# 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 FRANKLI



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 statesman have appeared on many other U.S. stamps.

1851-56



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTO



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.

1857-60 Perforated 15



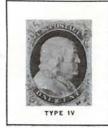
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



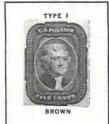
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



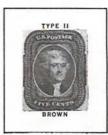
THOMAS JEFFERSON



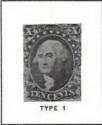
THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



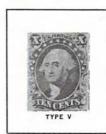
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



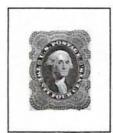
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



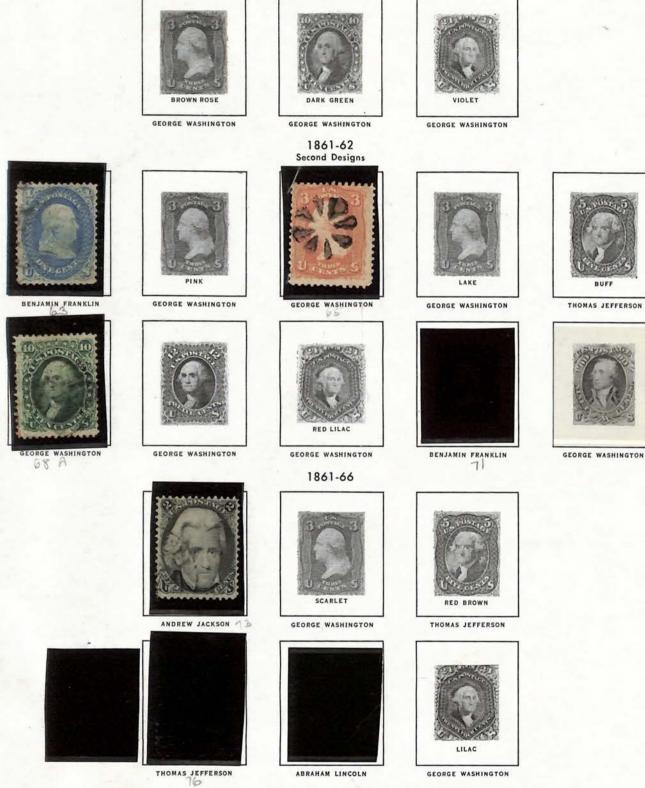
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

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.

1861 First Designs



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.

1867

Embossed with Grills of Various Sizes



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



E GRILL



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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.

1867







BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



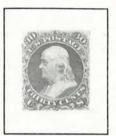
GEORGE WASHINGTON



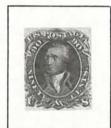
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



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1869



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PONY EXPRESS RIDER



EARLY LOCOMOTIVE



GEORGE WASHINGTON



SHIELD AND EAGLE



S.S. "ADRIATIC



LANDING OF COLUMBUS



LANDING OF COLUMBUS



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



SHIELD, EAGLE AND FLAGS



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Because of their odd size and the few familiar portraits, these stamps originally were distiked 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.

a no grill

1870-71

National Bank Note Co. Printing Embossed with Grill



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.

1873

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



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

On this page you see the classic stamps produced by Continental, which succeeded National. These issues are renowned for the Continental's work from that of National. (For refer to the STAMP IDEN

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.

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



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ZACHARY TAYLOR





THOMAS JEFF





DANIEL WEBSTER





OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



Continental merged with American Bank Note Co. For philatelists the greatest age, resulting from the merger, was that all the stamps were printed on soft, instead of the hard paper previously used by National and Continental. 1881-82



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN





ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON

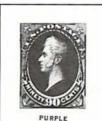


ANDREW JACKSON





ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY











THOMAS JEFFERSON

7 2

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.



BROKEN HAT

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.



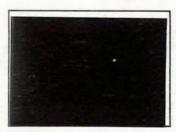
Columbus is welcomed in Barcelona after his discovery of America. The greatest hero of his day, he was received with pomp and honor.



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.



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.





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



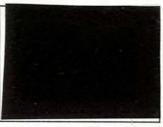
John Charles Frémont planted a U.S. flag on highest peak in Rocky Mts.



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



combines was slow and tedious.



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



Western cattle were often killed by blizzards and howling winds. 1901

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION





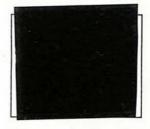
Buffalo were prized by the Indians for food and clothing.



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



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







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.







GEORGE WASHINGTON





ANDREW JACKSON



ULYSSES S. GRANT



ABRAHAM LINCOL



JAMES A. GARFIELD



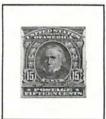
MARTHA WASHINGTON



DANIEL WEBSTER



BENJAMIN HARRISON



HENRY CLAY



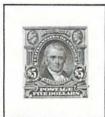
THOMAS JEFFERSON



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!

1903

Perforated 12



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTO

#### 1906-08

Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ABRAHAM LINCOLN





1904 LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



A



JAMES MONROE



WILLIAM MCKINLEY



MAP OF LOUISIANA PURCHASE

This set was issued to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase (827,987 sq. mi.), the first major acquisition west of the Mississippi. Pictured on the stamps are the notables who negotiated the vast transaction: Livingston and Monroe bargained with Napoleon; President Jefferson officially approved the deal. President McKinley authorized the St. Louis World's Fair celebrating the centennial of the Purchase.

# 1907 JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION



CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH



FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN



POCAHONTAS

This set marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. On the 1c value is a picture of Capt. John Smith, who led three ships and 105 settlers to this foreign shore. The 2c has as its illustration a painting showing the hardy settlers landing at Jamestown. Chief Powhattan's daughter Pocahontas, who saved Capt. Smith's life, is pictured on the 5c value.





BENJAMIN FRANKLIN





GEORGE WASHINGTON





These are the first 12 values of issues generally labelled, "The Third Bureau Series of 1908-22." The one and two cent values show the denomination in words instead of numerals. Though Washington is on 11 values, Franklin, never President, is also included; a glowing tribute to his spot in U.S. history.

1908-10

Coil Stamps: Watermarked USPS Perforated 12 Horizontally



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON Perforated 12 Vertically









BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON







Coil stamps were first designed in 1908 to meet a demand from manufacturers of vend-ing and affixing machines. The first issues, using 1902-03 designs, were experimental and are now quite rare.

Perforated 12: Bluish Gray Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON





o and including the 15¢ were printed on 30% rag stock. This resulted in the "Bluish Paper" varieties which are now philatelic gems.



1909





To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12, 1809 in Kentucky, a special stamp was issued in three forms: perforated imperforate, and perforated on "Bluish Paper."



In 1867, William Seward, Secretary of State, negotiated with Russia to buy Alaska for \$7,200,000. Called "Seward's Folly," Alaska has proven its worth many hundreds of times over.



Commemorating the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Henry Hudson in New York aboard the "Half-Moon," and the 100th anniversary of Robert Fulton's first voyage in his steamship the "Clermont."

#### 1910-11

Watermarked

Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON











BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON





1910-13

Coil Stamps: Watermarked USPS

Perforated 12 Vertically

Perforated 81/2 Horizontally



GEORGE WASHINGTON

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Perforated 12 Horizontally

GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Perforated 81/2 Vertically

GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON

From 1910 to 1914, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing experimented with coils to determine the best gauge for perforations. The perf. 12 separated too easily and perf. 8½ was not sufficient. In 1914 perf. 10 was tried and found ideal.

# 1913 PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION Perforated 12





PANAMA CANAL



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

This set of four designs was issued to mark the 400th anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean in 1513, also the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. The first set was perforated with gauge 12 holes; the second (1914-15) had gauge 10 perfs.

1914-15 Perforated 10



GOLDEN GATE

VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA



PANAMA CANAL



GOLDEN GATE



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

The perforations were changed in 1914 from 12 to 10 to strengthen the sheets.



The discontinuance of parcel post stamps made necessary five new denominations of ordinary stamps, 7c, 9c, 12c, 20c and 30c. The 7c value bears the head of Washington, the other four show the head of Franklin. The 1c and 2c varieties of this issue are printed with numerals instead of words.











The continuing experiments to improve stamp separations resulted in changing the gauge of perforations to 10 for stamps in sheet form, thus quite incidentally creating a new set for collectors. It also became necessary to issue an 11c value for the first time in U.S. postal history.

WATERMARKED USPS

1914

Flat Plate Printing: Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Vertically











1914 FLAT PLATE PRINTING Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Horizontally

1914 ROTARY PRESS PRINTING Imperforate



Perforated 10

FLAT PLATE PRINTING Perforated 11

1915





1914-16

Rotary Press Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Vertically













1915-16

Rotary Press Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Horizontally







Rotary Press printing was used for the first time. It provided a faster and more economical method of stamp production as compared to the Flat Plate method.



GEORGE WASHINGTON



NTING erforated 10



































JAMES MADISON

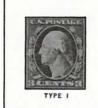
JOHN MARSHALL





GEORGE WASHINGTON







An unexpected new demand for high value stamps necessitated adding to this regular issue the \$2 and \$5 denominations which were made from the old 1902 dies to save cost. When a new contract for paper was effected it was decided, for the sake of economy, to use unwatermarked paper.

1916-22 ROTARY PRESS COIL STAMPS Perforated 10 Horizontally



GEORGE WASHINGTON



U.S.PU VALLE CHEN TESTS

















BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1917
FLAT PLATE PRINTING
5c Error from Sheet of 2c

Perforated 10



Perforated 11



The famous "Five Cent Error" occurred during the printing of the 1916-17 and 1917-19 issues. The error occurred where 5c stamps appeared within sheets supposed to contain only 2c values.





Unwatermarked











































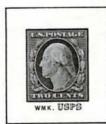


1918



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1917



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1918









Further experiments in perforating proved gauge 11 to be the most satisfactory for the type of paper used at this time. It seemed to make for a happy medium between the too fragile perf. 12 and the too strong perf. 10. The perf. 11 "Two Cent" design of 1908 was made from a left-over supply of imperforate sheets.

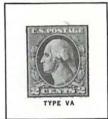
1918-20 OFFSET PRINTING Unwatermarked: Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON



U.S. POST









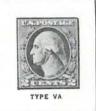


Imperforate

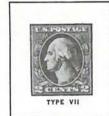














Perforated 121/2



In an attempt to economize due to heavy World War I costs the Bureau tried using offset printing on these varieties, but the results were deemed unsatisfactory for stamps.

1919-21

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Unwatermarked: Perforated 11×10









Perforated 10x11



Perforated 10



P. Contraction of the second

Perforated 11

D SHOOMAN

Perforated 11



In an attempt to be thrifty, the Post Office issued this assortment of varieties. Some were "coil waste" made from sheets intended to be used to create coil stamps. This issue completed the Washington-Franklin series.

1919 VICTORY



Hailing the allied victory in World War I, this stamp, showing "Freedom" with flags, was issued Mar. 3, 1919.

1920 PILGRIM TERCENTENARY







LANDING OF PILGRIMS



SIGNING OF COMPACT

This set marked the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Historians agree that while Plymouth Rock will always be featured in connection with the landing, it is an accepted fact that the first landing was at Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod and not at Plymouth.

1922-25
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



AMERICAN INDIAN



STATUE OF LIBERTY



GOLDEN GATE



NIAGARA FALLS



BISON



ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATRE



LINCOLN MEMORIAL



U. S. CAPITOL



"AMERICA"

This Fourth Bureau Series, 1922 to 1934, marks a progressive era in the development of United States stamps. Artistically designed, this issue was printed on both flat plate and rotary presses, has a variety of perforations and some imperforates, several new denominations, and a wide range of subject matter.





BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Imperforate



WARREN G. HARDING

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 11x10



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Perforated 11x10



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON