

Stamp Act of 1765

All legal documents as well as other printed material must have a stamp that could be purchased from a special Stamp Agent. For example:

£1 or pound = 20 shillings (s)

1 shilling (s) = 12 pence (d)

£1 = 240 pence (d)

- Note: £1 is approximately \$283 today

Court documents -----from 3d to 2s

Diplomas ----- £2 Stamp

Attorney's license ----- £10 Stamp

Shipping papers ----- 4d

Liquor license ----- 20s

Wills ----- 5s

Appraised Land Deed ----- from 6d – 5s

Contracts (such as a lease, bill of sale, apprenticeship agreement)--- 2s, 6d

Playing cards ----- 1s

Pair of dice ----- 10s

Shorter pamphlet or newspaper ----- 1/2d or 1d

Longer pamphlet or newspaper ----- 1s/ whole sheet of paper used in the folding process

Newspaper advertisement --- 2s

Almanac/calendar ----- from 2-4d

Those who did not pay the tax would be tried in a Vice-Admiralty courts where there were no jury trials, something which was considered a basic right of every English citizen (Savelle and Middlekauff, 1964, p. 510).

Grenville predicted it would raise £60,000 per year (Divine et al. 2002, p. 150-151). This is about one fifth of the total costs of civil and military administration of North America (Savelle and Middlekauff, 1964, p. 503).

The Stamp Act, 1765, 5 Geo. 3, c. 12, in *Statutes at Large*, vol. 15, edited by Danby Pickering (Cambridge: University Press, 1765), 463-466.

Savelle, Max and Robert Middlekauff. *A History of Colonial America*. Revised ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.