

## Series of 1902-03

**Jefferson:** 50¢ Orange. The first President to be inaugurated in Washington, Thomas Jefferson was also the first to live in the so-called "President's House." Only partially built when he moved in, Jefferson helped design the east and west terraces and the north portico of what was later to become the White House.

**Farragut:** \$1 Black. Since 1870, Commodore Perry had adorned the 90¢ and later the \$1 stamp, but with the appearance of Admiral David Farragut, Perry disappeared from the face of stamps. A Union naval commander during the Civil War, Admiral Farragut's brilliant military career is represented by a sailor supporting a boat hook on the right and a soldier holding a musket on the left.

**Madison:** \$2 Dark blue. As a founding father, James Madison was influential in the history of America. At the Constitutional Convention, he was instrumental in the planning and ratification of the Constitution. Later, as a member of Congress, he sponsored the first ten amendments.

**Marshall:** \$5 Dark green. This is the scarcest of the regular issues in the 20th century. Although it was available for twelve years, the quantity issued was extremely limited. Appropriately designed, with the mythological heads of Liberty and Justice appearing at the top, this stamp depicts America's fourth Chief Justice, John Marshall.

## 1903

Issued in January 1903, the 2¢ Washington was severely criticized by the public. Printed in black ink on India paper, the proofs of this stamp were crisp and clear. After seeing these samples, a New

York newspaper stated it was "the finest stamp ever produced." However, when the actual stamp was printed on the softer stamp paper in red ink, the result was not as beautiful as anticipated. Many felt the overall design was poor, the portrait didn't resemble Washington, and the stamp appeared too crowded.

Less than two months later, the Postmaster General decided to replace it with a newly designed stamp. Known as the "two-cent revised design," the stamp was released later that year featuring Washington framed by a modified U.S. shield. The new design, which went to the opposite extreme, was applauded by the public. Today, it is considered by collectors to be the least artistic of the series.

## 1906-08

When the 1¢ Franklin and 2¢ Washington were first issued imperforate, a scheming young man took advantage of the situation. At the time the stamps were first released, they were available only in Chicago. Seizing the opportunity to "make a quick buck," he told New York dealers that, according to a friend who worked for the Postal Department, these sheets were an error and only a few had gotten out. Eager to own a rare and valuable error, the dealers snatched up the sheets for \$10 to \$25 apiece!

When the sheets came out in New York a few days later, they knew they'd "been had." The sheets, containing 100 stamps, sold for a mere \$2. One dealer sold his copies for \$2.00 a block, with the statement, "it might be a scarce item or perhaps become a regular issue."

In 1908, an imperforate 5¢ Lincoln was issued. Both stamps were issued imperforate to be used in the newly developed vending machines, which required special perforations. Private manufacturers of the machines would purchase the imperforate stamps and then apply their own perforations.



## Series of 1902-03

Perforated 12



Jefferson



Farragut



Madison



Marshall

## 1906-08

Imperforate Stamps



Franklin



Lincoln

**1903**  
Perforated 12



Washington

**1906**  
Imperforate



Washington

## 1904 Louisiana Purchase



**Robert R. Livingston:** 1¢ Green. As his Minister to France, Thomas Jefferson sent Livingston (and James Monroe) to offer \$2 million dollars to buy New Orleans and West Florida from France and Spain. But they couldn't pass up a bigger bargain and purchased an area (for \$15 million) which doubled the size of the United States. The Louisiana Purchase was Livingston's most notable achievement.

**Thomas Jefferson:** 2¢ Carmine. Jefferson is remembered as our third President, but he was also a lawyer, legislator, educator, author, musician, inventor, mathematician, farmer, and statesman! He was very interested in westward expansion, but he worried about France and Spain's possessions west of the Mississippi. When the time was right, he wisely took advantage of financial problems in France and bought the Louisiana Territory.

**James Monroe:** 3¢ Violet. Monroe studied law under Thomas Jefferson and later helped Livingston to acquire the Louisiana Territory. He is most remembered as our fifth President and for the "Monroe Doctrine," which profoundly influenced the foreign policy of the U.S. This doctrine insisted that Europe not interfere with the government of, or try to colonize, any other nation in the New World.

**William McKinley:** 5¢ Dark blue. Besides Jefferson, no other President has been as aggressive in acquiring new territories for the U.S. McKinley annexed Hawaii (realizing the importance of U.S. interests in the Pacific). And, he acquired from Spain the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. An assassin shot him on September 6, 1901. Doctors did not believe his wound was serious, but he died on September 14.

**Map of the Louisiana Territory:** 10¢ Red brown. This stamp design illustrates a map of the U.S. with the Louisiana Territory superimposed. It makes obvious what a significant and dramatic step the Louisiana Purchase was. Some felt the Constitution was not explicit in authorizing such territorial acquisitions and claimed the purchase to be "unconstitutional." Thomas Jefferson felt that since such actions were not expressly forbidden in the Constitution, they must be allowed.



## 1904 Louisiana Purchase



Robert R. Livingston



Jefferson



Monroe



McKinley



Map of Louisiana Purchase

## 1907 Jamestown Issue



**Captain John Smith:** 1¢ Green. John Smith is the best known of the early settlers of Virginia. As a youngster, he was an indifferent student and eventually chose to follow the call of the sea. At the young age of 26, he began trying to colonize Jamestown. While on an expedition in Virginia, he and his men were attacked by Indians. Smith was tried and sentenced to die, but was supposedly saved by Pocahontas. While many of the events in Smith's life have been debated, he's credited with making an accurate map of the northeastern coast from Penobscot, Maine, to Cape Cod. And it was Smith who called the area "New England."

**Founding of Jamestown:** 2¢ Carmine. Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America and was founded on May 14, 1607. It was there that the first representative government of the American continent was established. The cultivation of tobacco was begun there. Jamestown is also remembered for buying the first Negro slaves to be introduced into the 13 colonies.

**Pocahontas:** 5¢ Blue. This daughter of the Indian Chief Powhatan is the heroine of one of the best-known traditions connected with American History. When John Smith was sentenced to death, he was but seconds away from having his brains crushed with heavy clubs. Pocahontas ran to his aid and begged and pleaded with her father not to kill him. Smith was spared his life.



## 1907 Jamestown Issue



Captain John Smith



Founding of Jamestown



Pocahontas



## Series of 1908-09

When the 1902 series was issued, the Post Office Department received numerous complaints from collectors, as well as the public, concerning the stamps' poor designs. One particular gentleman, Charles Dalton, even wrote to his senator! He severely criticized the Stuart portrait of Washington currently in use on the 2¢ stamp and suggested the profile, taken from the bust by Jean Antoine Houdon, be put back into use.

He also recommended that this portrait be used on all U.S. issues. To support his idea, he used the example of Great Britain's stamps, which all carried the profile portrait of King Edward VII. After careful consideration, the Postmaster General and Department officials adopted Mr. Dalton's suggestions for the new 1908 series. The decision was made to keep Benjamin Franklin on the 1¢ stamp; however, his portrait was also to be in profile, modeled after Houdon's bust.

A simpler and more modern-looking border design was selected to be used on all denominations. The simplicity and uniformity of the new design greatly reduced production costs and extended the life of the steel printing plates. Due to lower international rates and higher weight limits per unit, the need for the \$2 and \$5 stamps diminished. When the 1908 was released, these issues were discontinued.

Issued during the American Industrial Revolution, the series of 1908 was released in an age when machines were being developed to do anything man could and more. These inventions ranged from automated manufacturing plants and flying machines to the horseless carriage and slot machines. These slot or vending machines first appeared in the late 1880s to sell chewing gum on New York City train platforms. By the twentieth century, they also dispensed products such as candy, cigarettes, and souvenir postcards.

These vending machines were so successful that the companies which manufactured them were constantly seeking new items to market. Their attention was soon turned to postage stamps. Not only would this venture prove profitable for the manufacturers, it could also save a sizable amount of money of the government.

On November 24, 1905, a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of using vending machines to sell stamps. The committee was to determine whether or not this would be a worthwhile endeavor for the Postal Department to undertake. After examining the merits of these machines they reported, "...that the adoption of automatic machines for the sale of stamped paper would not, for the present, be advantageous." The idea was abandoned until 1907.



## Series of 1908-09

### Double Line Watermark



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

## 1908-09 Stamps

Double Line Watermark

Imperforate



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

## 1908-10 Coil Stamps

Double Line Watermark

Perforated 12 Horizontally



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington

# 1909 Coil Stamps

Double Line Watermark  
Perforated 12 Vertically



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

# 1909 Bluish Gray Paper

Double Line Watermark

Perforated 12



Franklin



Washington



#359

Washington



#360

Washington



#361

Washington



#362

Washington



#363

Washington



#364

Washington



#365

Washington



#366

Washington

## 1909 Commemoratives

### Lincoln Memorial Issue



Lincoln



Lincoln  
Imperforate



Lincoln  
Blue Paper

### Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition



William H. Seward



William H. Seward  
Imperforate

### Hudson-Fulton Celebration



Half Moon and Clermont



Half Moon and Clermont  
Imperforate

## Series of 1910-11



In August of 1910, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made the decision to change the USPS watermark. In addition to reducing the size of the letters, the style was changed from a double line to a single line. The purpose was to strengthen the paper and give it a more uniform thickness, since the old watermark had a tendency to weaken the structure of the paper.

Since money was in short supply due to the economic pressures of World War I, the watermark was discontinued in 1916 in an effort to cut back on production costs at the Bureau. By not using the specially produced watermarked paper, a large amount of money could be saved. It was decided that this savings was so significant, it outweighed the risk of counterfeiting.



# 1910-11 Coil Stamps

Single Line Watermark

Perforated 12

Horizontally

Vertically



Franklin



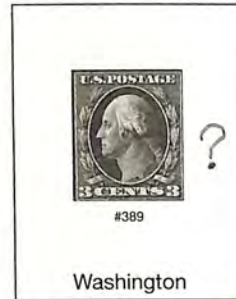
Washington



Franklin



Washington



Washington

# 1910-13 Coil Stamps

Perforated 8 1/2 Horizontally



Franklin



Washington

Perforated 8 1/2 Vertically



Franklin



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

## 1913 Commemoratives Panama-Pacific Exposition



**Balboa:** 1¢ Green. This series of stamps was issued to publicize the upcoming 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition which was held in San Francisco. The exposition commemorated the discovery of the Pacific Ocean as well as the construction of the Panama Canal. This stamp features Vasco Nunez de Balboa, who discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513 and claimed all the shores washed by it for Spain.

**Panama Canal:** 2¢ Carmine. The Panama Canal was built under the supervision of Lt. Col. George W. Goethals. It was constructed at a cost of about \$380 million dollars. The canal is a 40.3-mile long transportation line and travel route which links the Pacific ports with the Caribbean ports.

**Golden Gate:** 5¢ Blue. San Francisco was the Pacific stopover for much of the shipping that passed through the Panama Canal between the East and West coasts. The San Francisco Harbor was once the location from which most ships set sail across the Pacific bound for the Orient. Today, it's best known as the setting of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**San Francisco Bay:** 10¢ Orange yellow. This issue commemorates the discovery of San Francisco Bay. The design is taken from a painting by Charles F. Mathews. Although at one time, records indicated that Englishman Francis Drake discovered it, the credit for the discovery of San Francisco Bay goes to Don Gaspar de Portola – a Spaniard.

**San Francisco Bay:** 10¢ Orange. The design of this issue is identical to the previous issue with one exception. When the original 10¢ stamp was first issued, the beauty of the vignette design was not due to the light color of ink used. There was enough criticism regarding this, that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing adopted a darker shade of ink.



## 1913 Commemoratives

Panama-Pacific Exposition  
Perforated 12



Balboa



Panama Canal



Golden Gate



Discovery of San Francisco Bay



Discovery of San Francisco Bay

## 1914-15 Commemoratives Panama-Pacific Exposition



**Perforated 10:** When the Panama-Pacific commemoratives were first issued, they were perforated 12. But complaints by postal workers and the general public that the stamps separated prematurely caused the Post Office Department to change the perforations to 10 in 1914. Most collectors ignored the new varieties. Since they already had the 1913 stamps, few bothered to save the new ones. Thus, the "Perf 10's" are much scarcer today.

**Balboa:** 1¢ Green. Fearing Balboa's growing influence in the new colony, Pedrarias – who had recently been appointed by King Ferdinand – accused him of treason. As a result, Balboa and four of his supporters were executed in the public square.

**Panama Canal:** 2¢ Carmine. Except for small boats, ships can not travel the Canal under their own power. Instead, they are towed by electric locomotives. The trip usually takes between 15 and 20 hours.

**Golden Gate:** 5¢ Blue. The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the largest suspension bridges in the entire world. It spans a distance of 4,200 feet between the towers, and is wide enough to accommodate a six-lane highway and sidewalks.

**San Francisco Bay:** 10¢ Orange. Formed by a flooded river valley, San Francisco Bay is considered one of the most beautiful natural bays in the world. The first lighthouse on the California coast was built in San Francisco Bay, on Alcatraz Island.



## 1914-15 Commemoratives

Panama-Pacific Exposition  
Perforated 10



Balboa



Panama Canal



Golden Gate



Discovery of San Francisco Bay



## Series of 1912-14



When the dies for the new series were prepared, all of them had the denominations in words and not numerals. It was pointed out, after the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps had already been issued, that this format did not conform to the Universal Postal Union's regulations. According to their standards, the denominations were to be in numerals so they could be understood in any language. The printings for the 3¢ through \$1 were held up and the plates changed to comply with U.P.U.'s guidelines. Since the one- and two-cent stamps had been released, the decision was made not to change the plates. In 1912, the denominations were finally switched to numerals.

During the years these stamps were produced, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving changed the watermarks, varied the perforations, and experimented with different types of paper. Imperforate stamps, as well as coils and booklets, were also released. The result was the printing of 175 major varieties. Although these stamps look remarkably similar, there are notable philatelic differences. The Postal Department did not regard these differences as significant, and as late as 1925, postal reports listed some issues as "Series 1908."



## Series of 1912-14

Single Line Watermark  
Perforated 12



Washington



Washington



Washington

### Imperforate



Washington



Washington

## 1912 Coil Stamps

Single Line Watermark  
Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Washington



Washington

### Perforated 8½ Vertically



Washington



Washington

## Series of 1912-14

Single Line Watermark  
Perforated 12



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin

## Double Line Watermark



Franklin



Franklin

## Series of 1914-15



When the 1908 series was issued, all stamps were perforated 12 gauge. Soon, both the public and postal workers began complaining that the perforations were too close, and the stamps could not be handled without coming apart. It wasn't until 1910 that the Post Office Department began taking their complaints seriously. At this time, the Bureau began producing coils on a machine which would automatically wind the stamps into coiled rolls. They soon found the 12 gauge perforations were much too brittle to be used, since the stamps were continually becoming separated in the coiling process.

These events brought about the change to 8 1/2 gauge perforations. However, this produced stamps which were difficult to tear apart, consequently ripping the stamps. Again, the perforations were changed, this time to 10 gauge. While this change was fine for coiled stamps, it was unsuitable for sheets, which had a tendency to tear rather than separate at the perforations. Eventually, it was decided that 11 gauge perforations were suitable for sheets, while 10 gauge perforations were best for coils.



# Series of 1914-15

## Single Line Watermark

### Perforated 10



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Franklin

# Series of 1914-15

## Single Line Watermark

### Perforated 10



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin

## 1914 Flat Plate Coil Stamps



In 1914, private perforations applied by a local postmaster created an interesting variety. When the Bureau began issuing imperforate sheets in 1911, they would supply to anyone who placed a special order. Hoping to sell to collectors and companies who owned vending machines, some post offices stocked up on the sheets.

However, as the Bureau began producing its own coil stamps for use by the companies, the demand for imperforate sheets diminished. Many post offices found themselves with sheets of stamps that no one wanted! One such office was the Kansas City Post Office, which had on hand 93,600 1¢ and 69,200 2¢ imperforate stamps. Since there was no longer a demand for these stamps, the postmaster authorized the clerks to perforate the sheets with roulette wheels used in tracing dress patterns. In all, fifteen wheels were purchased, each being slightly different and resulting in various perforations.

Several months later, all the 2¢ stamps had been sold and all but 7,900 of the 1¢ stamps had been sold. Collectors everywhere were snatching up this unusual variety. Because demand was so great for these new rouletted stamps, the postmaster was instructed by Washington, D.C., that the remaining supply was to be sold only to collectors.



# 1914 Flat Plate Coil Stamps

## Perforated 10 Horizontally



## Perforated 10 Vertically



# 1914-16 Rotary Press Coil Stamps

## Perforated 10 Horizontally



Washington



Washington (I)



Washington (III)

## Perforated 10 Vertically



Washington



Washington (I)



Washington (II)



Washington (III)



Washington (I)



Washington



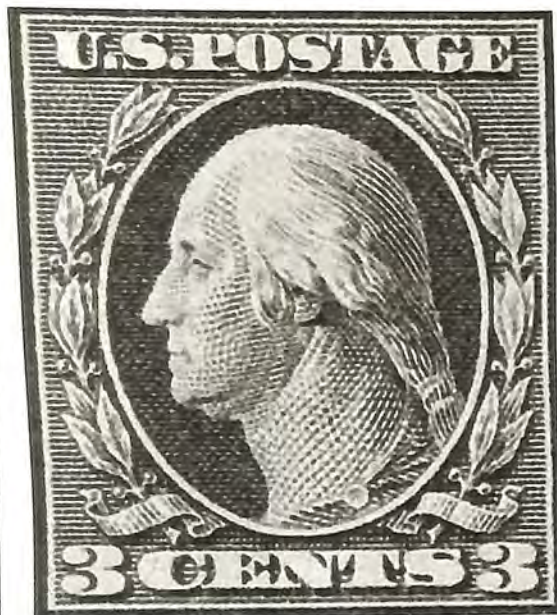
Washington

## Horizontal Imperforate Coil



Washington (I)

## 1915-17 Flat Plate Printing



The history of stamp vending machines actually goes back to the mid-1880s when an English woman, Victoria Bundsen, invented a stamp-affixing device. On April 19, 1884, she was granted a British patent. She also applied for a patent in the United States, which was awarded on July 21, 1885. The hand-held plunger she developed is basically still in use today, with a few minor modifications.

Her invention used a stack of single, separated stamps placed in a small box at the end of the plunger. By pushing the plunger down, a moistener was applied to the envelope. As the stamp came in contact with the moistened envelope, it naturally adhered.

Numerous others from England, Germany, and the United States developed similar devices, but the first one to use stamps in a "ribbon" or "coil" (long strips of single stamps) form was an invention by William Miller of Polo, Illinois. He was granted a patent on January 29, 1889. His machine was unique in the fact that it actually used a roll of coiled stamps, rather than just a strip of ten. A knife would sever the stamp along the perforations. The stamp was then applied to an envelope by a plunger, similar to the stamp-affixing device.



# 1915 Flat Plate Printing

Double Line Watermark  
Perforated 10



Franklin

Single Line Watermark  
Perforated 11



Washington

## Series of 1916-17

Unwatermarked  
Perforated 10



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

# Series of 1916-17

Unwatermarked  
Perforated 10



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Madison



Marshall

## 1916-19 Issues

Because soldiers didn't have free franking privileges at the start of the war, the U.S. Post Office issued booklet panes of 1¢ and 2¢ stamps specifically for the American troops in France. When the act of October 1918 granted that military personnel could send mail free of postage, the booklets were no longer necessary and were returned to the United States.

At that time, a special 1¢ war tax stamp was issued to be used on fourth class mail. Internal Revenue stamps were supplied for this purpose and distributed to postmasters to sell to the general public. These stamps had to be affixed to any parcels, except those of the American Expeditionary Forces.

In addition to the Post Office Department, service organizations such as the Red Cross, YMCA, and the Salvation Army provided our troops with a variety of postal cards. These cards were issued for Christmas and Easter, as well as special cards which were used when troops embarked on their voyage to France, or when a soldier changed camps. These cards carried messages such as "The ship on which I sailed has arrived safely overseas." or "Hello. Am feeling great. Will write again soon. Am going to camp..." and had blanks for pertinent information and the sender's name. Blank postcards were also provided for short messages home.

Field service cards were another form of stationery issued to the troops. Produced by the AEF, these postcards had pre-printed messages which could be filled out by the soldier without giving away important military information. Some cards had various sentences printed which the men could simply cross out if they did not apply, while other cards left blanks for soldier to fill in regarding where he was stationed and his state of health.

Perhaps one of the most sought-after pieces of wartime postal items is the Christmas coupon. According to general orders, each man was given one coupon and an envelope. This coupon, after being endorsed by an officer, could then be sent to the soldier's family or anyone stateside from whom he was expecting a package. Packages, which were restricted to size and could not exceed 3 pounds, could be sent at a special rate of fifteen cents.

In 1989, Mystic Stamp Company Vice President, David Sundman, presented the Smithsonian Institute with a 2¢ AEF Booklet Pane. This unique piece of postal history is now a permanent part of the National Philatelic Collection which is housed in the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.



## 1916-17 Imperforate Stamps

### Unwatermarked



Washington



Washington (I)



Washington (I)



Washington (II)

## 1916-19 Rotary Coil Stamps

### Unwatermarked

### Perforated 10 Horizontally



Washington



Washington (II)



Washington (III)



Washington (I)

## 1916-22 Rotary Coil Stamps

One of the major problems for the U.S. during World War I was the establishment of mail service to the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France. Shortly after the United States declared war on Germany, it became necessary to organize a postal system for the American troops overseas. On June 13, 1917, Postmaster General Albert Burnham authorized the establishment of mail agencies in France. Marcus Bunn, assistant superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, was appointed as Postal Agent in Charge. Soon after his arrival in Paris on June 30th, he began making arrangements for "The United States Mail Agency in France."

Meanwhile, back home, a distribution center was established at the Chelsea Terminal in New York City. Here, all outgoing mail was processed and then forwarded to Hoboken Port of Embarkation. On the other side of the ocean, centers were organized to receive incoming mail and distribute it to the soldiers.

Troops began arriving in France as early as June 14, 1917, but the first mail agency was not set up until nearly a month later. An official bulletin relates the tale. As the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force were preparing to leave the Port of Arrival, General Pershing inquired of the United States Postal Agent, "How soon can postal facilities be provided?"

Bunn replied, "I can leave by the first train, after two hours."

Pershing then asked, "I mean how soon can you have working force there?"

"I shall take my force with me," was Bunn's answer.

Two hours and twenty minutes later, Bunn and his three men boarded a train and arrived at the campsite within an hour. An empty building was located and extra supplies, such as packing boxes and distribution cases were set up to hold the mail. The first American Post Office, APO No. 1, was established in St. Nazaire, and APO No. 2 followed shortly thereafter in Paris.



## 1916-22 Rotary Coil Stamps

Unwatermarked  
Perforated 10 Vertically



Washington



Washington (II)



Washington (III)



Washington (I)



Washington (II)



Washington



Washington



Franklin

## Series of 1917-19



New offices opened in rapid succession as troops continued to arrive. In September of 1917, the numbers were changed to 700s so as not to be confused with other Allied post offices. Thus, APO No. 1 now became No. 701, APO No. 2 became No. 702, etc. As thousands of troops continued to pour into France, the numbers climbed to 799. Because the 800 series was reserved for a special purpose, the numbers then jumped to 900. APO No. 901 was organized in Milan, Italy, and the numbers then ran up to 953. In all, there were 169 Army Post Offices established.

Originally, these APO's were run by civilian personnel. But, as the war progressed, problems surfaced between the War Department and the Post Office Department. The War Department didn't want to disclose the locations of our units in France. Naturally, the Post Office asked, "How can mail be delivered if the locations are unknown?"

This difference, along with complaints of poor service, led to the military completely taking over the mail service. On May 9, 1918, the Military Postal Express Service (MPES) was founded. Later, the name was changed to simply the Postal Express Service (PES). Under the MPES, both stationary and mobile post offices were organized.

These mobile post offices advanced with the troops, and mail was received that day, along with the soldier's daily rations. Often, the success of troop movements depended on absolute secrecy, and mail could not be forwarded until the destination had been reached. Even the APO authorities were not given the permanent locations until after camp had been set up. These changes would then be flashed in code to the mail distribution points.



# Series of 1917-19

Flat Plate Printing  
Perforated 11



Washington



Washington (I)



Washington (Ia)



Washington (I)



Washington (II)



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington



Washington

## Series of 1917-19



To protect the lives of our men, combat espionage, aid in troop movements, and assist in maintaining secrecy, the Military Postal Express Service began censoring all mail sent to and from the troops. This was the first time many Americans experienced a restriction of their civil liberties. While most military personnel understood the necessity of censorship, opinions in the United States varied in regard to censorship of civilian mail.

The main object of censorship was to prevent important military information from being disclosed through seemingly harmless and irrelevant bits of information written in letters being sent home to family and friends. This information, in the hands of the enemy, could be used to discover valuable information. Anything pertaining to future operations: the number, organization, and movement of troops; morale or physical condition of Allied troops; casualties; effects of hostile fire; or condition of equipment and supplies – was automatically crossed out. In addition, official papers, maps, documents, releases to the press, or photographs could not be enclosed.

Three types of censorship existed. The first was not official, but rather a system used on the East Coast of the U.S. to protect troops during their movement to Europe. The second was the actual censoring of AEF mail in Europe. Last was the censorship board, which was established to prevent undesirable propaganda from being spread both at home and abroad.

In response to the rising fear of "Bolshevism," censorship of civilian mail was established. Any pro-German element was viewed suspiciously. U.S. military and naval intelligence wanted all mail examined. However, this was impossible if mail was to be processed promptly. In addition, the public complained that this censorship was unnecessary and unfair. Ultimately, President Wilson was called upon to decide to what extent customary civil liberties could be violated. In a letter addressing the problem, he stated, "I think that a time of war must be regarded as wholly exceptional and that it is legitimate to regard things which would in ordinary circumstances be innocent as very dangerous to the public welfare...." Despite the public's objections, civil censorship continued.



## Series of 1917-19

Flat Plate Printing  
Perforated 11



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin

## 1917-20 Stamps

Lack of funds and materials during the war caused the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to experiment with various printing methods. In addition to the rotary press, the new offset printing was tried.

In November of 1917, the first class postage rate was changed from two cents to three cents, causing the demand for the 3¢ stamp to soar. Demand for the 1¢ stamp, to use along with the 2¢ stamp, also increased. In order to keep up with the public's requests, the Bureau was operating at full capacity.

Inability to obtain the materials from Germany to produce a quality ink resulted in the use of inferior inks. These inks, which contained grit, were abrasive and had a tendency to wear out the plates faster. The average life of a plate was 10 days. They were wearing out faster than the Bureau could make them! Besides reducing the wear and tear on the plates, offset printing was advantageous because plates for this process could be made much quicker.

One of the negative aspects of using this method, however, was a less defined and somewhat blurry image. Some designs were modified in order to achieve a better impression. Eventually, a better grade of ink was found and stamps were once again printed by the higher-quality engraving process.

Following the war, many countries had depleted their resources. Items such as food, clothing, and machinery were greatly needed, and the U.S. responded by sending shipments of supplies to the war-torn countries of France, Russia, and other nations. High-value stamps were needed to prepay postage and registry on international packages, and it was decided to release stamps with both \$2 and \$5 denominations. The sudden demand for these issues, however, did not allow time for new designs to be prepared. So, the designs from the 1902 series were used. Identical in color and design, the 1917 issues can be distinguished by their lack of a watermark.

In 1918, the Bureau finally found the time to prepare new designs. On August 19th, the \$2 and \$5 stamps were released carrying portraits of Ben Franklin. In addition to being printed horizontally, they were also printed using two colors. The changes were made so postal clerks could easily tell the difference between these stamps and the lower denominations.

The \$2 stamp was approved in dark red; however, due to an error, it was first printed in orange. Unfortunately, the error was not discovered until the stamps had been printed and distributed. When the Bureau received the proper ink, the stamps were printed in the intended color and redistributed. Collectors, however, not realizing the orange version was the error, stocked up on the dark red issue. Today, this error is extremely scarce. Although the shades of green on the \$5 issue vary somewhat, they are all classified as deep green.



## 1917 Design of 1908-09

Double Line Watermark  
Perforated 11



Washington

## Stamps of 1918-20



Franklin



Franklin



Franklin

## Offset Series of 1918-20

Perforated 11



Washington



Washington (IV)



Washington (V)



Washington (Va)



Washington (VI)



Washington (VII)



Washington (III)



Washington (IV)

## Offset Series of 1918-20

### Imperforate



Washington



Washington (IV)



Washington (V)



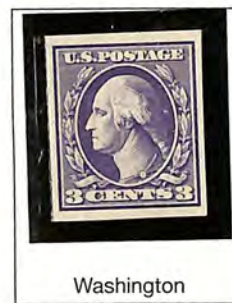
Washington (Va)



Washington (VI)



Washington (VII)



Washington

## 1919 Perforated 12 1/2



Washington

## 1919 Commemorative Victory Issue



**Victory Issue:** 3¢ Violet. At the close of World War I, there was a demand for stamps celebrating America's victory and honoring the heroic deeds of American troops. The Victory stamp subject became a touchy matter, as any obvious reference to the defeat of the Central Powers would have caused antagonism in Germany and with her allies. Eventually, the design featured the standing figure of Liberty, victorious with the flags of the 5 countries most actively engaged in the cause. The American Flag was deliberately placed in the rear so as not to insult the Europeans, who disliked the idea that "America Won The War."

## 1919-21 Coil Waste Stamps

Due to poor centering and other minor defects, a number of coil stamp sheets had been set aside as "waste" to be destroyed. Some of them had been perforated vertically or horizontally, while others had not been perforated at all. Although these stamps were unsuitable for coils, they could be issued satisfactorily as sheet stamps.

In an effort to save money, which was still in short supply after the war, the Bureau decided to release these stamps in sheets. Numerous sheets of the 1¢ Green, 2¢ Carmine Rose, and 3¢ Violet had already been perforated 10 vertically. They were then perforated 11 horizontally and issued with 11x10 perforations.

Other sheets of the 1¢ stamps had been perforated 10 horizontally and were then perforated 11 vertically. Meanwhile, other sheets hadn't been perforated at all. These 1¢ and 2¢ sheets were perforated with the current standard of 11x11 perforations measured the same as the current sheet stamps being issued. However, when compared, the "coil waste" issues are noticeably darker in color.



# 1919 Commemorative Victory Issue



"Victory" and Flags of Allies

## 1919-22 Coil Waste Stamps

Perforated 11x10



Washington



Washington (II)



Washington (III)



Washington (II)

Perforated 10x11



Washington

Perforated 10



Washington

Perforated 11



Washington



Washington



Washington

# 1920 Commemoratives

## The Pilgrim Tercentenary Issue



The "Mayflower"



Landing of the Pilgrims



Signing of the Compact



# 1920 Commemoratives

## The Pilgrim Tercentenary Issue



The "Mayflower"



Landing of the Pilgrims



Signing of the Compact



## Series of 1922-25

In 1922, the Post Office Department announced its decision to issue a new series of stamps to replace the Washington-Franklin series, which had been in use since 1908. Many criticized the change, believing it was being made to satisfy collectors rather than to fill an actual need. However, the similar designs and colors of the current stamps caused confusion, resulting in a substantial loss in revenue each year. In busy situations, postal clerks could not tell at a glance if the correct postage was being used.

Postal employees requested a variety of designs which could easily be distinguished from one another. Great care was taken to make sure that the new designs could not be confused and although the frames are similar, the vignettes are distinctive. Prominent Americans in history, as well as scenes of national interest from throughout the country, were chosen as subjects for the new series.

In addition to issuing new designs, the Department developed a plan to first distribute a small amount of each stamp on a particular date in a selected town which was of historical and geographical significance to the subject. The plan greatly increased the interest of non-collectors and began a new trend of collecting stamps on covers or envelopes which had been postmarked on the first day of issue.

It was the intention of the Department to release stamps bearing portraits of prominent Americans in their hometowns or their place of birth, on the anniversaries of their birthday. The 11¢ stamp, picturing Rutherford B. Hayes, was the first of the series issued. The 5¢ Roosevelt, released on October 27, 1922, in New York City (his birthplace) and Oyster Bay, NY (his hometown) was next to follow.

November 11th, which had been celebrated as Armistice Day since the end of World War I, was chosen as the next date of release of several stamps. The 15¢ Statue of Liberty, representing our friendship with France; the 25¢ Niagara Falls, signifying the goodwill between the U.S. and Canada; and the 50¢ Arlington Amphitheater, picturing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were all released that day in Washington, D.C. Since President Garfield's birthday, November 19th, fell on a Sunday, the 6¢ stamp was distributed the following day. Originally, the 2¢ Washington was to be issued on February 22, 1923, George Washington's birthday. However, due to an unexpected demand, this stamp, along with the 4¢, 9¢, and 10¢, was issued on January 15th. Two days later, on the anniversary of Franklin's birth, the 1¢ issue was released in Philadelphia.

The 3¢ Lincoln and the \$1 Lincoln Memorial were the last stamps of the series to be issued on significant dates. Both stamps were released on February 12th in Hodgenville, KY, and Washington, D.C. The remaining stamps in the series, the 12¢, 30¢, \$2, and \$5, distributed on March 20th, and the 7¢, 8¢, 14¢, and 20¢, distributed on May 1st, were issued on dates chosen for their convenience rather than their historical importance.

