

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



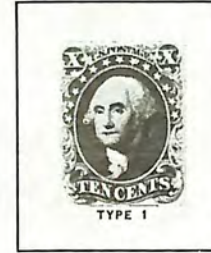
GEORGE WASHINGTON



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
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE IIIA
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE IV
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



TYPE I
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE I
RED BROWN
THOMAS JEFFERSON



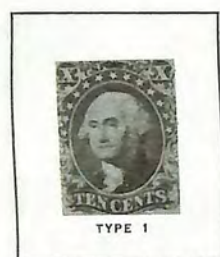
TYPE I
BROWN
THOMAS JEFFERSON



TYPE II
ORANGE BROWN
THOMAS JEFFERSON



TYPE II
BROWN
THOMAS JEFFERSON



TYPE I
GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE II
GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE III
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.

UNITED STATES

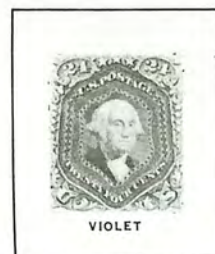
1861
First Designs



BROWN ROSE
GEORGE WASHINGTON



DARK GREEN
GEORGE WASHINGTON



VIOLET
GEORGE WASHINGTON

1861-62
Second Designs



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PINK
GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



LAKE
GEORGE WASHINGTON



BUFF
THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



RED LILAC
GEORGE WASHINGTON



RED LILAC
GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1861-66



ANDREW JACKSON



SCARLET
GEORGE WASHINGTON



RED BROWN
THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

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



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



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 pyramidal designs, called "grills." Since there were many types of grills, a collection of "stamps with grills" is an interesting but very expensive philatelic specialty.

1869



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PONY EXPRESS RIDER



EARLY LOCOMOTIVE



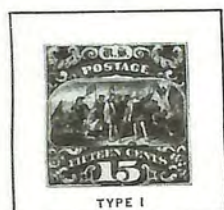
GEORGE WASHINGTON



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 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



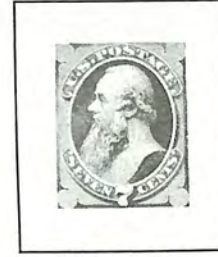
ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1870-71

Without Grill



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



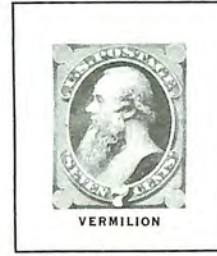
ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



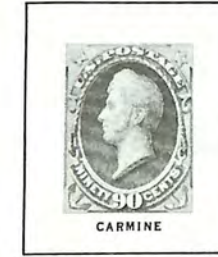
DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



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



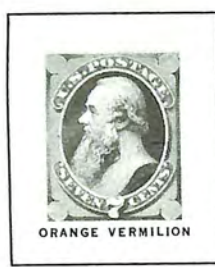
ANDREW JACKSON



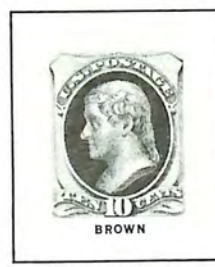
GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



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 "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.

1881-82

Re-engraved

1882



JAMES A. GARFIELD



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON

1883-88



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ANDREW JACKSON



JAMES A. GARFIELD



ALEXANDER HAMILTON NH



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

UNITED STATES

1890-93



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



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.



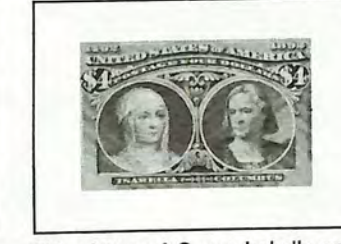
Faced with a Treasury deficit, Queen Isabella pawned her jewels to buy the necessary ships and supplies for Columbus' westward voyage.



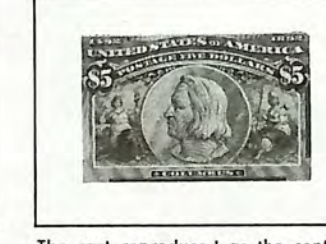
Powerful political enemies, who envied Columbus' popularity with the Queen, were successful in having him chained and imprisoned.



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



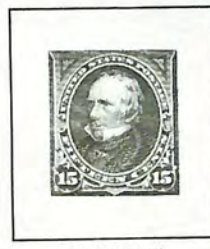
JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



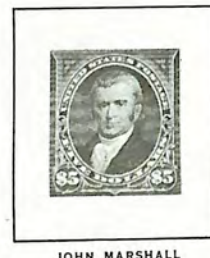
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

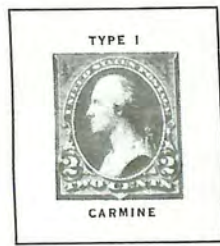
These were the first U.S. postage stamps ever printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The addition of small delicate triangles to their upper corners, and the inclusion of one, two and five dollar denominations are the principal differences between these varieties and their 1890 counterparts.

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



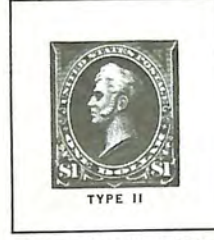
HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



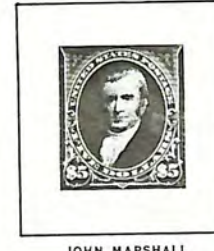
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



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.

1898
Watermarked USPS



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



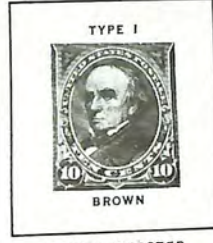
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



DANIEL WEBSTER



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



2798c

UNITED STATES

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.

1901

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION



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!

UNITED STATES

1903
Perforated 12



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1906
Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1906-08
Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Imperforate



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1904

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



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.

UNITED STATES

1908-09

Watermarked USPS
Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Imperforate



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 vending and affixing machines. The first issues, using 1902-03 designs, were experimental and are now quite rare.

UNITED STATES

1909

Perforated 12: Bluish Gray Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



All values up to and including the 15c were printed on 30% rag stock. This resulted in the "Bluish Paper" varieties which are now philatelic gems.

1909

LINCOLN MEMORIAL



BLUE GRAY PAPER

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."

1909

ALASKA-YUKON PACIFIC EXPEDITION



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.

HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION



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 USPS Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



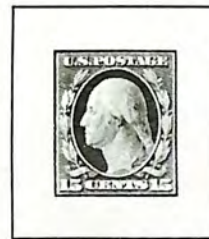
Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



UNITED STATES

1910-13

Coil Stamps: Watermarked USPS

Perforated 8½ Horizontally



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Perforated 12 Vertically



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 12 Horizontally



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 8½ Vertically



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



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



VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA



PANAMA CANAL



GOLDEN GATE



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



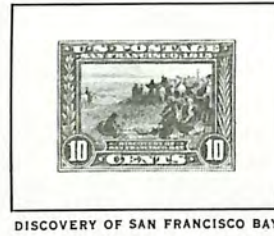
VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA



PANAMA CANAL



GOLDEN GATE



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

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

UNITED STATES

1912-14

Watermarked USPS

Perforated 12

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON



COIL STAMPS

Perforated 8½ Horizontally

Perforated 8½ Vertically



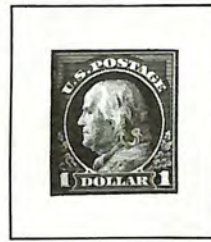
Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Watermarked USPS



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.

UNITED STATES

1914-15

Watermarked USPS
Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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.

UNITED STATES

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



1915

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Perforated 10

Perforated 11



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.

UNITED STATES

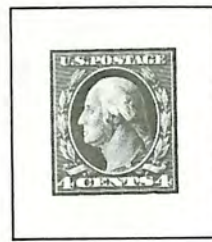
1916-17

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Unwatermarked: Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE I



TYPE II

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.

UNITED STATES

1916-22
ROTARY PRESS COIL STAMPS
Perforated 10 Horizontally



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE III



Perforated 10 Vertically



TYPE II



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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

Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON

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.

UNITED STATES

1917-19
Unwatermarked
Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE 1A



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



1918



OR. RED AND BLACK

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1917



WMK. USPS

GEORGE WASHINGTON

1918



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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.

UNITED STATES

1918-20
OFFSET PRINTING
Unwatermarked: Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE VA



TYPE VI



TYPE VII



Imperforate



TYPE IV



TYPE V



TYPE VI



TYPE VII



Perforated 12½



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.

UNITED STATES

1919-21

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Unwatermarked: Perforated 11x10



Perforated 10x11



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



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



THE MAYFLOWER



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.

UNITED STATES

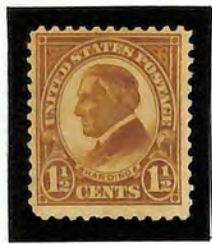
1922-25
FLAT PLATE PRINTING
Perforated 11



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.

Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Imperforate



WARREN G. HARDING

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 11x10



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Perforated 11x10



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES

1923-26

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Perforated 10



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

1923-29

COIL STAMPS

Perforated 10 Vertically



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON
TYPE II



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



JAMES MONROE

Perforated 10 Horizontally

1923

HARDING MEMORIAL

Flat Plate Printing



Flat Plate Printing



Rotary Press Printing



On Sept. 1, 1923, a month after his untimely death, a stamp was issued in U.S. President Harding's memory. Its popularity made it necessary to supplement the flat plate printing (Perf. 11) with a rotary press printing (Perf. 10). Imperforate sheets were issued on demand for those who wished to frame parts of sheets as a memorial of the late chief executive.

UNITED STATES

1924

HUGUENOT-WALLOON



"NEW NETHERLAND"



LANDING AT FORT ORANGE



MONUMENT AT MAYPORT, FLA.

Both the Huguenots (Protestants who lived in France) and Walloons (French-speaking Protestants who lived in northeastern France and southwestern Belgium), suffered from religious persecution. The Huguenots fled to Florida, started a settlement. A few years later it was destroyed by Spaniards. The Walloons fled to the "New World" and settled among several colonies located in New Amsterdam, Connecticut and Delaware.

1925

LEXINGTON-CONCORD



WASHINGTON AT CAMBRIDGE



BIRTH OF LIBERTY



THE MINUTE MAN

Although political action had been taken by the American colonies in 1774 to resist unfair taxation by England, the first military action was in 1775 at Lexington, Mass. where the Redcoats fired into a small group of Minutemen. A few hours later at Concord, Mass. the Minutemen fired "the shot heard 'round the world" and the British reeled back with heavy losses. Two months later George Washington assumed command of the Army.

1925

NORSE-AMERICAN



SLOOP "RESTAURATIONEN"



VIKING SHIP

Honoring the first group of Norwegians, who came to the United States in 1825. These hardy pioneers were followed by thousands of their countrymen who settled mainly in the mid-west.

1925-26

Flat Plate Printing: Perforated 11



BENJAMIN HARRISON



WOODROW WILSON

The 13c value, carrying the picture of President Benjamin Harrison, and the 17c value portraying President Woodrow Wilson, met the fees for circulars, parcel post, registered mail.

1926

ERICSSON MEMORIAL

SESQUICENTENNIAL EXPOSITION



This variety commemorating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was issued at the time of the celebration in Phila.



Ericsson invented the ship screw propeller; built the "Monitor," the U.S. Navy's first iron-clad ship.

BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS



Famous Revolutionary battle in which General George Washington, by brilliant strategy and tactics, escaped seemingly certain defeat.

UNITED STATES

1927

VERMONT SESQUICENTENNIAL



Issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the defeat of Gen. Burgoyne at the Battle of Bennington.

1927

BURGOYNE CAMPAIGN



Trapped by a greater American force after losing four minor battles, General John Burgoyne (1722-92) was defeated at Saratoga by General Gates.

1928

VALLEY FORGE



150th anniversary of the winter encampment of Gen. Washington's army. The site is now a national shrine.

1926-29

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING
Perforated 11x10½



NATHAN HALE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM MCKINLEY



ULYSSES S. GRANT



WARREN G. HARDING

1926

Imperforate



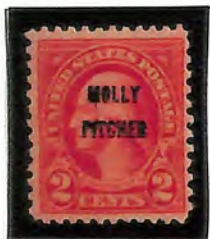
THOMAS JEFFERSON



JAMES MONROE

1928

BATTLE OF MONMOUTH



Mary Hays carried pitchers of water to soldiers and replaced her husband at cannon.

1928

HAWAII SESQUICENTENNIAL



These overprints marked the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by Capt. James Cook in 1778. At first named the Sandwich Islands by Cook, they later became the 50th U. S. State in 1959.



1929

ELECTRIC LIGHT'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Flat Plate Printing



Rotary Press Printing



Rotary Press Printing



These stamps honored Thomas Alva Edison's development of the electric light in 1879, considered by many to be the world's greatest invention. Edison however, was not the first inventor to visualize an incandescent electric bulb but he merits the credit for perfecting it.

UNITED STATES

1929

SULLIVAN EXPEDITION



Gen. Sullivan (1740-95) whipped Indians and Loyalists at Newtown, now Elmira, New York.

1928

AERONAUTICS CONFERENCE



Commemorating the 25th anniversary of man's first successful heavier-than-air flight by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1929

BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBERS



By defeating Chief Little Turtle, Gen. Anthony Wayne (1745-96) opened way to the West.

1930

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY CAROLINA-CHARLESTON



300th Anniversary of Puritans' arrival, founding of first self-governing commonwealth.



Noted the 260th anniversary of the Province of Carolina; the City of Charleston's 250th.

1929

OHIO RIVER CANALIZATION



Army engineers built the country's most extensive canal system between Cairo, Illinois, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1930

BRADDOCK'S FIELD



Gen. Braddock's forces defeated by French and Indians at Ft. Duquesne, now Pittsburgh, Pa.

VON STEUBEN



Inspector-General of the American Revolutionary Army, fought at Monmouth, Yorktown.

1930

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING
Perforated 11x10 1/2



WARREN G. HARDING



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

1929

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK



George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) captured Ft. Sackville (site of Vincennes, Ind.) and secured N.W. for America.

1930

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING
Perforated 10 Vertically



WARREN G. HARDING



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

1931

YORKTOWN



Blockaded by a fleet at sea and an American and French army ashore, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, ending the American Revolution.

PULASKI



A Polish Count who aided the American Revolution. Mortally wounded in Georgia.

RED CROSS



The poster, "The Greatest Mother," used as illustration to hail the birth of this Society.

UNITED STATES

1929

1926-27 Issue Overprinted "Kans."



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



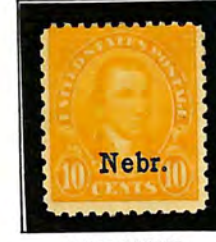
WILLIAM MCKINLEY



ULYSSES S. GRANT



THOMAS JEFFERSON



JAMES MONROE

1926-27 Issue Overprinted "Nebr."



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

Baffling Post Office burglaries were frequent in the mid-west and the Department tried an impractical scheme to stop its losses. The regular issues of 1926-27 were overprinted "Kans." and "Nebr." for use in those two states. Often called "state control stamps."

UNITED STATES

AIR POST STAMPS

1918



1923



1926-27



1928

1927
LINDBERGH



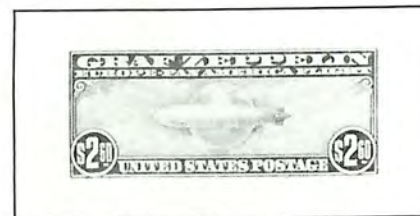
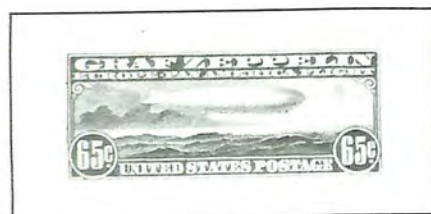
1930

Flat Plate Printing: Perforated 11



1930

GRAF ZEPPELIN ISSUE



UNITED STATES

AIR POST STAMPS

1931-34

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Perforated 10½x11



1933

CENTURY OF PROGRESS



1938



1939

TRANS-ATLANTIC



1935-37

TRANS-PACIFIC



1941-44



Airplanes themselves are the most interesting feature of these varieties. The plane on the 1941-44 issue is a composite of the various features of aircraft made by leading companies!

UNITED STATES

AIR POST SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

1934



1936



The most interesting fact about this issue is that it combines the fee for both regular air mail and special delivery. The Post Office Department hoped that people would increase their use of this de luxe service because of the convenience of using one stamp to pay for two services. The original blue color was not dramatic enough so a new variety in red and blue appeared in 1936. The "Great Seal" of the U.S. is featured.

CERTIFIED MAIL STAMP

REGISTRATION STAMP

1911



The purpose of registered mail is to have absolute proof of mailing and safe delivery of valuable items. The Registry System of the United States started in July 1855 and regular postage stamps were used for 56 years. In 1911 our one and only registration stamp was issued, it lived a mere two years, but registry service is still provided.

1955



Devised to publicize this inexpensive, legal, way to show proof of mailing and delivery of letters and documents without having to incur the steadily increasing costs of registry fees. Although the service remains, this special was discontinued in 1957.

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

Unwatermarked

1885



1888



1893



1894



LINE UNDER "TEN CENTS"

Watermarked USPS

1895



1908



1902



UNITED STATES

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

Watermarked USPS

Unwatermarked

1911
Perforated 12



1914
Perforated 10



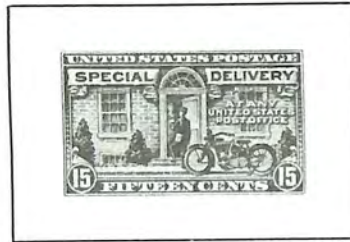
1916
Perforated 10



1917
Perforated 11



1922-25
FLAT PLATE PRINTING
Perforated 11



1927-31
ROTARY PRESS PRINTING
Perforated 11x10½



1944



1951



1954-57



1969-71



In 1885 the Post Office Dept. started "Special Delivery" service which assured the immediate delivery of mail between 7 A.M. and midnight. Offered at first in towns with 4,000 or more population, the service encompassed the whole country the following year.

UNITED STATES

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

1879

Color: Brown



J7

1887-89

Color: Red Brown



J17



J19

1891-93

Color: Bright Claret

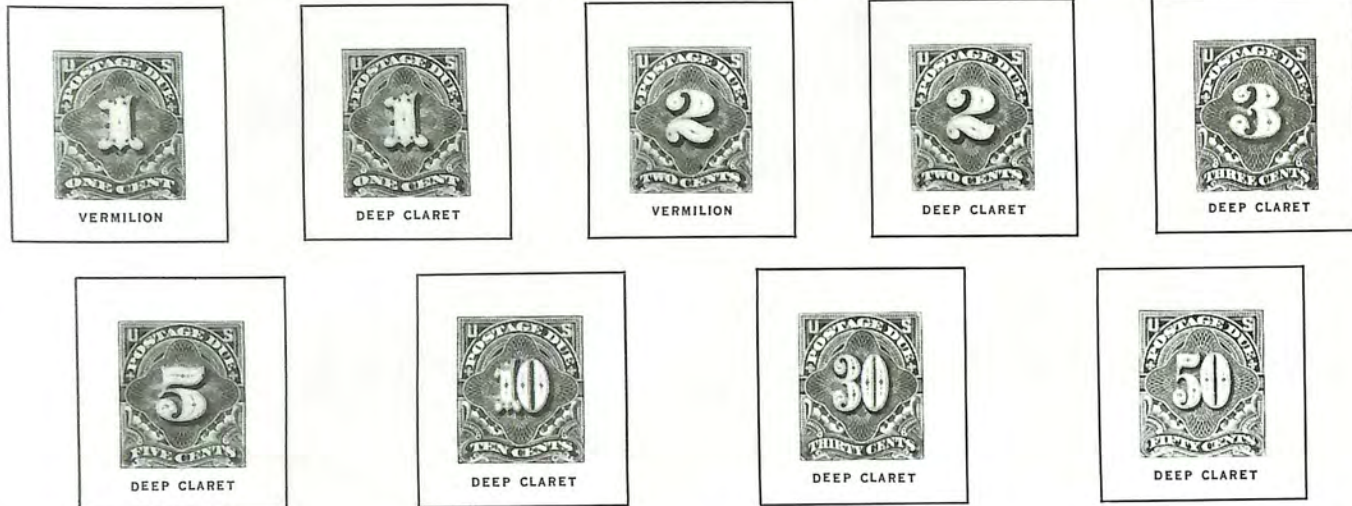


UNITED STATES

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

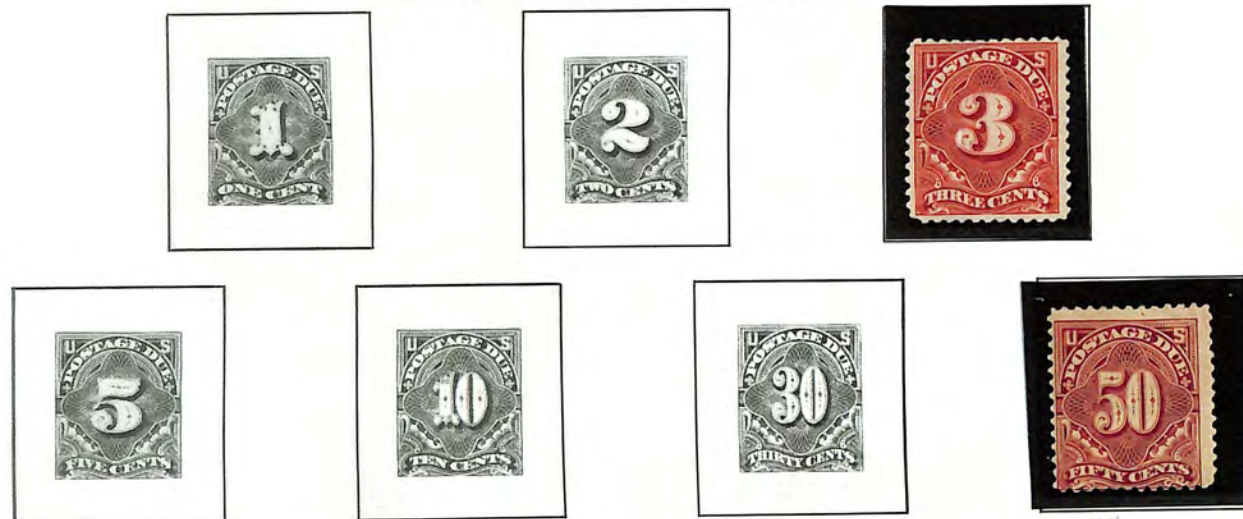
1894

Unwatermarked: Perforated 12



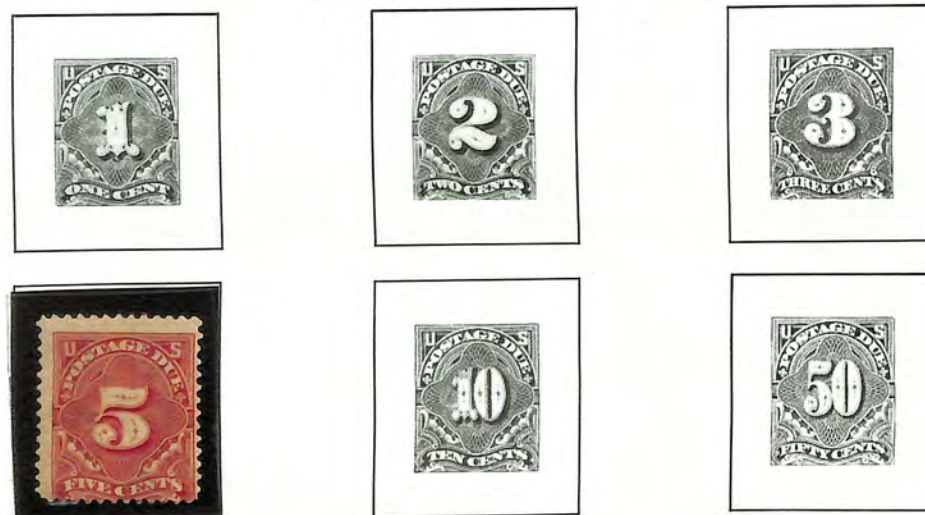
1895

Watermarked USPS Perforated 12: Color: Deep Claret



1910-12

Watermarked USPS Perforated 12



UNITED STATES

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

1914-15

Watermarked USPS: Perforated 10



JSS NH

JSS

1916

Unwatermarked: Perforated 10



1917-25

Perforated 11

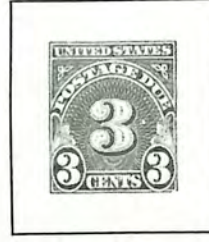


J67

1930-31

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Perforated 11



UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL STAMPS

1873-79

AGRICULTURE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON

EXECUTIVE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON

INTERIOR



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

When the "franking privilege" (sending letters free) for government departments was stopped in 1873, special "official" stamps were issued for the use of these agencies. These stamps were declared obsolete in 1884 and were replaced by the free envelopes.

UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL STAMPS

1873-79

JUSTICE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

NAVY



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL STAMPS

1873-79

POST OFFICE



STATE



UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL STAMPS

1873-79

TREASURY



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON

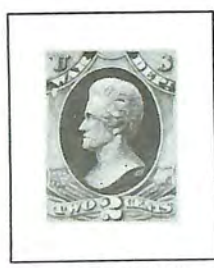


OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

WAR



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



WINFIELD SCOTT



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1911 POSTAL SAVINGS

Watermarked USPS



Watermarked USPS

UNITED STATES

PARCEL POST STAMPS 1912-13



POST OFFICE CLERK



RAILWAY POSTAL CLERK



RURAL CARRIER



MAIL TRAIN



STEAMSHIP AND MAIL TENDER NH



AUTOMOBILE SERVICE NH



AIRPLANE CARRYING MAIL



MANUFACTURING



DAIRYING



HARVESTING



FRUIT GROWING

SPECIAL HANDLING STAMPS 1925-29



PARCEL POST DUE STAMPS 1912



UNITED STATES

HUNTING PERMIT STAMPS

1934-51

