

NBNC "La Critique" (Woman with Globe) Vignette Collection

One of the most recognized and most utilized vignettes of American Bank Note Company is a woman with globe vignette. ABNC did not engrave the vignette, but rather the National Bank Note Company. The vignette number assigned was 2710 with the title "La Critique". Both National and Continental Bank Note Company merged with American Bank Note Company in 1879. "There are no engraving records for National Bank Note, but from various sources, including Fred Smillie's engraving scrapbooks, the engraver is noted as Alfred Jones"¹. Notwithstanding the title assigned the vignette, it usually appears with numismatic products relating to knowledge or education.

So what types of numismatic items can be acquired for a collection of these? I have found the following types in commerce:

- Vignette Sheets
- Souvenir Cards
- Stocks and Bonds
- Color Charts
- Advertising Sheets
- Bank Notes

It is certainly likely other examples of these exist I have yet to discover. It is also likely there are check samples sporting this vignette.



Figure 1 "La Critique" #2710 available for about \$50

Normally one of the most reasonably priced vignette product would have to be a souvenir card, in this case the first card produced by Mike Bean for the 7th Annual Stock and Bond Show held in Strasburg, Pennsylvania in January 1994. With a population of 100, these occasionally are offered in commerce, though not recently. An estimate could run \$50 or more for this card, so there are less expensive alternatives.

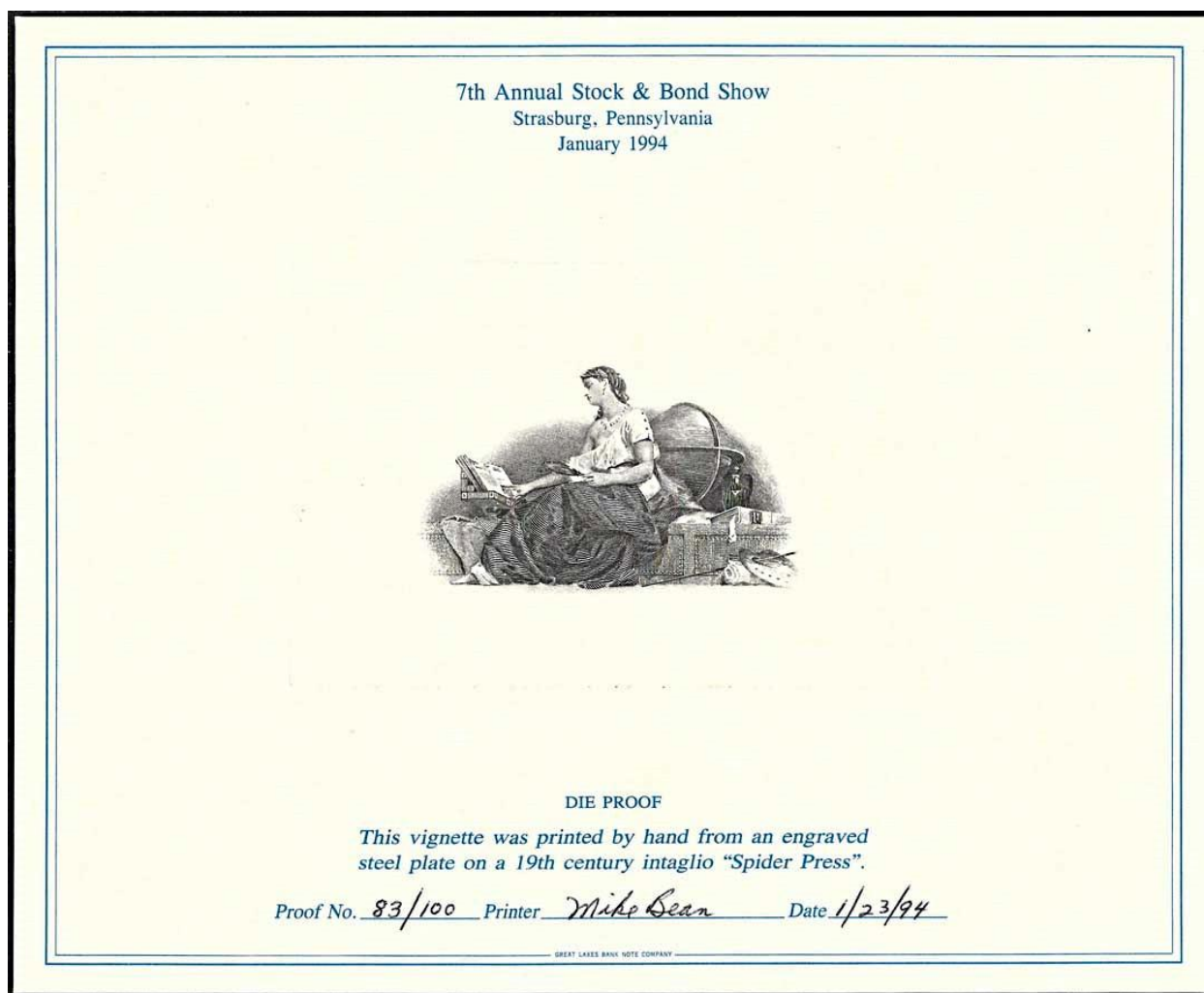


Figure 2 SCCS MB-4

Other souvenir cards with this vignette include:

- SCCS F1992B The 40th anniversary 1992 Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association souvenir card was locally printed with an unknown population and is available presently for \$13 and up.
- SCCS F1923I The next year the 40th anniversary of the Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity convention had a blue ink version locally printed which included the Liberty Bell. The card proclaims the allegorical lady represents education.
- SCCS Q-5 In 1999, Lew Quast printed a nice card for the Chicago Paper Money Expo. All 200 cards intaglio printed were sold.
- SCCS Q-5 The second card produced by Mike Bean in 2002 is the last souvenir card noted with the lady with globe vignette, as well as four other nice vignettes. It is one of three printed for the 10th anniversary of the Metro Chapter of SCCS.

Stock certificates are most often the least expensive example of a vignette, and so it is for the woman with globe, though the City of Cologne, Germany bond at the end of the stock section is the exception.

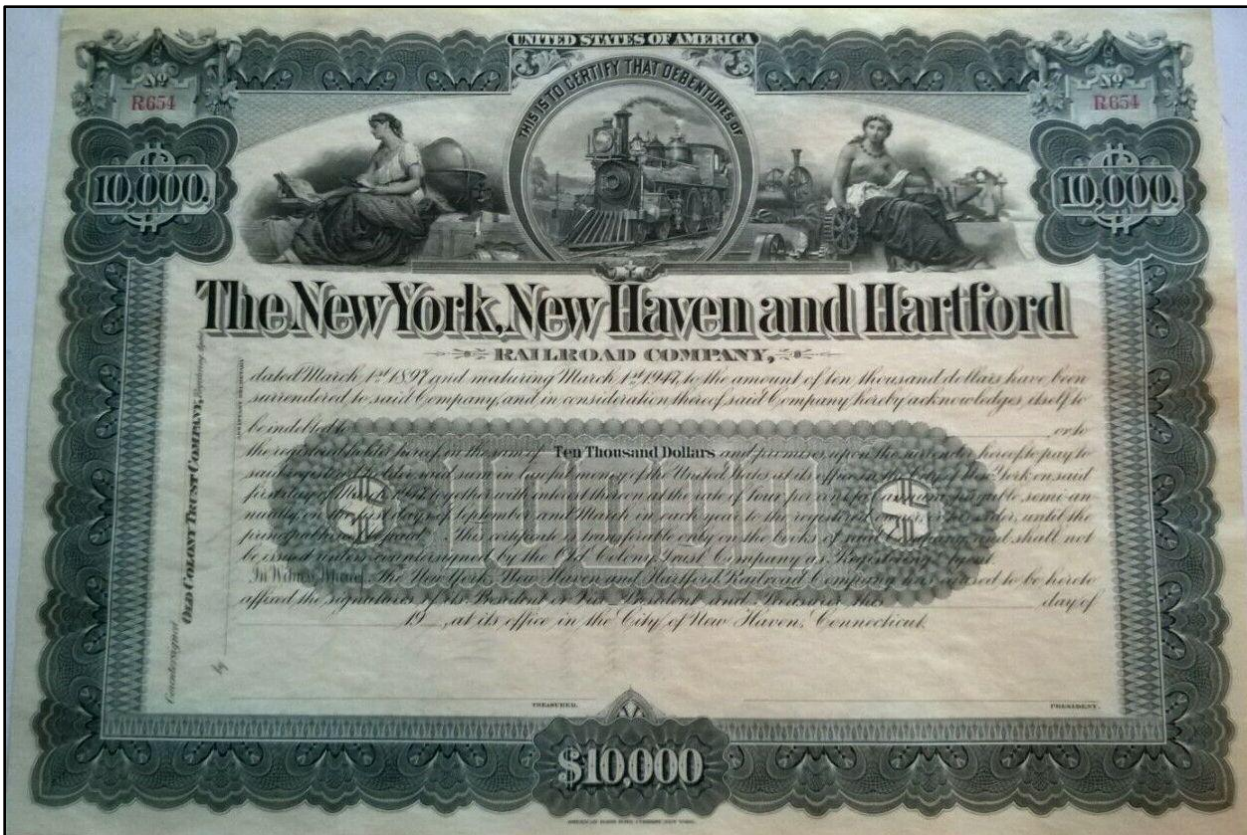


Figure 3 New York, New Haven and Harford Railroad Co stock with a plethora of vignettes

Other stock certificates noted with our “lady with globe” vignette include:

- McGraw-Hill Inc issued in 1973
- Meredith Corporation issued in 1967

Here is the oldest (1925-1950), foreign (Cologne Germany), and most expensive (\$245) “La Critique” gold bond produced by ABNC.

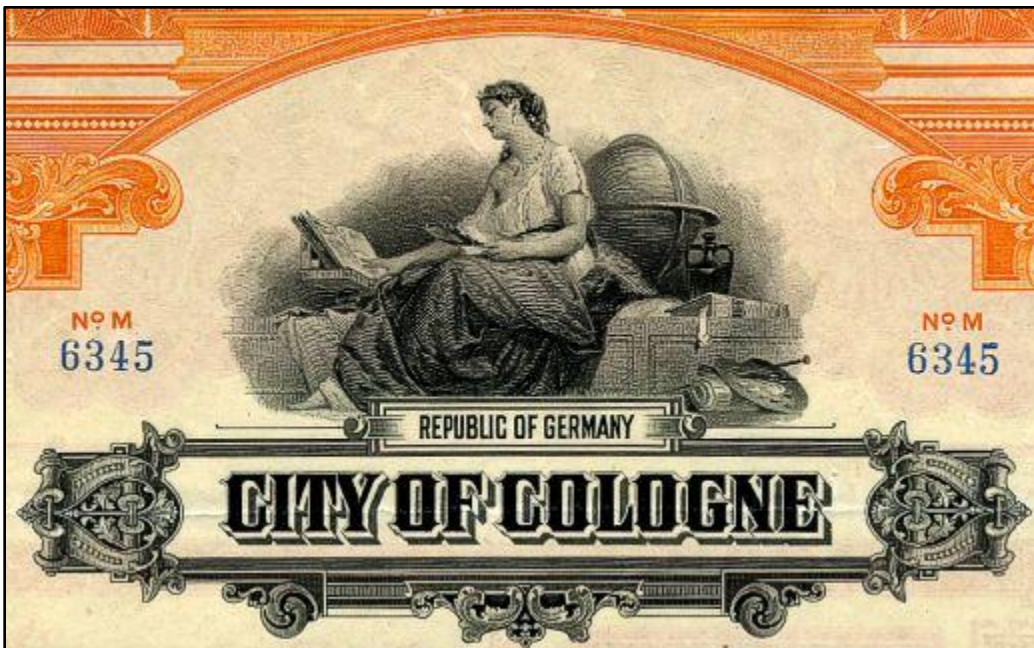


Figure 4 City of Cologne gold bond

“Borrowed Vignette”

Not only does the following pair have the woman facing right instead, but also not printed by ABNC, but rather Hasbrouck Thistle & Co. of New York. Note the general lack of detail on these knock-offs. The stock shown is for Go Publishing of New York, incorporated in 1965. The President of Go Publishing was Robin Leach of the TV show "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" fame. The owner bought 100 shares valued at \$2.00 when purchased.

The other stock not shown is Audubon Park Raceway Company, Inc. of 1956. The owner bought 47 shares for a whopping \$4.70. Audubon Park Raceway in Kentucky began with harness racing in 1955 then changed to Thoroughbred racing. After many ownership changes the track eventually changed its name to Riverside Downs before closing in 2014.



Figure 5 Go Publishing Company stock

ABNC certainly produced many test notes and advertising sheets, including a set of color charts for this vignette. "American Bank Note Company Test Notes, 2022" book just released attributes 3 different varieties of the color charts. The varieties are: ²

- Two numbers (one 31547), and another five digit number. Red "SPECIMEN" above allegorical vignette. These have been observed with notations in pencil at top right with number and color. There have been five recorded (certainly more exist), with the highest notation number shown as "#19 *Orange*".
- One alpha and two digit number with no 31547 or "SPECIMEN" in red. The only one attributed so far is a purple colored chart with "S28". Certainly more must also exist for this type.
- One 2 or 3 digit number, also with no 31547 or "SPECIMEN" in red. This variety has rounded corners at the top and bottom right corners. To date there are four attributed with the largest being 823.

All are fairly large (116x229mm) and catalog from \$175 to \$375.

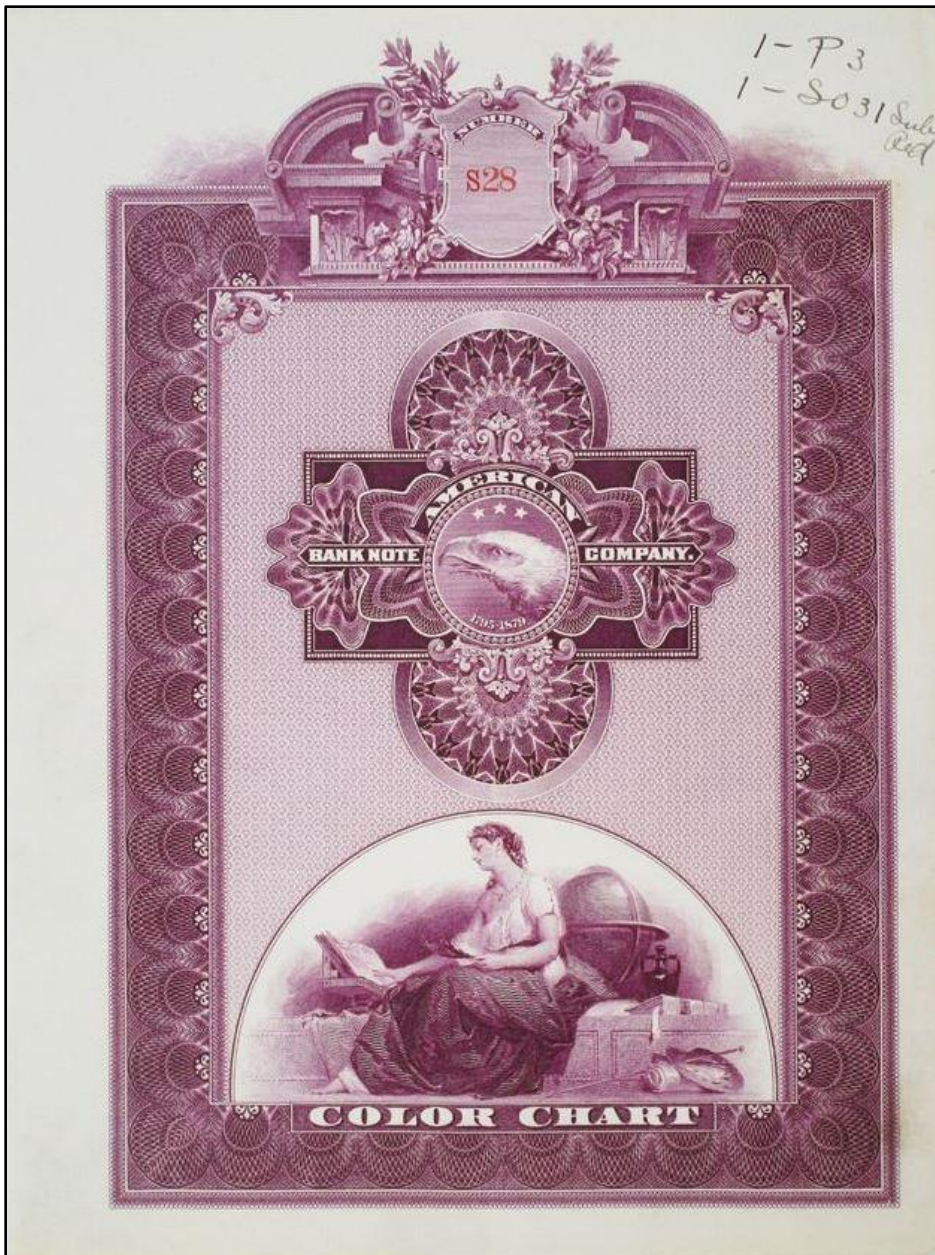


Figure 6 "ABNC Test Notes" ABNC-362

Another advertising piece produced by ABNC is West Shore Railroad 100 Reis, similar to an actual Brazil note. There are two varieties, one with and one without an overprint "0005" and "SPECIMEN".



Figure 7 ABNC-471a²

National Bank Note Company produced test notes with the vignette some years before the merger. There are two known, both advertising notes. They are different only in size (144x245mm and 165x248mm) and one has company information on the reverse while the other is blank. The smaller one with company information on the back (NBNC-101²) last sold for \$235 while the larger reverse blank version (BNNC-102²) sold for \$1500. There is a Spanish use variant of the first type with “vease el dorso” (see the back in English) at the bottom. I believe the price disparity is mostly due to when the sales occurred.

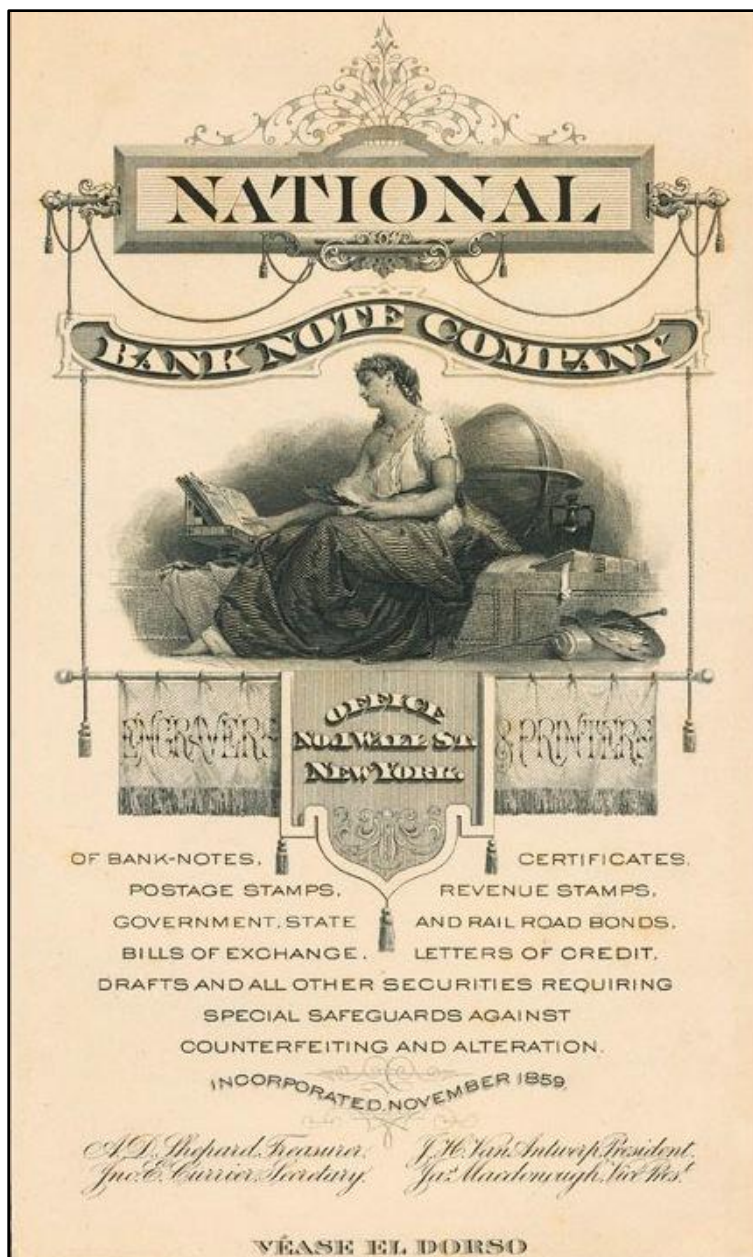


Figure 8 NBNC-101b

Actual bank notes produced utilizing the woman with globe include the following three.

- There are three issues of this note for Puerto Rico, P13 (Specimen & Proof only), P19 (Archive copies only), and P25 (Specimen & Proof only). These all can run well over \$1,000.
- The next notes with the vignette are the Canadian Bank of Commerce for Barbados, 100 Dollars Pick not listed dated 1898 and 20 Dollars P S122³ dated 1922. Pick lists the printer as CBNC. The Bank Note Book⁴ lists the printer as Canadian Bank Note Company. The imprint at the bottom of this uniface proof clearly reads "American Bank Note Company Ottawa". These run even higher than the Puerto Rico notes, whether an issued note or a proof note like the one shown.



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- [Figure 9 Barbados P-S122](#)
- The last note using the allegorical is a 1948 100 Deutsche Mark note from West Germany. Once again, a used version could cost well over \$1,000.

Even though this is the most common “lady with globe” ABNC vignette encountered, it appears this could be a rather expensive multiple types of use set to assemble.

References

- 1 – Mark Tomasko correspondence, April 6, 2022
- 2 - “American Bank Note Company Test Notes, 2022”, Roland Rollins, 2022
- 3 – “Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Specialized Issues”, 12th Edition, George S. Cuhaj, 2013
- 4 – “The Bank Note Book - Barbados”, Owen Linzmayer, March 22, 2022