

Washington & Franklin Coils: Flat Plate and Coil Waste Issues 1908-1915

Purpose of Exhibit: is to highlight the numerous production changes and uses of the Third Bureau flat plate coil material produced from 1908 to 1915. It includes the perforated, imperforate, and coil waste issues produced along with their postal uses to domestic and foreign destinations. The exhibit does not include any archival material because coil stamps were a byproduct from sheet stamps that existed prior to the production and development of coil stamps. The focus is on the changes made by the Bureau to be more efficient in production and meet the demands of businesses and public due to the increased popularity of coils.

Organization: The exhibit is organized by the year the stamps were issued. Each major series includes production material of perforated and imperforate coils. The uses are organized by denomination, orientation, and format. The orientation is defined as vertical or horizontal and the format is determined by perforated and imperforate. The headings for imperforate uses have been done in *italics*. The flat plate coil waste follows each appropriate issue it was made from. The last flat plate coil was produced in 1914, but the **COIL STAMPS** coil waste was released by the Bureau for sale in the Washington D.C. post office on August 2, 1915. This is why the time period of the exhibit ends with the year 1915. The exhibit finishes with the transition to the rotary press issues of 1914.

Importance: The development of Bureau coils played a major role in business use and demand, as well as philatelic interest with the numerous new varieties. The production of Bureau coils had a specific purpose directed at business use and also provided the general public with the opportunity to purchase stamps outside of normal post office hours from vending machines. The United States was one of several countries that experimented with coil stamps around the turn of the century in 1900. New Zealand, the Netherlands, England, and Ireland also experimented with stamps used in vending machines. **The United States took the lead in developing coil stamp production by using imperforate sheets that were stripped and constructed into the first true coil stamps used in vending and affixing machines.** Other countries such as Canada, and Sweden followed close behind in the development of their own coil stamps by purchasing and using the Rotary Press developed by Benjamin Stickney. The demand and use of coil stamps by businesses increased dramatically. The Bureau continued to experiment with coil production which led to the invention of the Stickney's Rotary Press in 1914. This new invention increased coil production from 1 million to 6 million coil stamps per day. The numerous issues of coils, and changes in production methods, created over 400 new issues to collect along with many different production varieties like paste-ups, trailer/leader strips, line pairs, shades, design spacing, and printing errors for collectors to pursue.

Challenge Factor; Difficulty of Acquisition: First of all, it's important to understand that coils were not readily available for sale at the post office. A special order had to be placed with the post master and the customer had to pay a small premium for the coil. Secondly, the exhibit is composed of 50 different issues as listed in the Scott's catalog.

There are 31 perforated issues, 15 imperforate coil issues, and 4 coil waste issues. Out of the 50 different issues, the 3c Scott 345H imperforate coil is the only one missing from the exhibit in some format. It is not known on cover, and just one mint pair exists certified by APEX. Out of the 50 different issues, 48 of them are documented on cover. The exhibit has 48 out of 48 examples known on cover in at least one format or another. The exhibit survey is for genuine documented examples in the exhibit with a population of 10 or less. In numerous cases there is more than one example in the exhibit. It is the most comprehensive exhibit of Washington and Franklin coil material ever assembled.

- 20 of 48 issues are represented by an EDU, Earliest Documented Use
- 23 Largest Known Multiples or Frankings on cover
- Population of Key Documented Uses on Cover and or Stamps From the Certificate Archives: APEX, PF, PSE, and PSAG.

Exhibit Survey

Number Known	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	21	Orangeburg Coil
Covers in Exhibit	10	4	6	4	15	12	3	7	7	1	The Orangeburg coil is the most recognized rarity, but as this chart shows there are a
Stamp Material	12	4	3	x	x	x	x	x	1	x	number of other coil issues much more difficult to acquire on and off cover.

Summary: Exhibit Survey There are 22 items, covers/stamps, that are unique, 39 covers that have a population of 5 or less, and 68 covers that have a population of less than 10. The only solo use of Scott 354, a 4c horizontal per-12 coil. The only solo use of Scott 355, a 5c horizontal coil to Barbados. There are 6 documented uses of Scott 356, a 10c horizontal coil. In the past 40 years they have each sold once. There are 2 of 3 documented uses of Scott 447, a 5c coil in the exhibit. There are 2 of 2 documented uses of Scott 343H present. There are 2 of 5 documented uses of Scott 350, a 4c vertical coil. There are 3 of 5 uses of Scott 384H, a 2c horizontal imperf coil. There are 4 of 5 covers with the COIL STAMPS imprint found in the exhibit.

Original Research: There are numerous examples of personal study and research done on this exhibit by the exhibitor over the past 20 years. A recent article was published in the May issue of The United States Specialist. The article is about a newly discovered production item based on original research by the author. The article describes the new production variety as a "Guide Pin Marking" on hand assembled flat plate coils with guide line and arrow on paste-ups. There are perforated and imperforate examples from the 1908 and 1910 coil issues in the exhibit. A second important article of original research on the "Plate Numbers, Imprints and Spacings for the 1910 Perf 8.5 Coil Series" was published in the September 2013 issue of The United States Specialist. A more comprehensive list is in the bibliography.

New Additions: Three significant solo uses that have been off the market for 35 years. A 5c perf-12 vertical coil, one of thee solo uses, Scott 351, sent to Australia. A 4c perf-12 horizontal coil, Scott 354 solo use, the only solo use out of 7 documented covers. A 5c perf-12 horizontal coil, Scott 355 solo use to Barbados, the only solo use out of 6 documented covers. A mint strip of 7, 1c imperforate coil, Scott 314H, an early experimental coil from the 1902 issues. New EDU discoveries for Scott 343V, Scott 408V, and Scott 412. A 1c horizontal imperf pair on cover, Scott 343H, second documented use, new discovery. A 2c strip of five on cover, Scott 344H, earliest documented use. A used strip of three, Scott 344V, with the 1c foreign entry. One of three documented used examples. A 4c solo use of the vertical imperf coil, Scott 346V, EDU. A 3rd class wrapper with the largest documented multiple, a strip of 10, Scott 443 one cent horizontal coil. A First Day of Use, Scott 424, COIL STAMPS plate block on cover, 1 of 5 known covers with the COIL STAMPS imprint. Ex Sissen

Key Items are listed in the order they appear in the exhibit.

- 1) A 1c imperforate horizontal strip of 7, Scott 314H, an early experimental coil from the 1902 issues.
- 2) The one cent foreign entry on a used strip of three, Scott 344V. One of 3 documented used examples.
- 3) A 2c strip of 5 on a registered cover, Scott 344H, earliest documented use, only known multiple on cover.
- 4) One cent horizontal imperforate coil pair on cover, Scott 343H, second documented use, new discovery by exhibitor.
- 5) A 4c solo use of Scott 346V, Earliest Documented Use, one of four documented solo uses.
- 6) Solo use of the 5c vertical imperforate coil, Scott 347V, to Russia, one of two documented solo uses.
- 7) Solo use of 4c horizontal perf-12 coil, Scott 354, only solo use out of 7 documented uses.
- 8) Solo use of 5c horizontal perf-12 coil, Scott 355 to Barbados, only solo use out of 6 documented uses.
- 9) Only commercial use, non stamp dealer mail of the 10 cent, Scott 356. One of six documented uses.
- 10) One cent horizontal imperforate coil, Scott 383H, on third class printed matter post card to France, one of two documented examples.
- 11) Two cent horizontal imperforate coil, Scott 384H, one of four documented uses.
- 12) The "Orangeburg" coil, Scott 389 on cover. One of 16 documented uses.
- 13) One cent vertical pair, perf-8.5, Scott 410, with plate #6582 in the vertical margin, from the COIL STAMPS plates.
This is one of two documented examples and illustrated in the Durland's plate number catalog.
- 14) The only commercial solo use of the 5 cent, Scott 447 to Brazil. One of three documented uses in period.
- 15) Full pane of 100 1c stamps, Scott 424, from the COIL STAMPS plates, flat plate coil waste, plate number only pane, #6581 one of three documented uses.
- 16) A First Day of Use, Scott 424 COIL STAMPS plate block on a registered cover, 1 of 5 documented uses.

Bibliography: The following items are noted as personal study, research, or original research by the exhibitor.

Articles

- 1) **Guide Pin Markings on Hand-Assembled Flat Plate Coil Guideline and Arrow Paste-Ups**, the article discusses how they were made by the Bureau during the production of the hand-assembled issues from 1908 and 1910. This article is original research on a new variety. May Specialist 2024
- 2) **Plate Numbers, Imprints and Spacings for the 1910 Perf 8.5 Coil Series**, this article describes the different plates used to print the 1910 perf-8.5 coil series. This issue is what created interest in the coils due to the unique perforation gauge that was only found in coil format. It goes into detail on the three different plates used to print this issue along with the different imprints and spacings found on the coils. This article brings to light new information about the 1910 coil issue. September Specialist 2013
- 3) **Closing Doors**, This article appeared in the April 2018 issue of The Philatelic Exhibitor. The article goes into detail on why archival material is not included in the flat plate exhibit. The basis of the article is coil stamps are a byproduct of the sheet stamps and had to be ordered through the local postmaster. Coils were not made and stocked at post offices and had to be ordered from the Bureau. The buyer had to pay a nominal fee for making the coil.

Research

1) Exhibit Survey on Population of Expertized Covers and Stamps: The exhibitor has researched the three main expertizing agencies data bases to find the population of key items found in the exhibit. The number of documented genuine examples in the exhibit is based on this research by the exhibitor. This research is important due to the number of fakes and forgeries of coils that exist in the current market. It also highlights the high level of rarity and difficulty of acquisition for many items in the exhibit.

- 1) **Flat Plate Imperforate Coil Waste Scott #383:** The exhibitor has researched and discovered several new examples of this scarce variety. Two articles by Wallace Cleland were the basis for my research. Both are found in The United States Specialist, January 2009 and September 2012. Up until 2012 only 3 examples had been documented, one being in the Miller Collection. Since that time the exhibitor has discovered and documented 13 more examples of this coil waste variety.
- 2) **Flat Plate Coil Plate Numbers:** The exhibitor has searched and discovered 17 new unreported plate numbers found on the paste-ups of flat plate coils. These new numbers have been added to the Durland Plate Number Catalog. The most significant one is for the 4c Scott 395, plate number 6004, from the Provisional plate, 1 of 2 reported.
- 3) **Parkhurst Vending Machine:** The exhibitor has researched the Parkhurst vending machine and it's importance to the development of Bureau coils. Out of the six documented uses the exhibitor has discovered 2 new examples, one being the earliest use of a Third Bureau coil by the vending machine.
- 4) **Earliest Documented Uses:** The exhibit has 17 different EDUs out of 48 possible examples. The exhibitor has discovered five of the EDUs and established new dates for the catalog listings.