

# UNITED STATES

AIR POST STAMPS

1918



1923



1926-27



1927

LINDBERGH



1928



1930

Flat Plate Printing; Perforated 11



1930

GRAF ZEPPELIN



Set VF Fresh well Centered #900

The first air mail service in the U.S. was between New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. To meet the postal fees for this and all subsequent air mail, stamps were issued in appropriate values. Note the three highly valuable Graf Zeppelin stamps, which were used on mail carried by this German dirigible between U.S., Brazil, Germany and Spain.

# UNITED STATES of AMERICA

Act of Congress, March 3, 1847: "... and be it further enacted 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."

1847

Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

When the first U.S. stamps were designed for issue July 1, 1847, it was decided to portray our first Postmaster General and Father of the American Postal Service — Benjamin Franklin; and our first President George Washington. Since then these patriots and statesmen have appeared on many other U.S. stamps.

1851-56



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON

These varieties were necessitated because of lower postal rates and increased use of the postal service. Each denomination had its own exact purpose from the 1c for local or drop mail, to the 12c to aid in paying rates on overseas mail. These stamps are complicated and intricate: seemingly identical designs can be distinguished only by minute differences. Consult the STAMP IDENTIFIER section (back of album) to properly classify these and other stamp types.

# UNITED STATES

1857-60  
Perforated 15



TYPE I  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE II 20  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE IIIA 22  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE IV 23  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



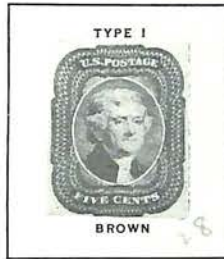
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON 21  
160



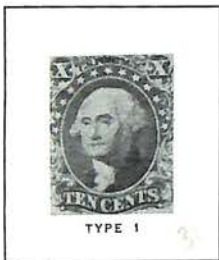
TYPE I  
BROWN 28  
THOMAS JEFFERSON



TYPE II  
ORANGE BROWN 30  
THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON 30A  
230



TYPE I 31  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



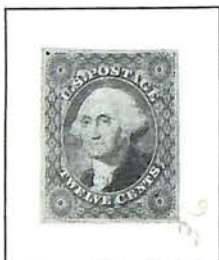
TYPE II 32  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



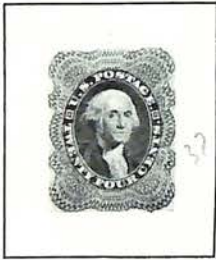
TYPE III 33  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE V 35  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON 37



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 38



GEORGE WASHINGTON 39

These were the first perforated stamps! They were enthusiastically welcomed, because previous stamps were usually cut apart with scissors. This issue includes the identical 1851-56 denominations, plus the much-needed 24c, 30c and 90c values for foreign mail and large postage amounts.

# UNITED STATES

## 1861 First Designs



BROWN ROSE 66  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



DARK GREEN 63B  
GEORGE WASHINGTON



VIOLET 60  
GEORGE WASHINGTON

## 1861-62 Second Designs



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON  
BUFF 67



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
69



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
RED LILAC 70



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
42 1/2

## 1861-66



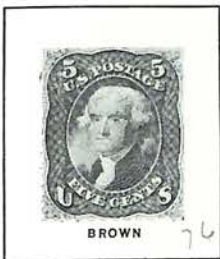
ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



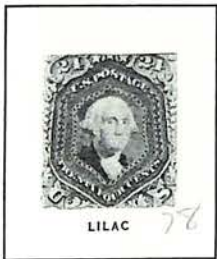
THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON  
BROWN 76



ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
77



GEORGE WASHINGTON  
LILAC 78

With the outbreak of the Civil War all previous U.S. postage issues were declared valueless, to prevent their use by Confederates. During the war the 1861-66 stamps were also used by Northerners as "small change," due to the lack of metal coins. These varieties include the famous "Black Jacks" honoring President Andrew Jackson; and the first Abraham Lincoln stamp marking the anniversary of his assassination.

# UNITED STATES

1867

Embossed with Grills of Various Sizes

#93



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON

17-



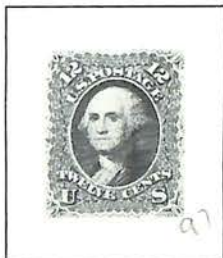
GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



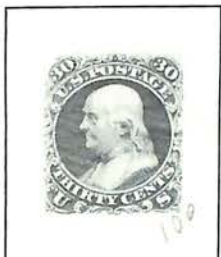
GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Some people resorted to the crafty practice of erasing the cancellation marks on stamps and re-using them. In an unsuccessful effort to stop this procedure the Government impressed into the paper on a small quantity of the 1861-66 issues tiny pyramidic designs, called "grills." Since there were many types of grills, a collection of "stamps with grills" is an interesting but very expensive philatelic specialty.

# UNITED STATES

1869



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

112



PONY EXPRESS RIDER

113



EARLY LOCOMOTIVE



GEORGE WASHINGTON

46-



SHIELD AND EAGLE



S.S. "ADRIATIC"



LANDING OF COLUMBUS

50-



LANDING OF COLUMBUS

F-VF 65



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

120



SHIELD, EAGLE AND FLAGS

72 1/2



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

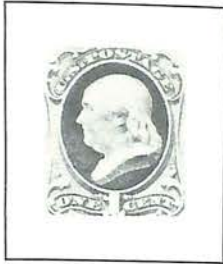
F-VF 380-

Because of their odd size and the few familiar portraits, these stamps originally were disliked by the general public. Today, however, all of them are very popular with philatelists. They are the first U.S. pictorials, the first adhesive bicolors, and the shortest-lived regular issue in U.S. postal history. Some of the 15c, 24c and 30c values were printed by error with inverted centers, and have become great rarities.

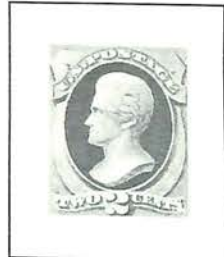
# UNITED STATES

1870-71

National Bank Note Co. Printing  
Embossed with Grill



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



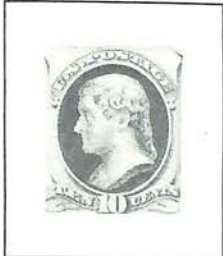
GEORGE WASHINGTON



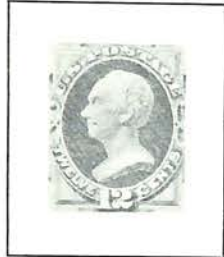
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



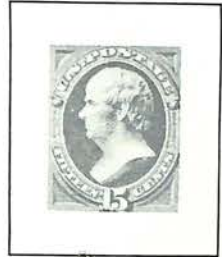
EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



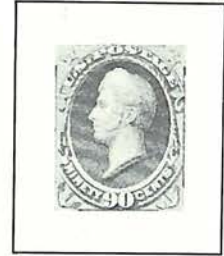
HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



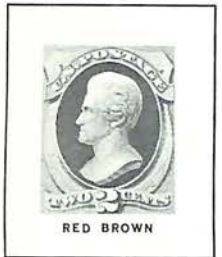
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1870-71

Without Grill



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



RED BROWN

ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



BROWN

THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



BRIGHT ORANGE

DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



BLACK

ALEXANDER HAMILTON



CARBINE

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

You are now embarked on an exciting philatelic journey among the famous "Bank Note" issues. Fifty-nine major varieties were printed by three companies between 1870 and 1888: National, Continental, and American.

# UNITED STATES

1873

Continental Bank Note Co. Printing  
Types of 1870-71 with Secret Marks: Thin Hard Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



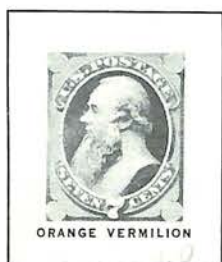
ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ORANGE VERMILION

EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

80-

On this page you see the classic stamps produced by Continental, which succeeded National. These issues are renowned for the "secret marks" which set apart Continental's work from that of National. (For more information on this subject, refer to the STAMP IDENTIFIER section.)

1875



ANDREW JACKSON



ZACHARY TAYLOR

The 1873 design, honoring President Andrew Jackson, was now printed in vermilion; and a new blue 5c value, picturing President Zachary Taylor, was issued to comply with the rate set by the international Universal Postal Union for European mail.



# UNITED STATES

1879

American Bank Note Co. Printing  
Same as 1870-75 Issues: Soft Porous Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ZACHARY TAYLOR



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

In 1879 Continental merged with American Bank Note Co. For philatelists the greatest single change, resulting from the merger, was that all the stamps were printed on soft porous paper, instead of the hard paper previously used by National and Continental.

1882



JAMES A. GARFIELD



205a

Issued to memorialize the assassination of James A. Garfield, 20th President, who was shot (when only four months in office) by a disgruntled office-seeker. Garfield attained the rank of Major-General in the Civil War.

# UNITED STATES

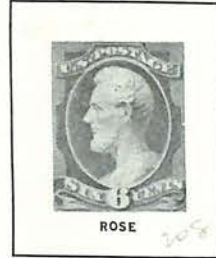
1881-82  
Re-engraved



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON

1883



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON

1887



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1888



ANDREW JACKSON



JAMES A. GARFIELD



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

These four issues often confuse collectors because of their resemblance to previous issues. But, on closer examination, minor design differences and new colors as well as new designs distinguish them from their predecessors (refer to STAMP IDENTIFIER).

# UNITED STATES

1890-93



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



230 0



ANDREW JACKSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

Last regular issue of U.S. stamps to be printed by a private bank note company, these varieties are prized for their small size and simple design. Continuing an American tradition, these stamps honor U.S. presidents, military heroes, and political leaders. Of philatelic note and value are small white "caps" found on some of the 2c values.



# UNITED STATES

1893

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION



Columbus in sight of land from the deck of the Santa Maria, as pictured by artist William Powell. Columbus' face is clean-shaven.



Columbus landing at San Salvador in the Bahamas in 1492. The scene is one day after that on the 1c value, now he has a full beard!



The Santa Maria, Columbus' flagship, was copied from an engraving by a Spanish historian-artist and is recognized to be an exact replica.



The entire fleet of Columbus was an imposing sight in 1492, but all three ships could be put on the deck of any modern-day luxury ocean liner.



Columbus, at the Court of Spain, begs Queen Isabella to finance his courageous trip to the Indies, by contributing her precious jewels.



Columbus is welcomed in Barcelona after his discovery of America. The greatest hero of his day, he was received with pomp and honor.



Though undermined by political foes, Columbus regained the favor of Queen Isabella when she learned the truth about the attacks on him.



As a gift, Columbus offered a group of American Indians to Isabella. The Indians were taken to the Cathedral where they were baptized.



The platform where Columbus told of his discoveries and presented the Indians may still be seen as part of the Cathedral in Barcelona.



Columbus shown at the Monastery of Rabida explaining his radical theory of a round world. The first dog is pictured on a stamp design.



Queen Isabella recalled Columbus to Barcelona to reconsider the financing of his intended expedition to find a new route to the Indies.



Faced with a Treasury deficit, Queen Isabella pawned her jewels to buy the necessary ships and supplies for Columbus' westward voyage.



Powerful political enemies, who envied Columbus' popularity with the Queen, were successful in having him chained and imprisoned.



After his third trip to America, Columbus proudly returned to Spain. Here, he astounded the Spanish Court with tales of his new discoveries.



This picture of Queen Isabella and Columbus represents the first time a U.S. stamp carried the portrait either of a queen or a non-citizen.



The cast reproduced as the central design was taken from a commemorative half-dollar issued for the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

# UNITED STATES

1894

Same as 1890-93 Issue, but with Triangles in Upper Corners: 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



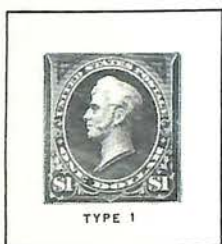
DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



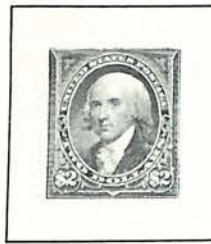
THOMAS JEFFERSON



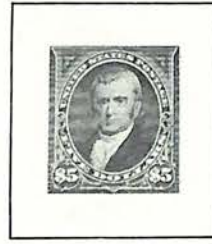
TYPE I  
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



TYPE II  
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

These were the first U.S. postage stamps ever printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The addition of small delicate triangles to their upper corners, and the inclusion of one, two and five dollar denominations are the principal differences between these varieties and their 1890 counterparts.

# UNITED STATES

1895

Watermarked USPS



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



DANIEL WEBSTER



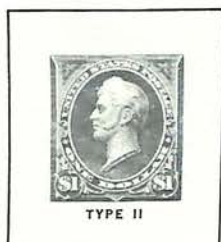
HENRY CLAY



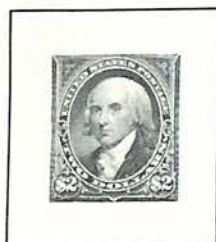
THOMAS JEFFERSON



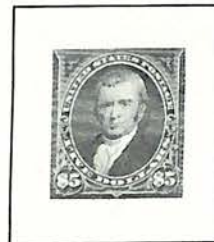
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

These varieties have the same designs as the 1894 issue, but were printed on paper watermarked with the double-line letters USPS, so arranged that one letter or a portion of one appears on each stamp. This was the first time that stamps for postal use were watermarked, and it was done to prevent counterfeiting.

# UNITED STATES

1898  
Watermarked USPS



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



DANIEL WEBSTER



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY

1898

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION



A scene from Father Marquette's explorations of the Mississippi River.



Grain harvesting with horse-drawn combines was slow and tedious.



Buffalo were prized by the Indians for food and clothing.



John Charles Frémont planted a U.S. flag on highest peak in Rocky Mts.



The U.S. Cavalry that protected settlers from fierce Indian attacks.



Death of a horse pulling a "Prairie Schooner" was a typical hardship.



Here is a typical gold-mining prospector with his burros and dog.



Western cattle were often killed by blizzards and howling winds.



A marvel of the 1890's: bridge over the Mississippi at St. Louis, Mo.

XF-S #400

# UNITED STATES

1901

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION



Great Lakes steamships were the major method used in forwarding goods between the midwest and east.



Fast trains provided the best cross country transportation. Pictured here: a New York to Chicago deluxe express train.



Electric operated taxicab in Washington, D.C. heralded the leadership of the U. S. in automotive development.



The bridge at Niagara Falls, an engineering marvel of the 19th century, intrigued visitors at the Exposition.



The famous Sault Ste. Marie canal, through which more shipping tonnage passes than any other in the world.



Crossing the Atlantic in less than 10 days, the S. S. St. Paul was one of the world's fastest ocean liners in 1901.

The Pan-American Exposition, held in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1901, was a tribute to the economic and social progress of North, Central, and South America during the 19th Century. Stamps issued to commemorate the event carried pictures featuring this country's advances in transportation.



# UNITED STATES

1902-03  
Watermarked USPS  
Perforated 12



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

The "Gay 90's" passed into nostalgic history, the new 20th Century dawned, and the Government issued stamps designed to conform to the baroque or "ginger-bread" style of the times. Portraits of American notables in the fields of law, politics, and war were set in decorative frames, biographical data was included. Martha Washington became the first white American woman to appear on a U. S. postage stamp!