



Issue of 1912-14

Perforated 12

Single-line Watermark



Double-line Watermark



The portrait of Benjamin Franklin was featured on the entire set of this issue. The 50¢ denomination appeared with both types of watermark.



Issue of 1914-15
Perforated 10
Single-line Watermark



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



The portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were again used as the prominent part of the design on this issue. The larger-holed perforation 10 was placed in use to prevent sheets from falling apart due to the fineness of the perforation 12.



Issue of 1914

Coil Stamps, Flat Plate Printing
Perforated 10 Horizontally
Single-line Watermark



441

Perforated 10 Vertically



443

447

Issue of 1914-16

Coil Stamps, Rotary Press
Perforated 10 Vertically



455

453

456

458

Perforated 10 Horizontally



454

With the coil issue of 1914-16 a rotary press was used for the first time in printing United States stamps. Rotary press stamps are printed from curved plates and are therefore slightly larger either vertically or horizontally than flat plate printings. This process of printing enabled the Bureau to produce stamps more quickly.



Issue of 1916-17

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 10, Unwatermarked



The stamps of this series were a repeat of previous issues but with differences discernible only to stamp collectors. They were printed on unwatermarked paper and the \$2 and \$5 values were previously issued perforated 12. One of the most spectacular errors occurred in the printing of this series. Sheets of the 2¢ value were found with one stamp being of the 5¢ denomination. This was found on the lower right sheet of plate number 7942. On the Upper left sheet of plate number 7942 a double error was found. These errors continued to appear in later printings of the 2¢ stamp imperforate and perforated 11 and are greatly desired by stamp collectors.



Issue of 1916-17

Flate Plate Printing
Imperforate
Unwatermarked



SHERMACK III

483

484

Issue of 1916-22

Rotary Press Printing
Coils Perforated 10 Horizontally
Unwatermarked



488

487C

Perforated 10 Vertically



494

493

493





Issue of 1917-19

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11

Unwatermarked



501

502



The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was still trying to find a more suitable size of perforation. Perforation 12 was found to be too fragile and perforation, 10 was too strong, causing damage to stamps during separation. To remedy these defects perforation 11 was used for this series.



1919
PERFORATED
12 1/2



536

Issue of 1918-20

Offset Printing

Perforated 11

Perforated 11

Perforated 11

Perforated 11



525

526

527

528

528A

528B

529

530

Imperforate



531

532

533

534

534A

534B

535

The Bureau again experimenting tried with the 1918-20 issues to use the offset method of printing (a type of lithography). It was not successful and was soon discontinued.

Issue of 1919-21

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10



538



540



541

Perforated 10 x 11

Perforated 10

Perforated 11

Perforated 11



542



543



545



546

Stamps which were originally intended to be issued in coil form but were later perforated fully are known as coil waste, and some of the above issues were created in this manner.



Issue of 1922-26

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11



Nathan Hale



Benjamin Franklin



Warren G. Harding



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Martha Washington



Theodore Roosevelt



James A. Garfield



William McKinley



Ulysses S. Grant



Thomas Jefferson



James Monroe



Rutherford B. Hayes



Grover Cleveland



Benjamin Harrison



American Indian



Issue of 1922-26

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11



Woodrow Wilson



Statue of Liberty



Golden Gate



Niagara Falls



Bison



Arlington Amphitheatre



Lincoln Memorial



U. S. Capitol



America

Imperforate



Benjamin Franklin



Warren G. Harding



George Washington

With this issue an entirely new series was made available to the American public. It featured presidents, famous Americans, and pictures of the American scene.



Issue of 1923-26

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10

11&11



578



579



585

Perforated 10



The same designs used in the previous issue were used for this printing. In order to overcome the tendency of Rotary Press stamps to curl, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used gum breaker bars. These bars which are colorless, raised, impressions may be seen on the gummed side of mint rotary press stamps.



Issue of 1926-34

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½



634a

634A

634b





Issue of 1926-34

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½

Perforated 10½ x 11



Perforated 10½ x 11



Perforated 10½ x 11



After much experimentation the Bureau of Engraving and Printing decided that the 11 by 10½ perforation was the most suitable for the rotary press printed stamps and is still in use.

Issue of 1926

Rotary Press Printing

Imperforate



Issue of 1930-32

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½



Warren G. Harding



George Washington



William Howard Taft

Following the death of President William Howard Taft the Post Office Department issued a new 4-cent stamp bearing his likeness.



Rotary Press Coils of 1923-32

1923-29

Perforated 10 Vertically



599A



1923-25

Perforated 10 Horizontally



1930-32

Perforated 10

Vertically



Vertically



Horizontally



Vertically





Issue of 1929

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

PERFORATED 11 x 10½

OVERPRINTED KANS.



OVERPRINTED KANS.



OVERPRINTED NEBR.



OVERPRINTED NEBR.



To prevent losses from Post Office burglaries in the mid-west the rotary press issue of 1926 was overprinted Kans. (for use in Kansas) and Nebr. (for use in Nebraska). The overprint was intended to prevent the sale of stolen stamps in other states and to make attempts of disposal difficult. The experiment was discontinued after a short trial period and for that reason the issue is a prized collectors item.



Columbian Exposition

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 1893



2c



Columbus in Sight of Land



Landing of Columbus



Flagship of Columbus



Fleet of Columbus



Soliciting Aid from Isabella



Welcomed at Barcelona



Columbus Restored to Favor



Columbus Presenting Natives



Announcing His Discovery

PLACED on sale at Post Offices throughout the nation on Monday, January 2, 1893, the Columbian series of postage stamps commemorated the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492. The eight cent stamp was not originally planned with the series and was not issued until March 3, 1893.



Columbian Exposition

(Continued)



Columbus at La Rabida



Recall of Columbus



Isabella Pledging Her Jewels



Columbus in Chains



Describing His Third Voyage



Isabella and Columbus



Christopher Columbus



Trans-Mississippi Exposition

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, 1898



Marquette on the Mississippi



Farming in the West



Indian Hunting Buffalo



Fremont on the Rocky Mountains



Troops guarding Train



Hardships of Emigration



Western Mining Prospector



Western Cattle in Storm



Mississippi River Bridge

ISSUED in connection with the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898, the series was placed on sale June 10th and discontinued on December 31, 1898. The designs, many of which are considered to be among the world's most beautiful postage stamps, show the development of the great mid-west.