

Washington & Franklin Coils

The Development of the Third Bureau Flat Plate & Coil Waste Issues of 1908-1915

Purpose of This Exhibit is to show the numerous production changes and uses of the Third Bureau flat plate coil material produced from 1908 to 1915. It includes the perforated, imperforate, coil waste issues, and their postal uses to domestic and foreign destinations. Archival material is not included because coils are a byproduct of sheet stamps, and the exhibit focus is on changes in production of sheet stamps which already existed.

Exhibit Plan

- I. Flat Plate Issues: Each section for the five major issues includes production material and postal uses of the Bureau issued coils. Material is organized by denomination and orientation for each issue.
- A. Vending Machines
 - B. Affixing Machines
 - C. 1908 Double Line Watermark
 - D. 1910 Single Line Watermark
 - E. 1910 Single Line Watermark
 - F. 1912 Single Line Watermark
 - G. 1914 Single Line Watermark
 - H. Epilogue: Transition to Rotary Press.

Importance: Coil Development & Significance

The development of the Third Bureau coil issues is directly tied to the invention of vending and affixing machines. The following reasons contributed to the development of coils.

- Vending machines made it convenient to purchase stamps.
- Reduced costs of clerks and number of branches needed within the city.
- Affixing machines dramatically sped up the process of applying stamps to mail and getting it into the system for delivery.

Coil production was an experiment by the Bureau to develop a product that met the needs of businesses and be a cost effective way of dispensing stamps to the public. Coils were an adaptation of the sheet stamp and came after the sheet stamps had been produced.



Enlargement highlighting advancing pin markings at the top of each stamp.

Only Documented Mint Pair
The Parkhurst Vending machine was designed to dispense vertical coils. PSE 1411739

Coil waste: The flat plate coil waste found in the exhibit is a byproduct of stamp material intended for coil production. It comes from left over stock that was to be used to produce coil stamps. Instead of discarding the printed stamps the Bureau perforated the material and sold them as sheet stamps to the general public. The imperforate coil waste is left over stock prepared for a private vending machine company.

Importance: World Wide Interest

The United States was one of several countries that experimented with, and developed coil stamps in vending machines (circa 1900).

- New Zealand and the Netherlands experimented with sheet stamps used in vending machines.
- Great Britain experimented with coils adapted from sheet stamps.
- The United States went further, by producing true coil stamps from imperforate sheets, perforated, stripped, and constructed into coils.
- This experiment led to further development in coil production from several other countries taking interest and producing coil stamps.

Documented Uses

Data has been compiled from the three major philatelic agencies for the basis of genuine uses on and off cover. Numerous fakes and forgeries of Washington & Franklin coils are known to exist.

Exhibit Summary

This exhibit is the most comprehensive exhibit assembled on this topic. This exhibit has 50 different catalog listings, 48 of them are known on cover. Of the 50 known catalog listings there are 49 out of 50 present in stamp form. There are 48 out of 50 known on cover. The exhibit contains at least one example, and sometimes more, of each on cover. The exhibit contains 18 of 48 Earliest Documented Uses on cover. **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.**

Key Items are Noted in Red

- Major rarities, based on population and or difficulty of acquisition, are matted & outlined in **Red**
- Statements in *Red Italics* indicate rarity of item based on population and difficulty of acquisition.
- Largest known frankings or multiples are in **Bold Red**
- Expertized items are noted with certificate number or an asterisk.

Indicates Personal Research



Indicates the watermark has been confirmed by lifting the stamp.

