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Cashiers and Presidents

LANCASTER BANK

Cashiers and Years in Office

1833-1835: John Willson

1835-1840: Richard P. Kent

1840-1843: John Willson

1843-1853: George A. Cossitt

Presidents and Years in Office

1833-1836: John H. White

1836-1855: Royal Joyslin

Years of Signature Combinations

Potential Currency Signing Periods

1833-1835: *Cashier:* John Willson • *President:* John H. White

1835-1836: *Cashier:* Richard P. Kent • *President:* John H. White

1835-1840: *Cashier:* Richard P. Kent • *President:* Royal Joyslin

1840-1843: *Cashier:* John Willson • *President:* Royal Joyslin

1843-1853: *Cashier:* George A. Cossitt • *President:* Royal Joyslin

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Description of Currency Designs and Notes Studied

LANCASTER BANK

Numismatic Commentary

Except for a few issues, relatively little is known about the appearance of currency issued by the Lancaster Bank. The great era of detailed descriptions in counterfeit detectors and bank note reporters began in the late 1850s, by which time most bills of this bank had disappeared from circulation, and thus little attention was paid to them—and some publications completely omitted their mention.

It is believed that early issues were mostly if not all of the Perkins Patent Stereotype Steel Plate style with many tiny letters, repeating the denomination, as part of the background, also with the imprint of the New England Bank Note Co., which began business in 1833, the same year that the bank did.

D.C. Wismer, in “Descriptive List of Obsolete Paper Money,” *The Numismatist*, May 1928, listed \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10 with bank note reporter descriptions, but gave no illustrations. James A. Haxby’s magisterial *Standard Catalog* (1988) lists denominations from \$1 to \$1000, with descriptions from bank note reporters. Only one genuine bill is illustrated, a \$1 printed by the New England Bank Note Co., central motif of standard figures, and with the bank signatures of Cossitt and Joyslin. Two spurious notes are shown by Haxby, one altered from the Lancaster Bank of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which at one time must have had bills even more worthless than those of its New Hampshire namesake!

As of the early 20th century, the American Bank Note Co. had an original \$10 printing plate for this bank.¹ One might imagine that if it is ever used to make “modern proofs” collectors would be delighted to have an opportunity obtain an impression from this otherwise virtually “impossible” bank.

\$1 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$1 Lancaster Bank • {Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$001-35} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Left:* 1 / Woman wearing a bonnet. / ONE • *Center top:* Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle and rake, with machinery and merchandise to left and right, harbor and factories in distance. “1 / panel outlining white ONE” [Haxby]. • *Right:* 1 / Ship. / ONE • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston. •••• *Citations:* • Haxby-NH-155-G-4

None seen or reported

\$1 Lancaster Bank • {Two blacksmiths at anvil} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$001-55} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Upper left:* ONE • *Center left:* Medal-lathe head of Washington from Houdon’s bust. • *Bottom left:* ONE • *Center top:* 1 [large, extends downward] / two blacksmiths, one to the left, the other to the right, cutting iron on an anvil at the center. / 1 [large, extends downward] • *Center to bottom:* LANCASTER BANK / ONE DOLLAR / LANCASTER • *Upper right:* ONE • *Center right:* Portrait of female in ellipse • *Lower right:* ONE • *Plate:* Cc • *Note:* It seems logical that plates with this design with letters besides C (or Cc) may have been made. • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston. •••• *Citations:* [1858-03 • Hodges’ *New Bank Note Safe-Guard*] • Haxby-NH-155-G-8.

Note(s) studied or reported:

Date not clear, c. late 1840s • **1127** (bank serial) • *Cashier:* G.A. Cossitt • *President:* R. Joyslin • *Grace:* Good, two corners missing, twice stamped WORTHLESS. • [*Credit:* Haxby plate]

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\$2 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$2 Lancaster Bank • {Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$002-35} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Left:* 1 / Woman standing with cornucopia at left / 2 • *Center top:* Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle and rake, with machinery and merchandise to left and right, harbor and factories in distance. Drop-out white TWO • *Right:* 2 / Half-length portrait of woman wearing a hat. Trees in background. / TWO • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston. •••• *Citations:* • Haxby-NH-155-G-12.

¹ Peter Huntoon information to authors.

None seen or reported

\$2 Lancaster Bank • {Standing female and two reclining men} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$002-45} •
Description adapted from printed sources: *Left:* TWO / Half-length portrait of female with left hand on cheek, in rectangle with scalloped corners / 2 • *Center:* Large 2 / Woman standing, giving drink to one of two reclining men / Large 2 • *Right:* TWO / Portrait of woman reaper, in rectangle with scalloped corners [alternatively, or another variety, with female portrait, with 2 below, cf. Hodges] •••• **Haxby** NH- 155-G-16

None seen or reported

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\$3 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$3 Lancaster Bank • {Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$003-35}• *Description adapted from printed sources:* • *Left:* THREE / In ellipse, farmer standing, sharpening scythe / 3 over THREE • *Center top:* Goddess Ceres seated, holding sickle and rake, with machinery and merchandise to left and right, harbor and factories in distance; 3 and panel with drop-out 3 • *Right:* 3 on THREE / Two reapers / 3 on THREE • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston. •••• *Citations:* • Haxby-NH-155-G-20

None seen or reported

\$3 Lancaster Bank • {Seated woman placing garland on eagle} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$003-55} •
Description adapted from printed sources: *Left:* THREE / In ellipse, farmer standing, sharpening scythe / 3 on THREE • *Center top:* Large 3 / Seated female placing garland on an eagle at right; 3 and large drop out white THREE • *Right:* THREE / In ellipse, sailor standing on wharf holding hat in his right hand / 3 on THREE • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston •••• *Citations:* [1858-03 • Hodges' New Bank Note Safe-Guard] •••• **Haxby** NH- 155-G-24.

None seen or reported

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\$5 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$5 Lancaster Bank • {Mercury standing with hand on ellipse with 5} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$005-35} •
Description adapted from printed sources: *Left:* 5 / Blacksmith at anvil, right air raised / FIVE • *Center:* Mercury standing with right hand on an ellipse with 5, and with cornucopia and merchandise. Factories and ship in distance. V and panel with drop out white 5 • *Right:* 5 / Ceres kneeling / FIVE. • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co., Boston. •••• *Citations:* • Haxby-NH-155-G-28.

None seen or reported

\$5 Lancaster Bank • {Two women reclining on shield with number 5} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$005-45} •
Description adapted from printed sources: *Left:* 5 / Female • *Center top:* 5; Two females reclining on a shield, on which is figure 5 • *Center bottom:* Washington • *Right:* FIVE [vertical] • *Imprint:* Rawdon, Wright & Hatch [cf. Haxby] •••• *Citations:* [1858-03 • Hodges' New Bank Note Safe-Guard] •••• **Haxby** NH- 155-G- 28.

None seen or reported

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\$10 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$10 Lancaster Bank • {unknown} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$010-35} • *Description unknown.* • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co. [cf. Haxby] •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-36.

None seen or reported

\$10 Lancaster Bank • {Man with staff} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$010-45} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Left:* 10 • *Center top:* X Man with spear or staff X • *Center middle:* Inscription. • *Center bottom:* Cupid on deer • *Right:* X / Milkmaid standing / 10 • *Imprint:* Rawdon, Wright & Hatch [cf. Haxby] •••• *Citations:* [1858-03 • *Hodges' New Bank Note Safe-Guard*] •••• **Haxby** NH- 155-G-40.

None seen or reported

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\$20 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$20 Lancaster Bank • {Three women seated with eagle} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$020-45} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Left:* z • *Center top:* z • *Right:* z • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co. •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-44

None seen or reported

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\$50 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$50 Lancaster Bank • {Farm scene with load of hay} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$050-45} • Description adapted from printed sources: • *Left:* z • *Center top:* z • *Right:* z • *Imprint:* New England Bank Note Co. •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-48

None seen or reported

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\$100 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$100 Lancaster Bank • {unknown} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$100-45} • Description unknown. • Imprint: New England Bank Note Co. •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-52

None seen or reported

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\$500 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$500 Lancaster Bank • {unknown} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$500-45} • Description unknown. • Imprint: New England Bank Note Co. •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-56

None seen or reported

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\$1000 Notes • Lancaster Bank

\$1000 Lancaster Bank • {unknown} • {B&S summary: NH, Lancaster-LB • \$1000-45} • Description unknown. • Imprint: New England Bank Note Co. •••• *Citations:* Haxby NH-155-G-60

None seen or reported

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