

Red Seal Vice-President's Sheets of Moravia, N. Y. - Charter 99

By M. OWEN WARNS



Fr. #595, four-subject \$5 plate layout with signatures of J. W. Lyons and Ellis H. Roberts.



Fr. #621, four-subject note of three \$10 and one \$20 notes also with Lyons' and Roberts' signatures.

THIS month we are privileged to report on a pair of remarkable sheets of Red Seal National Bank Notes of the third charter period with the \$5, \$10, and \$20 denominations represented. Incident thereto is a combination of plate varieties that will also be of interest to researchers on Nationals. We are indebted to Richard M. Kirka for allowing use of the sheets in writing this article.

The First National Bank of Moravia, N. Y. was chartered in 1863, one of the select number of the "First Hundred" to be nationalized. It was capitalized at \$80,000. Moravia is in Cuyahoga County, situated approximately halfway between Syracuse and Ithaca. The latest figures place the population at 1,642!

Officers of the bank at the time these sheets were issued were William E. Keeler, president; William Fitts, vice-president; and W. J. H. Parker, cashier. At present we do not know why the notes were signed by Vice-President Fitts instead of President Keeler.

Circulation of the third charter Red Seals of this bank was:

5-5-5-5 plate=\$37,500 worth; 1875 sheets, serials
1 - 1875
10-10-10-20 plate=\$129,000 worth; 2580 sheets, serials
1 - 2580

Signature Varieties

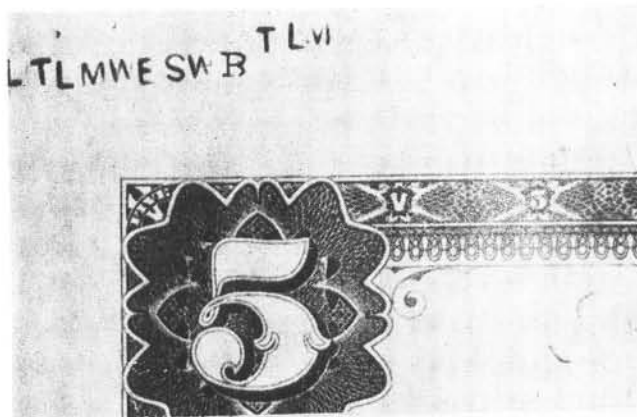
Red Seal sheets are always rare, but these sheets are unusual, besides. The very survival of the number one Red Seal sheet is likely to be unique; it is the first such sheet we have seen. Furthermore, there are three different positions of the vice-president's signature on the sheets as illustrated.

Plate and Marginal Markings

Illustrated also are various marginal markings on the sheet which originated with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as well as pencilled notes and OK's.



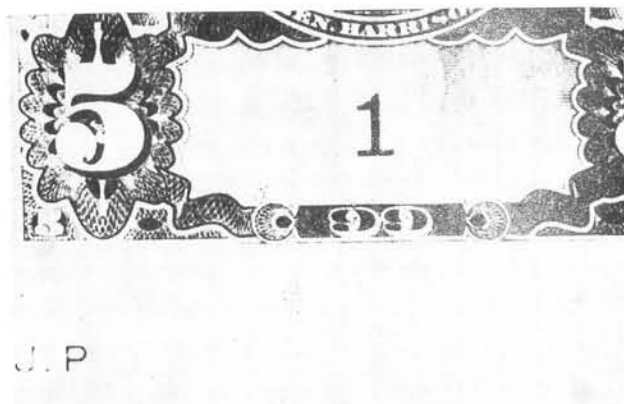
VICE, on the \$5 note, appears under the signature line.



The initials in the corner margin are those of four plate printers, indicating that the plate had been sent to press four times.



VICE, on the \$10 note, follows "Fitts" on the signature line.



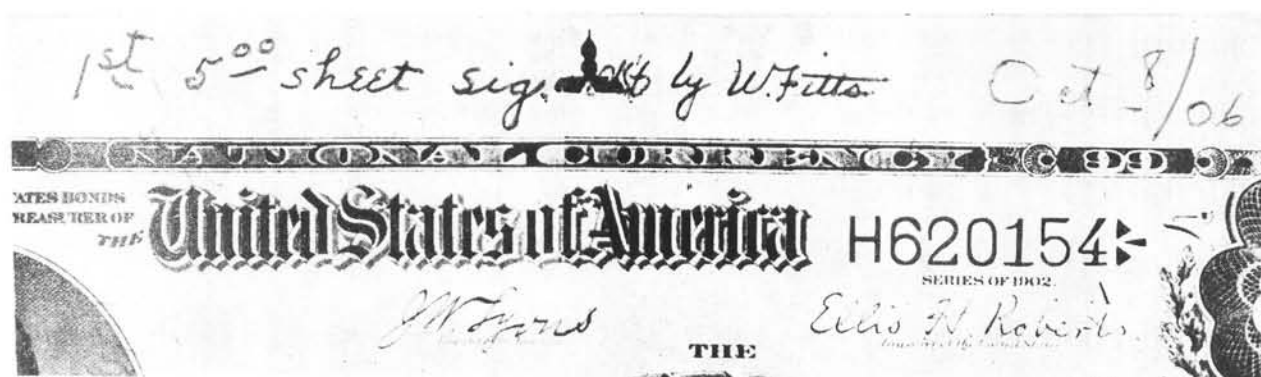
The initials "J.P." are those of siderographer John Prender, who entered the subjects for the obverse side plate.



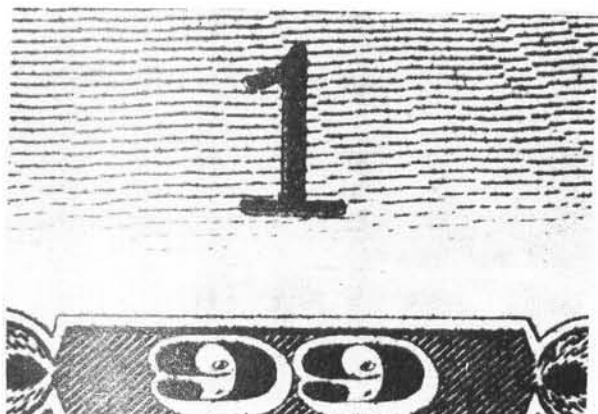
VICE, on the \$20 note, starts out with an elongated "V" and is followed by "ice" placed under the signature line.



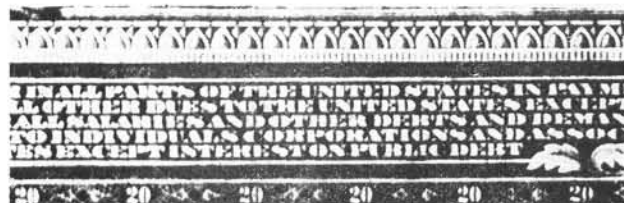
The initials "J.A.M." are those of siderographer John A. Mooney, who entered the subjects for the reverse side plate.



The sheet marginal markings of the third charter National Bank Notes are a good source for study. Here are found initials of the plate siderographers, finishers and printers, along with pencilled notes and OK's, control numbers, types of registers employed, etc.



In the area that forms the background to the bank tally number "1" is found the true art of the intaglio engraver reflected in the uneven, fine, wavy lines that literally defy duplication. An additional effort employed to foil the counterfeiter can be found in the enlarged illustration of charter 99, where many colored threads are apparent in the specially processed paper used by the Bureau in manufacturing bank notes.



REGISTERS were used to insure precise alignment of colors, seals and serials. While the cross hatched registers were in both red and green, the solid registers were in both green and black.

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