

SCRIPPHILLY

DECEMBER 2011

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In this issue, and more



Aspen Scripphily



Edouard Empain in Egypt



Lehman Brothers Holdings specimen brings \$32,500 at auction!

NEW FORMAT FOR SCRIPOPHILY!

You are now holding the A4 format we mentioned in the August *Scripophily*. It has enabled us to dispense with small fonts in the articles for the most part and, where possible, increase image sizes. Our advertisers are getting a great deal – much more acreage for the same price. Hopefully, they will make good use of it. While it would be nice to offer an expansive news magazine layout or the white space of an auction catalog, we don't have the money. Part of this change to a more conventional European paper size is a cost cutting measure. We would be delighted to have your comments and suggestions.

BLOG WATCH

Scripophily blogs keep sprouting like mushrooms after the rains. The latest is the graphically attractive Spanish language site Museo Financiero, devoted to Spanish banks. The author, Alfonso Garcia, features a daily vignette on a Spanish bank, complete with image of the security and a discussion. There are buttons for Hispano-American and Portuguese Banks and Spanish rails, but these are as yet unfinished. <http://blogs.laopinioncoruna.es/museo-financiero/>

SCRIPOPHILY.COM ACQUIRES RM SMYTHE STOCK & BOND RESEARCH BUSINESS

Scripophily.com, Bob Kerstein's company, has announced that it has acquired the RM Smythe Stock & Bond Research Business from Herzog & Co, Inc (formerly RM Smythe & Co, Inc).

The transaction includes all copyrights on obsolete research reference material published by Smythe including various editions of the *Robert D Fisher Manuals of Valuable and Worthless Securities*, as well as the *Marvyn Scudder Manuals*.

John Herzog's comments about the transaction suggest that there are plans to digitise and reorganise the classic texts. Also included are related files, reference materials and portions of the Smythe Special Library used in the Smythe's obsolete securities research which began in 1880. Kerstein intends to fold the acquisition into his pre-existing Old Company Research business (OldCompany.com), a service for identifying "live" securities.

The scripophily.com website now presents itself as "successor to RM Smythe & Co, Inc, obsolete security research business founded by RM Smythe in 1880".

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your membership expires at end 2011 you will have a membership renewal letter and payment advice enclosed with this journal. Early renewal will be appreciated. We are all volunteers here – we'd rather spend our time on scripophily than in nagging procrastinators!

One year membership rates remain unchanged at £18/\$30/€22. Three year membership rates are £50/\$80/€60.

CLEAN OFF YOUR DESK! SELL THAT STUFF!

We encourage you to use the IBSS auction to dispose of your duplicates. But if you would rather sell them yourself, use a one eighth-page ad, now larger than in the old format. They're £30 for collectors and dealers to list specific certificates for sale (or purchase, but for this you also have the option of a free classified ad without image). Contact the Secretary (page 2) for more details.

2012 CALENDARS

Alex Witula is offering his eight page Wall Street calendar with six decorative original Italian and international shares that can be removed from the calendar. Available at portafogliostorico@aruba.it or on www.portafoglio-storico.it for €55. **Benecke & Rehse** offer two calendars, both with six original certificates. One calendar features Reichsbank hoard items, the other general German DM items, each is €44.95 from www.aktiensammler.de/br/shop_kalender.asp. **Werner Kürle**, Auktionshaus Raab/Kürle, has several calendar options: standard 12-certificate German, International or European calendars at €44.90 (certificates can be removed safely), a themed calendar with your choice of topical collections, eg banking, chemical, etc for €74.95, or a blank one for your own shares at €33.95, www.stocks-bonds.de. **Stefan Adam** offers two choices of calendars with six original certificates at €44.95 each, one a US calendar entitled *Titanic 1912-2012 Travelling in Style* with certificates representing luxurious travel, including International Mercantile Marine, and a German calendar entitled *Deutschland im Spiegel historischer Wertpapiere*, www.adamshares.com. **Scripophily.com** has a seasonally-themed calendar this year, with each month having a printed (not original) certificate appropriate to the month, eg a baseball certificate for April, along with a history of the featured company and monthly calendar with US holidays. \$9.95 from scripophily.com.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Ads are free to members

Ancient Egypt

In 2012 I am scheduling a temporary virtual exhibition on my blog about ancient Egyptian themes on certificates. I am looking for images of less common certificates with ancient Egyptian motifs such as pharaohs, pyramids, sphinxes, Egyptian gods, hieroglyphs, scarabs, temples, winged snakes, lotus flowers, obelisks, etc. Upon request I can add the name of the collector to the image provided. For dealers, I can add their commercial link to each image that is not yet available in my set. franky.leeuwerck@gmail.com

Wanted

Collector seeks **Knickerbocker Steamboat Co** share or bond (1891 bond reported by Frampton), or high resolution image of same. maxdhensley@yahoo.com

Werner Kürle seeks

- (1) certificates with the name **Nobel** on them
 - (2) **Commercial Bank of Siberie**, Banque de Commerce de Siberie, Sibirische Handels-Bank
 - (3) Austrian War Loans
- wk@kuerle.eu