

The registry stamp is a rectangle on end, the size of the design being approximately 3/4 x 7/8 inch, and the color light blue. The design shows an eagle with extended wings, perched upon a rock, within a circle set in a panel of plain lines. Above the circle, and following its course, the words "UNITED STATES REGISTRY" appear in two lines, and in the two lower corners the denomination, 10 appears within small circles, with the word CENTS between. The stamp was printed on single-line watermarked paper on the Bureau's flatbed press. The 12-gauge perforating wheels were used for this issue.



OFFSET

An interesting offset showing a reverse three quarter impression on the back of the stamp. This occurred when the sheets of stamps were stacked while the ink was still wet.



Plate Numbers

The Bureau designated eight plates to print the stamp: 5720, 5723, 5726, 5729, 5848, 5871, 5875, and 5789. The first four plates were assigned to the initial printing and the last four were cancelled without going to press. The issue was printed in sheets of 400 stamps each bearing plate number and imprint blocks in eight separate positions. Each post office pane of 100 had two plate numbers, one either a top or bottom and the other a side. An "A" before the plate number indicated an experiment which was being conducted to overcome unequal paper shrinkage and to reduce spoilage due to inaccurate perforating.



SHADE VARIETIES



The ten cent registry stamp appears in various shades, from a faded, almost grey-blue color to a deep ultramarine.

Although there was no provision for double or triple rated registered mail based upon increase in value during the period this stamp was in use, multiples of the F1 are known. The block of six illustrated here was used in Cragford, Pennsylvania. The used strip of three is canceled with an East Branch, New York box cancel. Since used multiples were not possible from a registry point of view, they were probably used in lieu of regular postage.



Common Cancellations



Oval With Town Name



Straight Line



Box Cancels, Town Name



Target Cancels



Registered Hand Stamp



Circular Town and Date

Less Common Cancellations



PRECANCELS

Precancels of this issue are exceedingly rare. Precancel specialists indicate that most were made as favors as local precancels were not viewed with pleasure in official Washington. According to the Hoover Official Precancel Stamp Catalogue, the precancelling of the Registry Stamp was done by 23 towns. There have been 32 precancel varieties reported.



Precancel from Kansas City, Mo. Hoover type 4 (P.S.S. type L-4. H.S.). Lines are 1 mm. thick and spaced 15 mm. Letters are 3 to 3½ mm. high. The bottom line is 3 to 4½ mm. below "City Mo." This example is an invert.



Precancel from Chicago, Ill. Hoover type 39 (P.S.S. type L-22. H.S.) Letters 3½ mm. high and 14½ mm. between lines. Chicago and Illinois each 13½ mm. long. Probably a two subject hand stamp. Used by Sears Roebuck and Company.

PERFINS

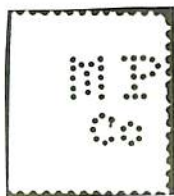
Perfins are known on this stamp, although they are rare. Perfins were authorized for identification purposes only and not for advertising.



"GT" Guaranty Trust Company
New York, New York



"WAM" Westinghouse Airbrake &
Manufacturing Company
Wilmerding, Pennsylvania



"MP/Co" Southern Moline Plow Co.
New Orleans, Louisiana



"AXB/NY" Irving Trust Company
New York, New York