



Issue of 1847

Imperforate

Printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson



Benjamin Franklin



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



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



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



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington

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



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



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



Andrew Jackson



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington

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



Declaration of Independence



Eagle, Shield and Flags



Abraham Lincoln

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



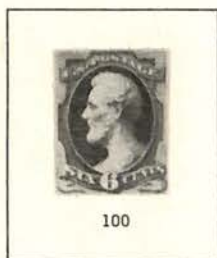
Benjamin Franklin



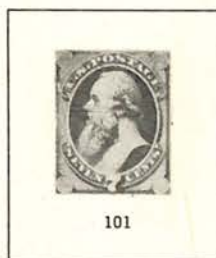
Andrew Jackson



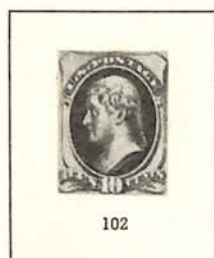
George Washington



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



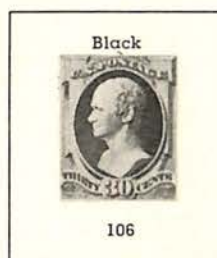
Henry Clay



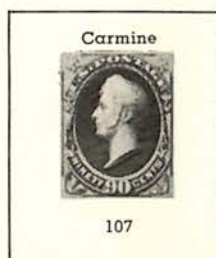
Daniel Webster



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



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



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



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



George Washington



Zachary Taylor



Abraham Lincoln



Edwin M. Stanton



Thomas Jefferson



Henry Clay



Daniel Webster



Gen. Winfield Scott



Alexander Hamilton



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



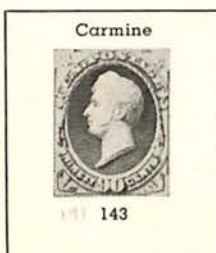
Daniel Webster



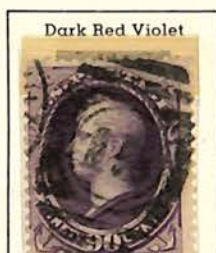
Alexander Hamilton



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



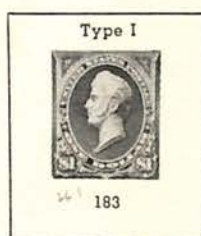
Daniel Webster



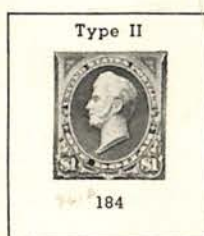
Henry Clay



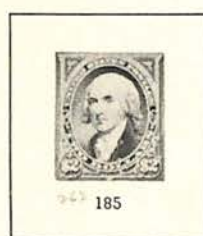
Thomas Jefferson



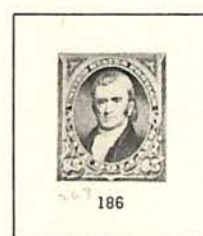
Commodore Perry



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 1895-98

Perforated 12
Double-line Watermark



Benjamin Franklin



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



George Washington



George Washington



Andrew Jackson



Abraham Lincoln



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



William T. Sherman



Issue of 1895-98

Perforated 12

Double-line Watermark



Daniel Webster



Daniel Webster



Henry Clay



Thomas Jefferson



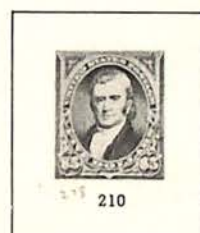
Commodore Perry



Commodore Perry



James Madison



John Marshall

Two types of the 10¢ stamp are distinguished as illustrated:

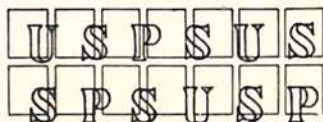


Type II

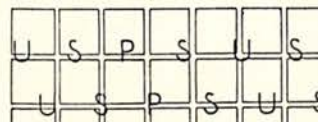
A line of color appears in the white curve below "TS" of cents and "E" of Ten.

In printing this new issue watermarked paper was used for the first time on stamps intended for postage purposes. Watermarking had been used previously for revenue stamps and postcards. The watermark consisted of Double-line letters "U S P S" so distributed that each stamp on the sheet shows at least a part of the watermarking, as illustrated below.

In 1910 a single-line watermark was used for the first time by the Bureau.



Double-line



Single-line



Issue of 1902-03

PERFORATED 12

DOUBLE-LINE WATERMARK



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

Issue of 1906-08

IMPERFORATE



Benjamin Franklin



Abraham Lincoln

Issue of 1903-06

PERFORATED 12

IMPERFORATE



George Washington



George Washington

THIS series of postage stamps featured elaborately engraved framed designs with the name of the person and the years of birth and death on each stamp directly under each portrait. For the first time in United States postal history an American woman, Martha Washington, graced a stamp, the 8¢ value.



Issue of 1908-17

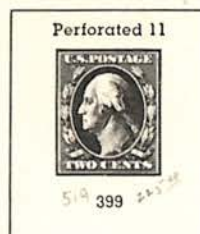
Perforated 12
Double-line Watermark



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Imperforate



This series for the sake of uniformity and artistic effect featured the head of George Washington on all of the denominations except the 1¢ which portrayed Benjamin Franklin. Part of this issue was printed on a stock which was made of 35 per cent rag and are known as "bluish paper," although they are actually grayish in appearance. Most of the denominations printed on this paper are rare.



Issue of 1908-10

Coil Stamps
Perforated 12 Horizontally
Double-line Watermark



Coil Stamps
Perforated 12 Vertically



Officially issued coil stamps came into being in 1908. As the name indicates, the stamps instead of being issued in sheet form, were made available in lengths which were coiled into rolls of five hundred and one thousand. Stamps in this form were found to be more convenient for handling large quantities of mail that called for the same stamp value. These coils were also made available to private companies who were licensed to perforate them and sell them in vending machines at neighborhood stores for the convenience of the public.



Issue of 1910-14

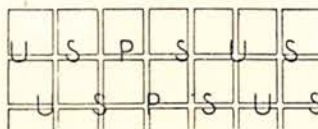
Perforated 12
Single-line Watermark



Imperforate



This issue employed the same designs as the previous series. A single line style of watermark was used.



Single-line



Issue of 1910-13

Coil Stamps
Single-line Watermark

Perforated 12 Horizontally



Perforated 12 Vertically



Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Perforated 8½ Vertically



This series of coil stamps featured the designs of the previous regular issues. As an experiment the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used a 8½ perforation instead of the usual 12 in an effort to find a more suitable size. The 3¢ perforated 12 stamp of this series is the rarest coil only a few being used at Orangeburg, N. Y. and for that reason is omitted from this album.

*Issue of 1912*

Perforated 12

Single-line Watermark



Imperforate



Coil Stamps

Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Perforated 8½ Vertically

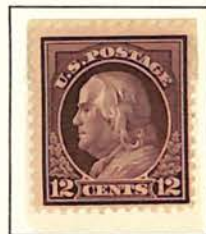


This series featured the portrait of George Washington with slight changes in the design-work from the previous issues.

*Issue of 1912-14*

Perforated 12

Single-line Watermark



Double-line Watermark



The portrait of Benjamin Franklin was featured on the entire set of this issue. The 50¢ denomination appeared with both types of watermark.



Issue of 1914-15

Perforated 10
Single-line Watermark



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



The portraits of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were again used as the prominent part of the design on this issue. The larger-holed perforation 10 was placed in use to prevent sheets from falling apart due to the fineness of the perforation 12.

*Issue of 1914*

Coil Stamps, Flat Plate Printing
Perforated 10 Horizontally
Single-line Watermark



Perforated 10 Vertically

*Issue of 1914-16*

Coil Stamps, Rotary Press
Perforated 10 Vertically



Perforated 10 Horizontally



With the coil issue of 1914-16 a rotary press was used for the first time in printing United States stamps. Rotary press stamps are printed from curved plates and are therefore slightly larger either vertically or horizontally than flat plate printings. This process of printing enabled the Bureau to produce stamps more quickly.

*Issue of 1916-17*

Flat Plate Printing
Perforated 10, Unwatermarked



The stamps of this series were a repeat of previous issues but with differences discernible only to stamp collectors. They were printed on unwatermarked paper and the 2¢ and 5¢ values were previously issued perforated 12. One of the most spectacular errors occurred in the printing of this series. Sheets of the 2¢ value were found with one stamp being of the 5¢ denomination. This was found on the lower right sheet of plate number 7942. On the Upper left sheet of plate number 7942 a double error was found. These errors continued to appear in later printings of the 2¢ stamp imperforate and perforated 11 and are greatly desired by stamp collectors.

*Issue of 1916-17*

Flate Plate Printing
Imperforate
Unwatermarked

*Issue of 1916-22*

Rotary Press Printing
Coils Perforated 10 Horizontally
Unwatermarked



Perforated 10 Vertically



*Issue of 1917-19*

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11

Unwatermarked



The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was still trying to find a more suitable size of perforation. Perforation 12 was found to be too fragile and perforation, 10 was too strong, causing damage to stamps during separation. To remedy these defects perforation 11 was used for this series.



Issue of 1918-20

Offset Printing

Perforated 11



Perforated 11



Perforated 11



Perforated 12½



Imperforate



The Bureau again experimenting tried with the 1918-20 issues to use the offset method of printing (a type of lithography). It was not successful and was soon discontinued.

Issue of 1919-21

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10



Perforated 10 x 11



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



Perforated 11



Stamps which were originally intended to be issued in coil form but were later perforated fully are known as coil waste, and some of the above issues were created in this manner.

*Issue of 1922-26*

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



Benjamin Harrison



American Indian



Issue of 1922-26

Flat Plate Printing

Perforated 11



Woodrow Wilson



Statue of Liberty



Golden Gate



Niagara Falls



Bison



Arlington Amphitheatre



Lincoln Memorial



U. S. Capitol



America

Imperforate



Benjamin Franklin



Warren G. Harding



George Washington

With this issue an entirely new series was made available to the American public. It featured presidents, famous Americans, and pictures of the American scene.

*Issue of 1923-26*

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10



Perforated 10



The same designs used in the previous issue were used for this printing. In order to overcome the tendency of Rotary Press stamps to curl, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing used gum breaker bars. These bars which are colorless, raised, impressions may be seen on the gummed side of mint rotary press stamps.



Rotary Press Coils of 1923-32

1923-29

Perforated 10 Vertically



1923-25

Perforated 10 Horizontally



1930-32

Perforated 10

Vertically



Vertically



Horizontally



Vertically





Issue of 1926-34

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½



*Issue of 1926-34*

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½

Perforated 10½ x 11



Perforated 10½ x 11



Perforated 10½ x 11



After much experimentation the Bureau of Engraving and Printing decided that the 11 by 10½ perforation was the most suitable for the rotary press printed stamps and is still in use.

Issue of 1926

Rotary Press Printing

Imperforate

*Issue of 1930-32*

Rotary Press Printing

Perforated 11 x 10½



Warren G. Harding



George Washington



William Howard Taft

Following the death of President William Howard Taft the Post Office Department issued a new 4-cent stamp bearing his likeness.



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.



Issue of 1938-43

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

PERFORATED 11 x 10½



Benjamin Franklin



George Washington



Martha Washington



John Adams



Thomas Jefferson



James Madison



The White House



James Monroe



John Quincy Adams



Andrew Jackson



Martin Van Buren



William H. Harrison



John Tyler



James K. Polk



Zachary Taylor



Millard Fillmore



Franklin Pierce



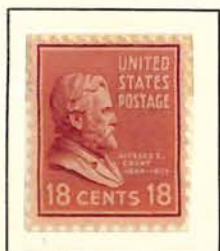
James Buchanan



Abraham Lincoln



Andrew Johnson



Ulysses S. Grant



Rutherford B. Hayes



James A. Garfield



Chester A. Arthur



Issue of 1938-43

(continued)



Grover Cleveland



Benjamin Harrison



William McKinley



Theodore Roosevelt



William Howard Taft

Flat Plate Printing, Perforated 11



Woodrow Wilson



Warren G. Harding



Calvin Coolidge

Coil Stamps, Perforated 10 Vertically



PERFORATED 10 HORIZONTALLY



ISSUED as a series of ordinary postage stamps replacing the 1922-31 stamps this set is called the Presidential issue because all of our past presidents who had passed on as of 1938 are pictured. Starting with George Washington and ending with Calvin Coolidge the presidents are listed in the order in which they served. Also included are Benjamin Franklin ($\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$), Martha Washington ($1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$), and view of the White House ($4\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$).



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)



CM12

Isabella Pledging Her Jewels



CM13

Columbus in Chains



CM14

Describing His Third Voyage



CM15

Isabella and Columbus



CM16

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



CM23

Western Mining Prospector



CM24

Western Cattle in Storm



CM25

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.



Jamestown Exposition

Hampton Roads, Virginia, 1907



Captain John Smith



Founding of Jamestown

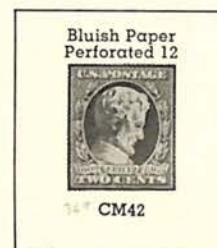


Pocahontas

Issued April 25, 1907 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The leader of the founding colonists was Capt. John Smith, whose life was saved by Pocahontas when she threw herself between him and an Indian's axe. Stamps were in use during the Jamestown Exposition and withdrawn from sale when the Exposition closed, December 1, 1907. The figures in the upper corners of the 1c stamp are Pocahontas and Powhatan.

Lincoln Memorial

1909



CM42



Lincoln

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The design is from St. Gaudens' statue of Lincoln. The stamps were issued both perforate and imperforate, and on the experimental "bluish" paper.

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

Seattle, Washington, 1909



CM44

William H. Seward



Issued on June 1, 1909, in connection with the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition held in Seattle, Washington, in that year, to celebrate the purchase from Russia of the Alaska territory. William H. Seward was Secretary of State and negotiated the purchase.