

Basic Detail Report

Title Engraved Certificate with Allegorical Scene, and One, Three, and Twenty-Five Dollar Banknotes from the Washington Bank of Westerly, Rhode Island

Date before 2000

Medium Sheet (.a): Engraving on wove paper. Sheet (.b): Engraving and aquatint on wove paper.

Description Sheet (.a), an engraved certificate with an allegorical scene, is composed of a top plate and a bottom plate. It is an official document, known as a "Mediterranean Pass," printed for the British Admiralty. At the top is an image consisting of three allegorical figures seated on rocks in the sea. On the left, a woman wearing classical dress and a helmet holds a palm branch and small winged figure of Victory with a laurel wreath and a palm. A second seated woman on the right holds a cornucopia and a caduceus. In the center, a bearded triton supports a framed image of a ship. The upper part of the image, which is cut off, originally included flags. The inscription on the certificate reads, "BY THE COMMISSIONERS FOR EXECUTING THE OFFICE/ OF LORD HIGH ADMIRAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND ETC./ AND OF ALL HIS MAJESTYS PLANTATIONS ETC./ Suffer the Ship [Blank]/ To pass with her Company Passengers Goods and Merchandize/ without any Let, Hindrance Seizure or Molestation The Said/ Ship appearing unto Us by good Testimony to belong to the/ Subjects of His Majesty and to no Foreigner Given under/ Our Hands and the Seal of the Office of the Admiralty, the [blank] day of [blank] in the Year of Our/ Lord One Thousand

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Seven Hundred and [blank]/ To all Persons whom these [blank]/ May Concern...

[additional text cut off at bottom.] Sheet (.b) is composed of a left plate and a right plate. The left plate includes three copies of the three dollar note lettered A, B and C, and one copy of the twenty-five dollar note. The right plate includes four copies of the one dollar note. Each note incorporates a profile bust-length portrait of George Washington, wearing a military uniform and crowned with a laurel wreath, and an aquatint design at the left, presumably because the aquatint design would be impossible for a forger to duplicate.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions: 6 x 11 3/4in. (15.2 x 29.8cm) Plate (total plate height x width of plate A): 14 7/8 x 12 15/16in. (37.8 x 32.9cm) Plate (upper plate height x width of sheet A): 7 5/16 x 12 15/16in. (18.6 x 32.9cm) Plate (lower plate height x width of sheet A): 7 3/8 x 12 15/16in. (18.7 x 32.9cm) Sheet (height x width of sheet B): 15 x 12 7/8in. (38.1 x 32.7cm) Plate (left plate height x width of sheet B): 12 7/8 x 7 7/16in. (32.7 x 18.9cm) Plate (right plate height x width of sheet B): 12 7/8 x 7 5/16in. (32.7 x 18.6cm)