

★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

FIRST REGULAR ISSUE

1847

ISSUES FROM HERE TO 1894 ARE ON UNWATERMARKED PAPER



Benjamin Franklin

Imperf.



George Washington

The first general issue of United States postage stamps was authorized by the Act of Congress, March 3, 1847. The Act read, in part, as follows: "... that to facilitate the transportation of letters by mail, the Postmaster-General be authorized to prepare postage stamps, which, when attached to any letter or packet, shall be evidence of prepayment of the postage chargeable on such letter . . ." The Act took effect July 1, 1847 and from that date on the use of any postage stamps not authorized by the Postmaster-General became illegal.

ISSUES OF 1851-57

Imperf.



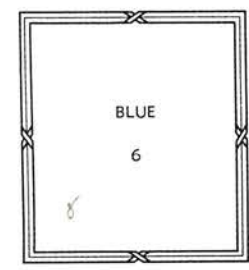
Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin

Population growth and expansion of the postal service called for additional denominations of postage stamps. A contract was awarded to Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. to produce a new series 1c, 3c, 5c, 10c and 12c stamps. There are six major varieties of 1c stamps . . . variations to be found in the ornamental scrolls and in the panels for "U.S. Postage" and "One Cent." The stamps were all imperforate.

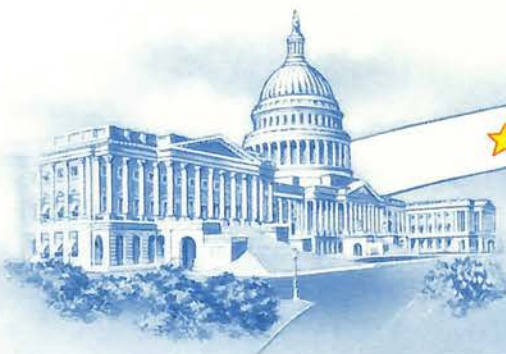


Benjamin Franklin

MADE IN U.S.A.

S 220

Walters



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1851-57



Washington



Washington



Thomas Jefferson



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

The 3c stamps feature an outer frame line at top and bottom. There are four varieties of the 10c denomination . . . the first shows the lower ornaments almost complete, the second shows the design complete at the top, but at the bottom the ornaments are broken. The third variety shows all the outer lines at the top broken away, but appears the same as the second one at the bottom. In the fourth variety there appears to be recuts at the top or bottom and in some cases in both places.

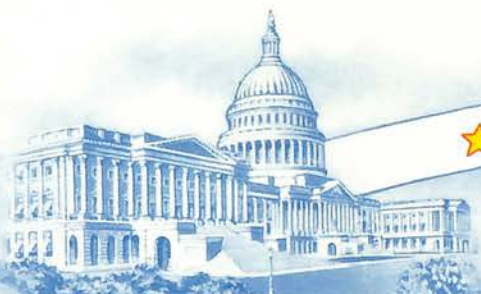


Washington

MADE IN U.S.A.

B-120

Whitely



★ UNITED STATES

★ POSTAGE ★

SERIES OF 1857-61

Perf. 15



Washington



Washington



Washington

While this series consisted of only eight denominations, there were seven varieties of the 1c, two varieties of the 3c, six varieties of the 5c and five varieties of the 10c. Some are color varieties; others are varieties of the border ornamentations.



Washington



Washington



Washington



Franklin



Washington

MADE IN U.S.A.

9 220

Walter



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1861-62

Perf. 12 - SECOND DESIGNS



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Jefferson



Washington



Washington



Washington



Franklin



Washington

The contract for the manufacture of postage stamps having expired on June 10, 1861, a new one was entered into with the National Bank Note Company of New York, upon terms very advantageous to the Department, which resulted in an annual savings of more than thirty percent in the cost of the stamps. In order to prevent the fraudulent use of the large quantity of stamps remaining unaccounted for, in the hands of postmasters in the disloyal states, it was deemed advisable to change the designs and color of those manufactured under the new contract. Distribution of the new stamps was begun August 15, 1861.

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-12-20

WALTERS

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-220

Wiegman



★ UNITED STATES ★ ★ POSTAGE ★

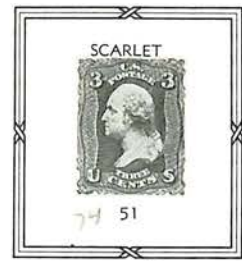
ISSUES OF 1861-66

Perf. 12



Andrew Jackson

Engraved by National Bank Note Company, the designs are the same as those for the 1861 issue, except that the 2c and 15c are newcomers in both denominations and portraits. Stamps are perforated 12.



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



Thomas Jefferson



Abraham Lincoln

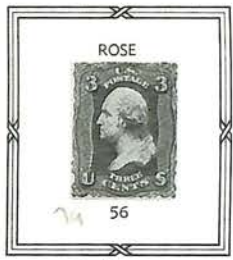


George Washington



ISSUES OF 1867

GRILL WITH POINTS UP



Washington



Jefferson



Franklin

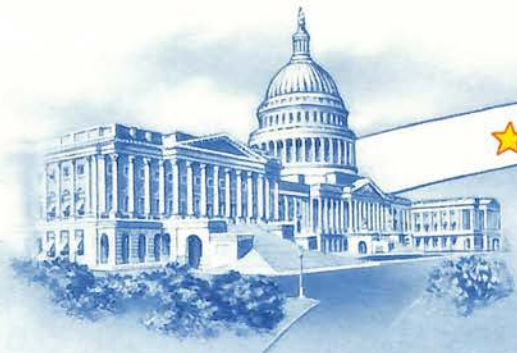


Washington



Washington

The issues from 1867 to 1870 bear a grill or embossing. The purpose was to break the tiny fibres of the paper to permit the ink of the cancellation to soak in and make it impossible to wash the cancellations. There are many sizes of grills found on the stamps. Some bear grills covering the entire stamp as is the case with numbers 56 to 58. Number 59 comes with grill about 18 x 15 mm. while number 60 measures about 13 x 16 mm.



★ UNITED

STATES

★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1867

GRILL WITH POINTS DOWN — Grill about 12 x 14 mm.

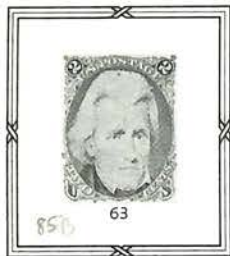


Andrew Jackson



George Washington

Grill about 11 x 14 mm.



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



George Washington

Grill about 11 x 13 mm.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson

There are design duplications on the stamps to be mounted on this page. The only difference is in the measurements of the grills. The millimeter sizes are shown above each group.

Rollers with the surface covered by pyramidal bosses were used to apply the grill to all of the stamps on this page. All are grilled with points down.



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln

MADE IN U.S.A.

B-220

Walter's



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1867

Grill about 9 x 13 mm.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington

MADE IN U.S.A.

6-270

W. B. Nichols



★ UNITED STATES ★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1869

Grill measuring 9½ x 9½ mm.



Benjamin Franklin



Post Horse and Rider



Locomotive



George Washington



Shield and Eagle



S. S. Adriatic



Landing of Columbus



Landing of Columbus



Declaration of Independence



Shield, Eagle and Flags



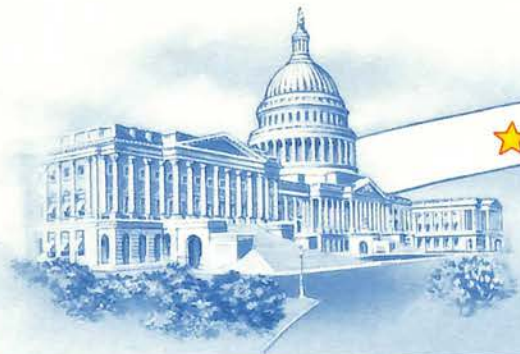
Abraham Lincoln

Beginning in March, 1869, a new pictorial series of postage stamps was released. While some class it as a commemorative issue because of the subject matter, it was a regular issue replacing the previous one then in use. There were two varieties of the 15c denomination . . . the first one, released April 2, 1869, shows the picture unframed. The second version, released May 23, 1869, shows the picture framed. The series was engraved by the National Bank Note Company.

MADE IN U.S.A.

9 220

Whitman



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1870-71

Perf. 12 — With Grill



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-220

Walters



★ UNITED STATES ★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1870-71

Perf. 12 — Without Grill



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton

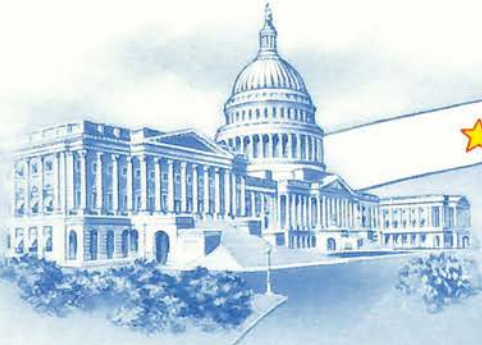


Commodore O. H. Perry

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-240

Whitman



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

SERIES OF 1873

Printed by the Continental Bank Note Company
Perf. 12 with Secret Marks



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-270

Whitely's



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

ISSUES OF 1875



Andrew Jackson



Zachary Taylor

ISSUES OF 1879

Same as 1870-75 Issues — Soft Porous Paper



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson



Thomas Jefferson



Daniel Webster



Alexander Hamilton



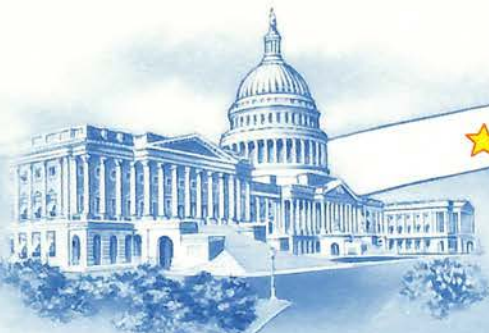
Commodore O. H. Perry

The business of Continental Bank Note Company was taken over by the American Bank Note Company on February 4, 1879 and along with it come stamp printing contracts held by Continental. American Bank Note printings were generally on soft paper.

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-2-20

W. H. R.



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

MADE IN U.S.A.

ISSUE OF 1882



James A. Garfield

SERIES OF 1873 RE-ENGRAVED

Printed by the American Bank Note Company — Perf. 12

1881-82



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson

1883



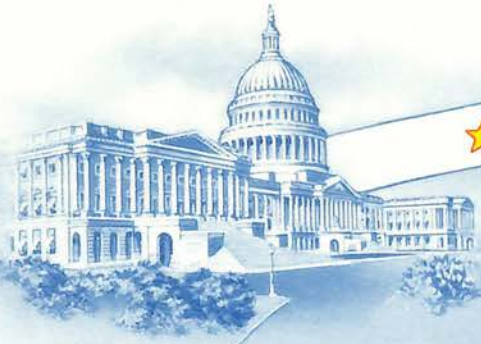
George Washington



Andrew Jackson

8-220





★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

1883

Soft Porous Paper



George Washington



Andrew Jackson

ISSUES OF 1887

Printed by the American Bank Note Company

Perf. 12



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



James A. Garfield



Alexander Hamilton



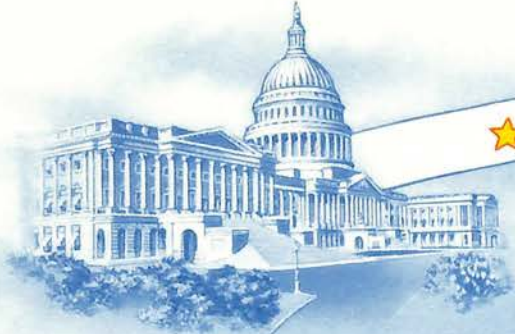
Commodore O. H. Perry

While this group was issued over a period of six years, we have placed them together on the one page as one series.

MADE IN U.S.A.

S-120

Walters



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

SERIES OF 1890-93

Printed by the American Bank Note Company



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



William T. Sherman



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



Commodore O. H. Perry

The series of 1890 was the first to be prepared in the smaller size which was to become the standard size for many years to come. Note that the 1890 series is without triangles in the upper corners. The next change in designs came when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began printing the stamps.

MADE IN U.S.A.

8-220

Wells Fargo



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

SERIES OF 1894

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Issues



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



William T. Sherman



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



Commodore O. H. Perry



Commodore O. H. Perry



James Madison



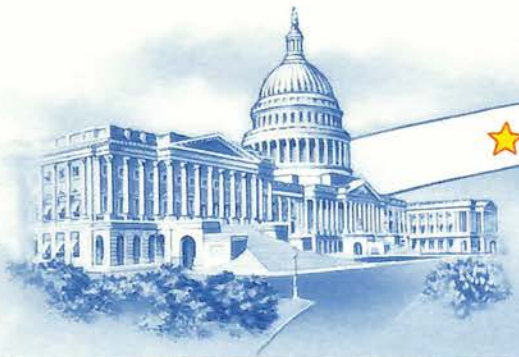
John Marshall

The issue of 1894 was the first series of postage stamps to be printed at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. The general designs of the 1890 series were retained, but triangles were added to the corners of the stamps to make it easy to distinguish the work of the Bureau.

MADE IN U.S.A.

S. 220

Whitely



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

SERIES OF 1895

Watermarked in DOUBLE-LINED Capitals — USPS



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



William T. Sherman



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



Perry



Perry



James Madison



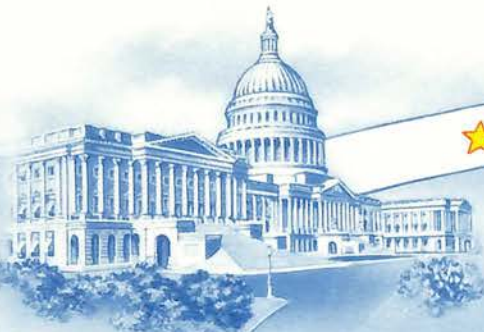
John Marshall

In 1895 the Bureau of Printing and Engraving decided to print our stamps on watermarked paper. The watermark consists of Roman style double outlined capital letters — U S P S. This stands for UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE and the letters appear 90 times on a sheet of 100 stamps. The change to watermarked paper was brought about to further protect our stamps from forgery.

MADE IN U.S.A.

8-270

Walters



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

1891-93



Denomination in Oval



Denomination in Oval

During 1891 to 1893, colors were again changed from red brown to bright claret. Some imperforate varieties exist, but they were not regularly issued.



Denomination in Oval

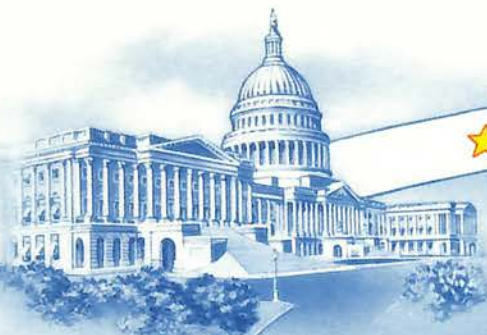


Denomination in Oval

MADE IN U.S.A.

B-1290

Walters



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

OFFICIAL ISSUES

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
1873



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



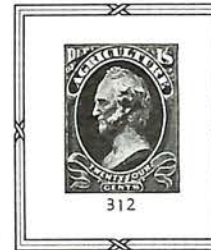
Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



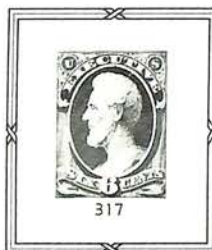
Franklin



Jackson



Washington



Lincoln

As of July 1, 1873, the franking privilege was abolished and the Postmaster General, as required by law, provided a series of stamps of special design for each of the departments of government for prepayment of postage on official matter.



Jefferson

MADE IN U.S.A.

9-220

Wells Fargo



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

OFFICIAL ISSUES

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

1873



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



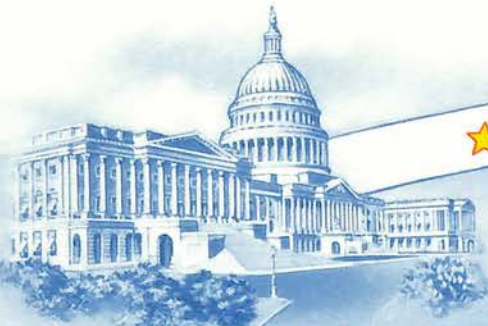
General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry



★ UNITED

STATES

★ POSTAGE ★

OFFICIAL ISSUES

NAVY DEPARTMENT



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington

1873



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT



Denomination in Oval

MADE IN U.S.A.

8-220





★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

OFFICIAL ISSUES

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
1873



Denomination in Oval

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Practically all official stamps are known to exist imperforate, but little is known of their history.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



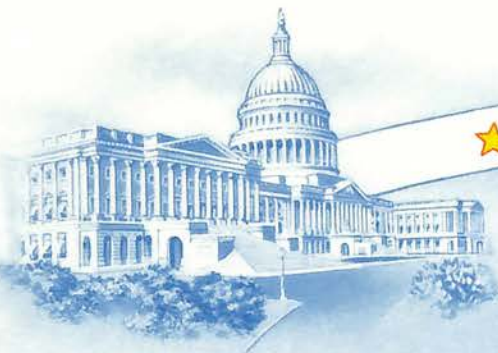
General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry



★ UNITED STATES ★
★ POSTAGE ★

OFFICIAL
ISSUES

STATE DEPARTMENT

1873



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry



Seward



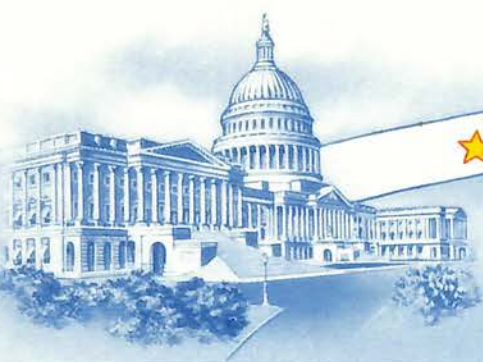
Seward



MADE IN U.S.A.

S-220





UNITED

STATES



POSTAGE



OFFICIAL ISSUES

WAR DEPARTMENT

1873



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay

Official stamps were later replaced (May 1, 1879) in favor of penalty envelopes and on July 5, 1884, were declared obsolete.



Daniel Webster



General Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore O. H. Perry

MADE IN U.S.A.

5-220

Whitely