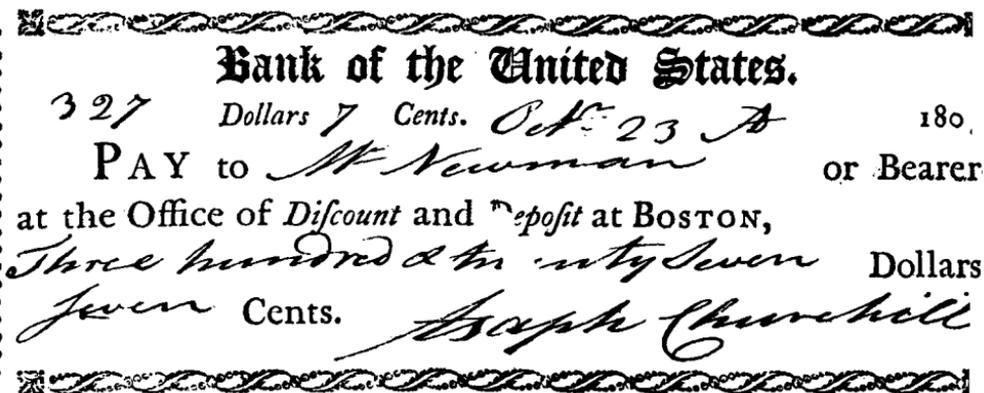


Some Early Bank Checks

A small bundle of miscellaneous bits of old business material has recently come to the Baker Library through the courtesy of Dr. Frank S. Churchill of Bass River, Massachusetts. The bundle contained a number of canceled checks drawn on the first Bank of the United States by Asaph Churchill, a small business man of Milton. These checks—one of which is herewith reproduced—make an interesting contrast with the present-day personal bank check.



Note that they were made out to a person named or bearer, payable at the Boston branch of the Bank of the United States. Drawing a check payable to bearer, an old English practice, made it possible for the check to circulate. The checks were not endorsed on the receipt of payment, and they presumably remained in the possession of the Bank. This, too, was English practice. Do the two holes punched in the checks indicate payment by the Bank?