



Issue of 1847

Imperforate

Printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson



1

Benjamin Franklin



2

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
Sc. # 7



George Washington
10



Thomas Jefferson
12



13-16



17

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
24



George Washington
26



Thomas Jefferson
28-32



35 George Washington



George Washington
40



Benjamin Franklin
41



George Washington
42

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.



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington

65



Thomas Jefferson

76



George Washington

68a



George Washington



53

Abraham Lincoln



George Washington

78a



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 1867

Perforated 12

Printed by the National Bank Note Co.

Grilled



Benjamin Franklin
92



Andrew Jackson
93



George Washington
88



Thomas Jefferson
60, 79



89 ? George Washington



67 ?



Abraham Lincoln
98



George Washington
83



Benjamin Franklin
100 ?



George Washington
85

The removal of cancellations from used stamps for the purpose of reusing with intent to defraud the government caused the postal authorities to adopt the use of the grill. These metallic grills, which consisted of small square pyramids, were impressed on the stamp so that the fibers of the paper would be weakened and would completely absorb the cancelling ink and thus make cleaning for a second use impossible.



Grill



Issue of 1869

PERFORATED 12

PRINTED BY THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO.

GRILLED



Benjamin Franklin



Pony Express Rider



Locomotive



George Washington



Eagle and Shield



S. S. Adriatic



Landing of Columbus

19



Declaration of Independence

94



Eagle, Shield and Flags

95



Abraham Lincoln

96

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.

Grilled



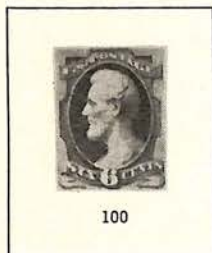
Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



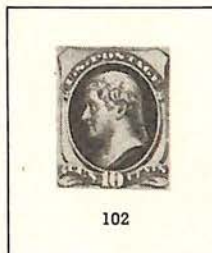
100

Abraham Lincoln



101

Edwin M. Stanton



102

Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



104

Daniel Webster



105

Gen. Winfield Scott



Black

106

Alexander Hamilton



Carmine

107

Commodore Oliver Perry

THIS 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 1870-71

Perforated 12

Printed by the National Bank Note Co.

Without Grill



Benjamin Franklin



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



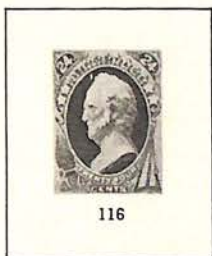
Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



116

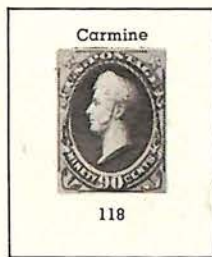
Gen. Winfield Scott



Black

117

Alexander Hamilton



Carmine

118

Commodore Oliver Perry

This 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



178



George Washington



Zachary Taylor
175



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton

165



Commodore Oliver Perry

THE 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



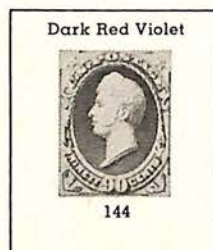
Alexander Hamilton



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

DESIGNS 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

COLOR 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

THIS 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



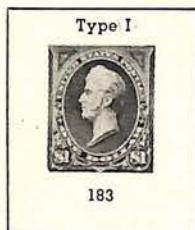
Daniel Webster



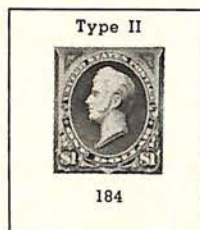
Henry Clay



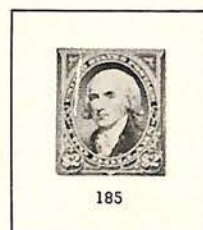
Thomas Jefferson



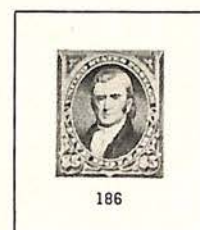
Commodore Perry



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 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.



AIRMAIL STAMPS

Issue of 1918



Mail Airplane

Issue of 1923



Airplane Propeller

Air Service Insignia

Mail Airplane

Issue of 1926-27



Map of U. S. and Planes

Issue of 1927



"Spirit of St. Louis"

Issue of 1928



Issue of 1930

PERFORATED 11



Winged Globe

THE wonderful development of stamp issues. An example of this stop New York to Paris flight by C



Mail System can be told through its amp issued as a tribute to the non- which paved the way for world-wide



AIRMAIL STAMPS

Issue of 1930



Graf Zeppelin in flight

Issue of 1931-34

PERFORATED 10½ x 11



Winged Globe

Issue of 1934



Great Seal of the United States

Issue of 1933



Graf Zeppelin

Issue of 1936



Great Seal of the United States

Issue of 1935-37



"China Clipper" Flying over the Pacific

A SPECIAL set of stamps was created for Transpacific usage, which service was inaugurated in November 1935. Air Mail Special Delivery stamps were also issued for the first time in 1934 from a design created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then President of the United States.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Printed by the American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12
Unwatermarked

Issue of 1885



Issue of 1888



Issue of 1893



Messenger Running

Printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Issue of 1894



Issue of 1895



Messenger Running

Double-line Watermark

Issue of 1908



Helmet of Mercury

Issue of 1902



Messenger on Bicycle

Single-line Watermark

Issue of 1911



Issue of 1914



Messenger on Bicycle

The demand for fast delivery of mail brought forth the Special Delivery Issues. When affixed to a letter it indicated that the letter would secure immediate attention and be delivered between hours of 7 A.M. and midnight.



PARCEL POST STAMPS

Issue of 1912-13

PERFORATED 12

SINGLE-LINE WATERMARK



Post Office Clerk



City Carrier



Railway Postal Clerk



Rural Carrier



Mail Train



Steamship and Mail Tender



Automobile Service



Airplane Carrying Mail



Manufacturing



Dairying



Harvesting



Fruit Growing

SPECIFICALLY created to meet the requirements of fourth class matter by Act of Congress approved August 24, 1912, these stamps were declared valid for all purposes for which regular stamps were valid. The 20 cent value featured as the central part of its design an aeroplane and this was the first time any country had ever featured an aeroplane on its stamps.



Columbian Exposition
Chicago, Illinois, 1893



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



Columbus at La Rabida



Recall of Columbus

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)



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.



Pan-American Exposition
Buffalo, New York, 1901



Fast Lake Navigation



Fast Express



Automobile



Bridge at Niagara Falls



Canal Locks at Sault Ste. Marie



Fast Ocean Navigation

Placed on sale on May 1, 1901 and withdrawn from sale October 31, 1901, the dates fixed for the opening and closing of the Pan-American Exposition held at Buffalo, N. Y. The 1c, 2c, and 4c Denominations are known with inverted centers and are extremely scarce.

Louisiana Purchase Exposition
St. Louis, Missouri, 1904



Robert R. Livingston



Thomas Jefferson



James Monroe



William McKinley



Map of Louisiana Purchase

Placed on sale April 30, 1904 and withdrawn from sale on December 1, 1904. The stamps commemorate the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase and the designs picture the persons connected with the purchase and with the Exposition. Livingston, as minister to France, conducted the negotiations, Monroe as special ambassador to France in the matter of the purchase, President Jefferson during whose administration the purchase was made, and McKinley, who approved the acts of Congress connecting the government with the exposition.



Hudson-Fulton Celebration
New York, N. Y. 1909



S.S. "Clermont" and the "Half Moon"

Issued on September 25, 1909 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River and the centenary of Robert Fulton's steamship "Clermont."

Panama-Pacific Exposition

San Francisco, California, 1915
Perforated 12



Balboa



Panama Canal



Golden Gate



Discovery of San Francisco Bay

Perforated 10



First issued in late 1912 (officially January 1, 1913) the stamps served the dual purpose of commemorating the Panama Canal and, also, publicising the Panama-Pacific Exposition planned to be held in San Francisco in 1915. The original issue was perforated 12 and later, in 1915, appeared perforated 10. Original color of the 10c was an orange-yellow. Changed, officially, on August 25, 1913, to a darker shade known to philatelists as "orange".