the measurement error of the average measured distance to lines of 0.9mm.





Indeed a horizontal margin pair with identical cancels, fortuitously provided by Ed Kettenbrink, presumably from the same sheet and probably from the same document, does show vertical dividing lines. Scratch one candidate!



(1.1.1868)1

(1.1.1868)2

(1.1.1868)3

Finally though, the sought-for discovery copy emerged, again from the collection of John Bowman. Here are two carmine rose stamps with no lines evident, both with January 1, 1868, Central Pacific Rail Road cancels, also a similar stamp showing three lines, together with the distances from design to edges or lines on these and all lined stamps.

Date	Left	Right	Top	Bottom
Lined average	1.3	0.9	1.9	1.5
Lined range	1.2-1.4	0.8-1.2	1.5-2.1	1.3-1.7
(1.1.1868)1	1.4 (no line)	1.0 (no line)	1.6 (no line)	1.0 (no line)
(1.1.1868)2	1.3 (no line)	0.9 (no line)	2.1 (no line)	1.8 (no line)
(1.1.1868)3	1.2		1.5	1.7

The data suggest that the **smaller stamp probably** came from an **unlined sheet**; its distances at left and right slightly exceed the averages measured to lines; however the evidence, while provocative, is **not decisive**. A stronger case can be made for the **taller stamp**, labelled (1.1.1868)2; its distances at top and bottom exceed the averages measured to lines, and their sum, 3.9mm, far exceeds the 3.2mm measured on the comparison lined stamp; if from a lined sheet, this stamp **ought to have had lines at top, bottom, or both!**

This evidence for **usage of unlined carmine rose** stamps is **frankly unsettling**. If we **exclude the two atypical subtypes**—unlined stamps in carmine rose and lined stamps in red, each so far represented by just a single recorded usage—a **satisfyingly ordered picture** emerges: stamps from what we will call Plate 1, without outer lines, were issued first, in red, beginning about September 1867; followed by stamps from what we will call Plate 2, with outer lines, in carmine rose, beginning about February 1869. **Are the two rare subtypes consistent with this neat timeline?**

Consider first the **red lined stamps** used in **November 1869** (at remote but booming Hamilton, in the newly-created White Pine County). Their color is similar to that of the early unlined red stamps remained

Catalog Listings

Here are the **proposed catalog listings** and possible illustrations. (Prices are those of 2007 SRS, subject to revision.)



D26



D26a



D27



D27a

1867-72. Roulette 10.

D26	\$1	red (shades), without outer lines (1867)	30.00	10.00
D26a	\$1	carmine rose, without outer lines (1869ca)	??	??
D27	\$1	carmine rose (shades), with outer lines (1869)	10.00	5.00
D27a	\$1	red (shades), with outer lines (1869)	??	??

Documentary

Tax in effect May 1, 1865 to Feb. 22, 1873

Note: Mint prices are for stamps with or without gum. About \$410,000 in stamps were printed, of which some \$225,000 remained unsold, many of which reached philatelic hands. These included the 4c, \$10 and \$20 imperforates, and all denominations rouletted 10; these are considerably more common mint than used. All others are considerably more scarce mint than used.

Note: The 2c Double Star was also preprinted in various colors on checks. For more detail on these see Stamped Paper below, and Castenholtz (1996)'.
 May 1865. 20–21 x 25½–28mm. Imperforate. (2c all Single Star)



D1



D2

D1	2c	orange, heavy outer line	50.00	5.00
D2	2c	orange (shades), thin outer line (1866)	5.00	3.00
D2a	2c	orange, thin outer line, thick paper (1867)	100.00	65.00



D3



D4

D3	2c	orangish yellow, thin outer line	150.00	
D4	4c	carmine	10.00	5.00



D5



D5b

D5	5c	dull green to gray green	7.50	3.25
D5a	5c	dull green to gray green, thick paper (almost card)	20.00	10.00
D5b	5c	green to yellowish green (1866)	7.50	3.50
D6	10c	dk blue	10.00	4.00
D7	25c	vermilion (shades)	10.00	3.50



D8



D8b

D8	50c	brown purple (shades)	15.00	4.00
D8a	50c	brown purple (shades), thick paper (almost card)	20.00	12.00
D8b	50c	purple brown to red brown (1866)	7.50	2.50
D9	\$1	deep red to ruby red	15.00	4.00
D10	\$5	red brown (shades)	20.00	20.00
D10a	\$5	orange brown	50.00	-



D10



D10a



D11



D12

D11	\$10	dk brown	27.50	35.00
D12	\$20	gray violet	35.00	40.00

1867–8. Compound Roulettes.

10x15

D13	5c	dark green	100.00	
D14	25c	scarlet vermilion	100.00	

15x10

D15	25c	scarlet vermilion	100.00	
D16	50c	blackish purple	100.00	



D16



D17

15x18

D17	2c	pale orange, Single Star	25.00	
D18	50c	blackish purple (1868)	150.00	

18x15

D19	2c	pale orange, Single Star (1868)	50.00	
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1867–72. Roulette 10. (2c all Double Star)



D20



D20c



D20a



D20b

D20	2c	orange (shades) (1868)	2.00	1.25
D20a	2c	orange, pair imperf vertically	-	-
D20b	2c	pale orange (1867ca)	??	??
D20c	2c	yellow orange (shades) (1869)	6.00	1.50
D20d	2c	brown orange (1870)	6.00	1.50
D20e	2c	orange yellow (1870)	??	??
D21	2c	lemon yellow	120.00	-



D21



D23



D22



D22a

D22	5c	dark green (1867)	7.00	2.00
D22a	5c	green (shades) (1868)	6.00	2.50
D22b	5c	green, pair imperf vertically	-	-
D23	10c	dk blue (1872)	10.00	??



D15



D24

D24	25c	vermilion (1869)	10.00	3.00
D24a	25c	scarlet vermilion (1868)	12.50	5.00



D25



D25a

D25	50c	violet brown (shades) (1868)	5.00	2.50
D25a	50c	gray	??	??



D26



D26a



D27



D27a

D26	\$1	red (shades), without outer lines (1867)	30.00	10.00
D26a	\$1	carmine rose (shades), without outer lines (1869ca)	??	??
D27	\$1	carmine rose (shades), with outer lines (1869)	10.00	5.00
D27a	\$1	red (shades), with outer lines (1869)	??	??
D28	\$5	brown	25.00	

1867–9. Roulette 15.

D29	2c	pale orange, Single Star (1867) ???	???
D30	2c	orange (shades), Double Star (1868)	???
D31	5c	green (shades) (1869)	???
D32	25c	scarlet vermilion (1868)	100.00
D33	50c	blackish purple (1867)	100.00

1868–72. Roulette 18. (2c all Double Star)



D34



D34a

D34	2c	orange (shades) (1869)	???
D34a	2c	yellow orange (shades) (1870)	???
D35	5c	green (1868)	150.00
D36	25c	vermilion (shades) (1872)	???



D37



D37a

D37	50c	violet brown (1870)	???
D37a	50c	brown (1870)	???

Note: No used examples have been recorded of the imperforate 2c orangish yellow, or of the roulette 10 50c gray or \$5; they are believed to exist only as mint remainders. Die proofs in gray exist for all values.