



### Issue of 1847

Imperforate

Printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington

On July 1, 1847 the first official United States stamps were issued featuring the portraits of our first postmaster and our first president. The 5¢ value paid for postal service up to a distance of 300 miles, and the 10¢ value paid for service beyond this point. These stamps were issued imperforate (unperforated) and had to be cut apart with scissors. The adoption of adhesive stamps paved the way to the remarkable development of the postal system of today.

### Issue of 1851-57

Imperforate

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



The rapid expansion and popularity of the postal service soon made a greater flexibility in rates and necessity. Lower rates for all distances was deemed advisable and in 1851 a new set of stamps was issued for this purpose. If pre-paid, a 3¢ stamp was sufficient to cover charges up to a distance of 3,000 miles. 5¢ was required if not pre-paid. Beyond this point the rate was six or ten cents. 24¢, 30¢, and 90¢ values are known but it is believed that they were not regularly issued.





### Issue of 1857-61

Perforated 15

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter & Co.



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



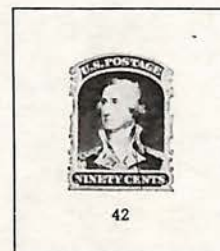
38, 39



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington

This issue marked a great milestone in postal progress. Due to the pressing need for a faster method of dispensing stamps to the public the stamps were machine perforated so that instead of being cut apart by scissors stamps were now easily and quickly separated. This set employed the same designs as the previous issue. The 24¢, 30¢, and 90¢ values were now regularly issued.





# Issue of 1861-66

PERFORATED 12

PRINTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.



43

Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



47-49

Thomas Jefferson



50, 51

George Washington



52

George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



George Washington



57

Benjamin Franklin



58

George Washington

UPON the outbreak of war between the states in 1861, the postal authorities found it necessary to demonitize all of the United States stamps in order to prevent usage by the Confederate States. The issue of 1861 was created as a replacement. During the war, due to the scarcity of metal coins, these stamps were used as small change.



## Issue of 1869

PERFORATED 12

PRINTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.

GRILLED



86

Benjamin Franklin



87

Pony Express Rider



88

Locomotive



89

George Washington



90

Eagle and Shield



91

S. S. Adriatic



92, 93

Landing of Columbus



94

Declaration of Independence



Eagle, Shield and Flags



96

Abraham Lincoln

132

THE first pictorial issue of the United States was introduced in 1869 and is still considered one of our most beautifully engraved issues. The 15¢, 24¢ and the 30¢ values exist with the center inverted and are very scarce.





## Issue of 1870-71

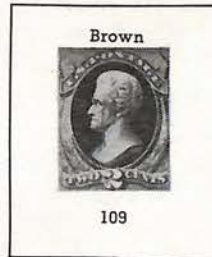
Perforated 12

Printed by the National Bank Note Co.

Without Grill



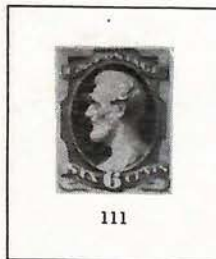
Benjamin Franklin



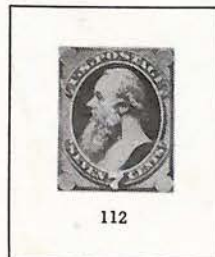
Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



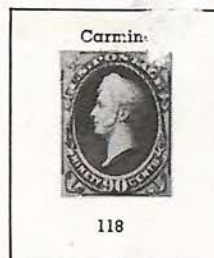
Daniel Webster



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore Oliver Perry

**T**HIS series of stamps could well be termed the first famous American set since it featured the portraits of our great leaders. This set is found both with and without the grill.





## Issue of 1873

PERFORATED 12

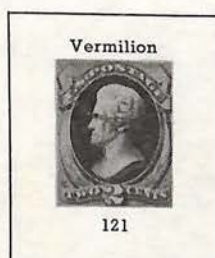
PRINTED BY THE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE CO.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Zachary Taylor



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore Oliver Perry

164P3/4

**T**HE CONTINENTAL BANK NOTE COMPANY was awarded the contract to continue producing this series of postage stamps. To identify its product from that of its predecessor (the National Bank Note Company) secret marks were added to the retained designs through the 15¢ denomination. The 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ values can only be distinguished by the shades. These secret marks are illustrated below:



Franklin. Dash of color added in pearl left of 1



Jackson. Closed outline of ornament left of U.S.



Washington. Shading under upper ribbon under THREE heavier.



Lincoln. First 4 vertical lines of left ribbon heavier.



Stanton. Semi-circles added in ball at lower left.



Jefferson. Crescent added in scroll ornament.



Clay. Balls in 2 crescent shaped.



Webster. Worn lines of shading in triangles and below U.S. Postage.





## Issue of 1879-1888

PERFORATED 12

SOFT POROUS PAPER

PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



George Washington



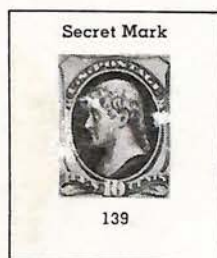
Zachary Taylor



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson



Thomas Jefferson



Daniel Webster



Alexander Hamilton



Alexander Hamilton



Commodore Oliver Perry



Commodore Oliver Perry

THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, having consolidated itself with the Continental Bank Note Company printed this series. Added interest for the collector is found in this issue because of the soft, porous paper used in contrast to the hard, snappy, translucent paper of the previous issues.





### Issue of 1881-82

Perforated 12

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Thomas Jefferson

**D**ESIGNS of the 1881-1882 series at first glance appear to be a replica of the previous issue. Closer inspection will reveal a denser appearance in design which was due to the re-engraving of the plates. The characteristics of the recutting are shown:



- 1¢ - Lines of shading have been added to the upper arabesques, and vertical lines in the upper portion of the stamp have been deepened.
- 3¢ - About 1mm. below the "ts" of cents a short horizontal dash has been etched. The width of the shading at the side of the central oval has been reduced.

- 6¢ - Three lines can be counted from the edge of the panel to the outside of the stamp. Before re-engraving four lines were present.
- 10¢ - Four lines can be counted between the left side of the oval and the edge of the shield. Before re-engraving five lines could be counted.

### Issue of 1882-1888

Perforated 12

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Andrew Jackson



James A. Garfield



James A. Garfield

**C**OLOR and design changes feature these issues. The widow of President Garfield did not approve of the stamp issued in his memory and therefore the color was changed from brown to indigo.





### Issue of 1890-93

Perforated 12

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.



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 Perry

**T**HIS series of postage stamps was produced in the reduced size that is still used for regular issues and occasionally used for commemoratives. It features the portraits of several presidents, statesmen, and military heroes. The 2¢ value was originally issued in the lake shade but was changed to carmine on March 12, 1890.





## Issue of 1894-1895

Perforated 12

Printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Unwatermarked



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



William T. Sherman



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



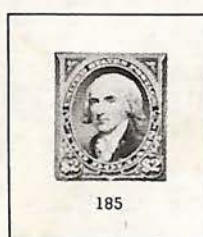
Thomas Jefferson



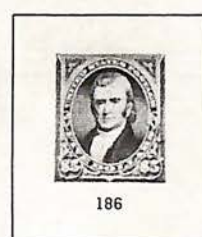
Commodore Perry



Commodore Perry



James Monroe



John Marshall

With this issue the task of printing United States postage stamps was turned over to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington, D.C. This new postage series was similar in design to the issue of 1890-93 but small ornamental triangles were added to the upper corners. One, two and five dollar denominations were added.

Three Types of the 2¢ Triangles  
Are Herewith Illustrated:



type 1



type 2



type 3

Two Types of the \$1.00 Circles  
Are Herewith Illustrated:



type 1



type 2



*Issue of 1895-98*

Perforated 12  
Double-line Watermark



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



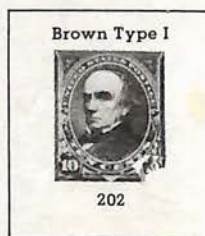
William T. Sherman





## Issue of 1895-98

Perforated 12  
Double-line Watermark



Daniel Webster



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



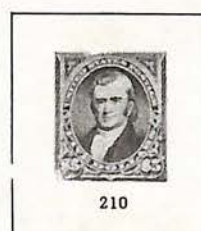
Commodore Perry



Commodore Perry

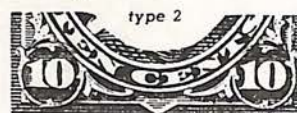


James Madison



John Marshall

Two types of the 10¢ stamp are distinguished as illustrated:

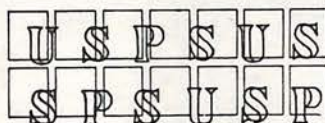


Type II

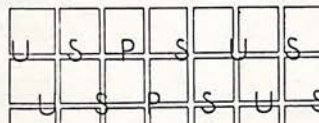
A line of color appears in the white curve below "TS" of cents and "E" of Ten.

In printing this new issue watermarked paper was used for the first time on stamps intended for postage purposes. Watermarking had been used previously for revenue stamps and postcards. The watermark consisted of Double-line letters "U S P S" so distributed that each stamp on the sheet shows at least a part of the watermarking, as illustrated below.

In 1910 a single-line watermark was used for the first time by the Bureau.



Double-line



Single-line





## Issue of 1902-03

PERFORATED 12

DOUBLE-LINE WATERMARK



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Ulysses S. Grant



Abraham Lincoln



James A. Garfield



Martha Washington



Daniel Webster



Benjamin Harrison



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



David G. Farragut



James Madison



John Marshall

## Issue of 1906-08

IMPERFORATE



Benjamin Franklin



Abraham Lincoln

## Issue of 1903-06

PERFORATED 12

IMPERFORATE



George Washington



George Washington

**T**HIS series of postage stamps featured elaborately engraved framed designs with the name of the person and the years of birth and death on each stamp directly under each portrait. For the first time in United States postal history an American woman, Martha Washington, graced a stamp, the 8¢ value.





## Issue of 1908-17

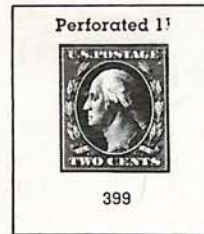
Perforated 12  
Double-line Watermark



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



399



239



241



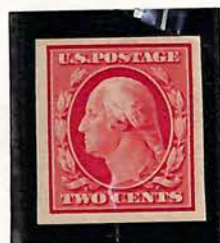
242



247



## Imperforate



This series for the sake of uniformity and artistic effect featured the head of George Washington on all of the denominations except the 1¢ which portrayed Benjamin Franklin. Part of this issue was printed on a stock which was made of 35 per cent rag and are known as "bluish paper," although they are actually grayish in appearance. Most of the denominations printed on this paper are rare.



*Issue of 1908-10*

Coil Stamps  
Perforated 12 Horizontally  
Double-line Watermark



Coil Stamps  
Perforated 12 Vertically



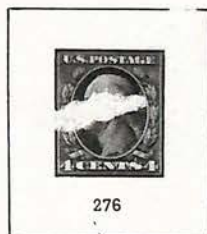
Officially issued coil stamps came into being in 1908. As the name indicates, the stamps instead of being issued in sheet form, were made available in lengths which were coiled into rolls of five hundred and one thousand. Stamps in this form were found to be more convenient for handling large quantities of mail that called for the same stamp value. These coils were also made available to private companies who were licensed to perforate them and sell them in vending machines at neighborhood stores for the convenience of the public.





*Issue of 1910-14*

Perforated 12  
Single-line Watermark



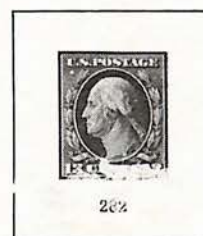
276



278



2

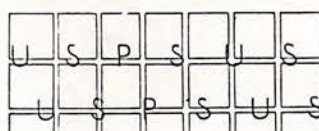


204

Imperforate



This issue employed the same designs as the previous series. A single line style of watermark was used.



Single-line



*Issue of 1910-13*

Coil Stamps  
Single-line Watermark

Perforated 12 Horizontally



Perforated 12 Vertically



Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Perforated 8½ Vertically



296

This series of coil stamps featured the designs of the previous regular issues. As an experiment the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used a 8½ perforation instead of the usual 12 in an effort to find a more suitable size. The 3¢ perforated 12 stamp of this series is the rarest coil only a few being used at Orangeburg, N. Y. and for that reason is omitted from this album.





# Issue of 1912

Single-line Watermark

Perforated 12



Imperforate



Coil Stamps

Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Perforated 8½ Vertically



## Issue of 1912-14

Perforated 12

Single-line Watermark



Double-line Watermark



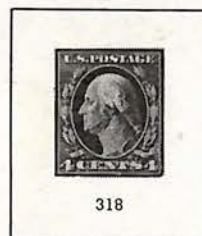
The portrait of Benjamin Franklin was featured on the entire set of this issue. The 50¢ denomination appeared with both types of watermark.



*Issue of 1914-15*

Perforated 10

Single-line Watermark



318



321



323



324



326



327

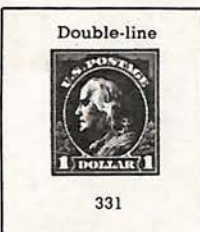


329



Perforated 10

Perforated 11



331



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



Perforated 10 Vertically

*Issue of 1914-16*

Coil Stamps, Rotary Press  
Perforated 10 Vertically



Perforated 10 Horizontally



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



351



352



354



359



360



363



364



366

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

*Issue of 1916-22*

Rotary Press Printing

Coils Perforated 10 Horizontally

Unwatermarked



Perforated 10 Vertically







## Issue of 1917-19

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11

Unwatermarked



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.





*Issue of 1918-20*

Offset Printing

Perforated 11



Perforated 11



Perforated 11



Perforated 12½



Imperforate

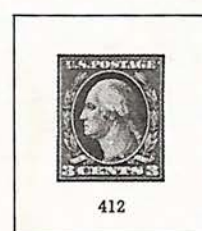


The Bureau again experimenting tried with the 1918-20 issues to use the offset method of printing (a type of lithography). It was not successful and was soon discontinued.

*Issue of 1919-21*

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10



412

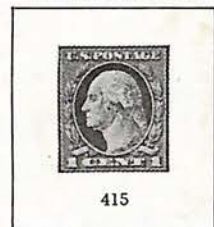
Perforated 10 x 11



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



415

Perforated 11



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



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





*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.