

Second Bureau Issues 'Series 1902'

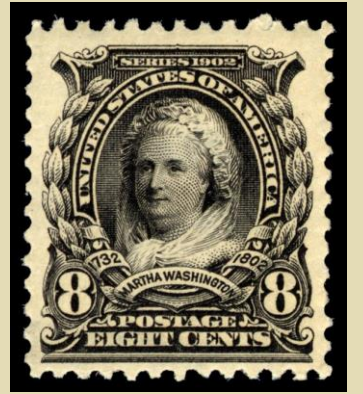
1902-08 - SC#s 300-313, 319

1917 - SC#s 479, 480 & E6

Presented by Richard Stern
Poway Stamp Club
November 2024

The Series of 1902

Many US Postal Firsts

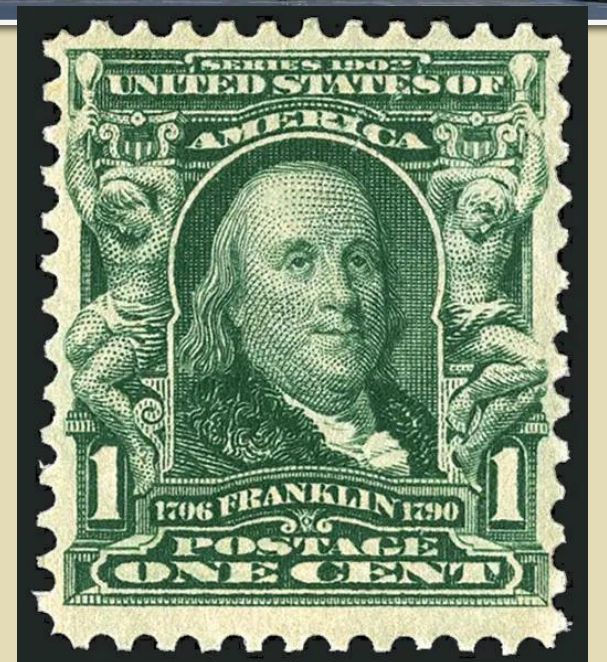


- First US definitive issue completely designed and produced by craftsmen of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.
- First U.S. stamps to give the birth *and* death years of each person being honored.
- First stamp to honor an American woman: the 8-cent Martha Washington issue.
- First stamp series to feature highly individualized designs within a unifying template for each stamp, in contrast to uniform design plan for preceding First Bureau Issues.

The Series of 1902

Design 'factoids'

- Designer: Raymond Ostrander Smith (1873-1933) - noted American Artist
- Worked at American Bank Note Co.
- 1897 - 1902 - Chief Designer at BPE
- Heavily influenced by profusely ornamental Beaux-Arts style, Smith designed some of the most elegant stamps ever issued by Bureau of Engraving and Printing right up to the present day.
 - Trans-Mississippian Issues - 1897
 - Pan-American Expo - 1901
 - 2nd Bureau Issues - Series of 1902



The Series of 1902

Design 'factoids'

- Unusual iconography used to 'evoke the achievements' of the famous Americans portrayed.
- Multiple architectural features used: caryatids, friezes, plinths, marble columns et al.
- Multiple Fonts used.
- Pictorial details tend to protrude into the left and right borders of the stamps.



Series 1902 - At a Glance



- The series contained sixteen designs in denominations from 1-cent to 5-dollar, including a 10-cent Delivery design and a replacement for the 10-cent design.
- Flat Plate printing on double-line U S P S paper with gauge 12 perforations.
- Plates of four panes of one hundred stamps each for values \$.01 thru \$.15.
- Plates of two panes of one hundred stamps each for values \$.50 thru \$5.00



Series 1902 - At a Glance



| SC# | Portrait | Denomination | Color | Date of Issue | Notes |
|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 300 | Franklin | \$0.01 | Blue Green | 2/3/03 | First 1-cent stamp issued in booklet format. |
| 301 | G. Washington | \$0.02 | Carmine | 1/17/03 | Image panned by critics, and replaced with 'Shield' design SC 319. |
| 302 | Jackson | \$0.03 | Bright Violet | 2/11/03 | Did not pay a specific postal rate, and exists in a variety of color shades. |
| 303 | Grant | \$0.04 | Brown | 2/3/03 | Denominations swapped with Lincoln in previous Bureau Issues |
| 304 | Lincoln | \$0.05 | Blue | 1/20/03 | Imperforate sheets printed in 1908 for private vending machines |
| 305 | Garfield | \$0.06 | Claret | 2/20/03 | Did not pay a specific postal rate, smallest sales volume of all stamps below \$.10 value. |
| 306 | M. Washington | \$0.08 | Violet/Black | 12/6/02 | Second of only two Series 1902 stamps actually released in 1902. 1st woman on US stamp. |

Series 1902 - At a Glance

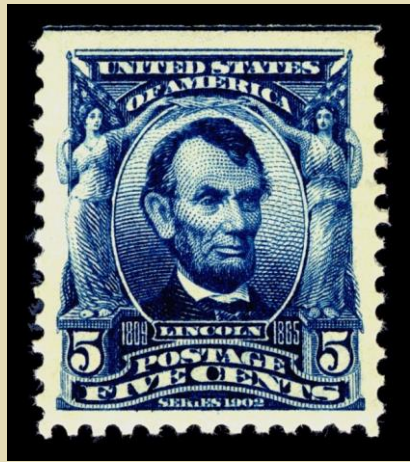


| SC# | Portrait | Denomination | Color | Date of Issue | Notes |
|-----|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| 307 | Webster | \$0.10 | Pale red Brown | 2/5/03 | Used to pay the eight-cent registry fee plus the two-cent domestic first-class letter rate & U.P.U. foreign .10 per ounce letter rate. |
| 308 | Harrison | \$0.13 | Purple Black | 11/18/02 | 1st 13 cent US stamp ever issued. One of only two Series 1902 stamps actually released in 1902. |
| 309 | Henry Clay | \$0.15 | Olive Green | 5/27/03 | Primarily used to pay multiples of the foreign five-cents-per-half-ounce letter rate in effect until Oct 1, 1907. |
| 310 | Jefferson | \$0.50 | Orange | 3/23/03 | Used to pay multiples for first-class shipments of domestic inter-bank currency, coin & large foreign letter rate parcels |
| 311 | Farragut | \$1.00 | Black | 6/5/03 | 1st Navy Rear Admiral. Used to pay multiples for first-class shipments of domestic inter-bank currency and coin. |
| 312 | Madison | \$2.00 | Dark Blue | 6/5/03 | Used to pay intra-Post Office Department funds transfers. Reprinted in 1917 in lighter blue with P10. SC #479 |
| 313 | Marshall | \$5.00 | Dark Green | 6/5/03 | Used to pay intra-Post Office Department funds transfers. Reprinted in 1917 in lighter green with P10. SC #480 |

Series 1902 - At a Glance

| SC# | Face Value | # Printed |
|-----|------------|-------------|
| 300 | \$0.01 | 11 Billion |
| 301 | \$0.02 | 3.2 Billion |
| 302 | \$0.03 | 276 Million |
| 303 | \$0.04 | 347 Million |
| 304 | \$0.05 | 550 Million |
| 305 | \$0.06 | 118 Million |
| 306 | \$0.08 | 117 Million |
| 307 | \$0.10 | 260 Million |
| 308 | \$0.13 | 31 Million |
| 309 | \$0.15 | 41 Million |
| 310 | \$0.50 | 2.6 Million |
| 311 | \$1 | 504,000 |
| 312 | \$2 | 38,000 |
| 313 | \$5 | 49,000 |
| 319 | \$0.02 | 21 Billion |
| 479 | \$2 | 305,000 |
| 480 | \$5 | 217,000 |



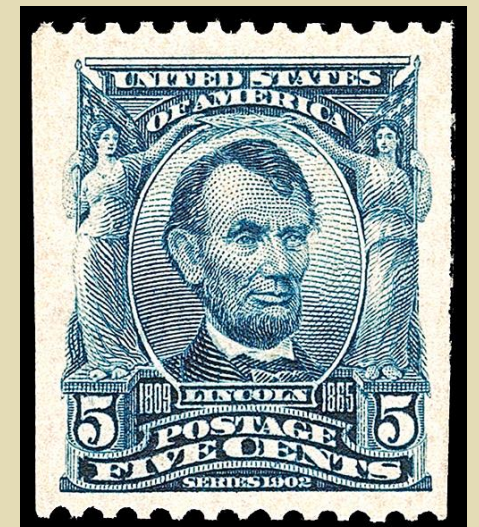
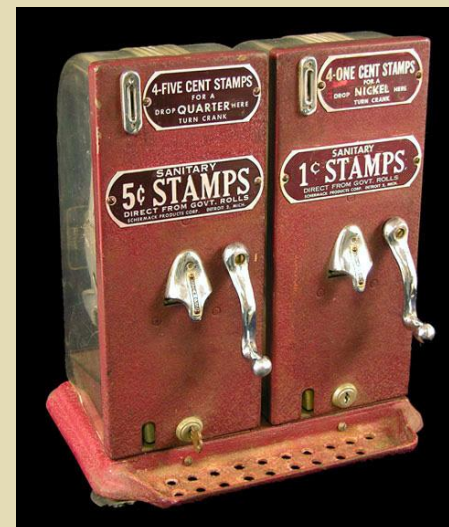


\$0.05 - Abraham Lincoln

Issued: Jan 20, 1903 (SC #304 Blue, P12)

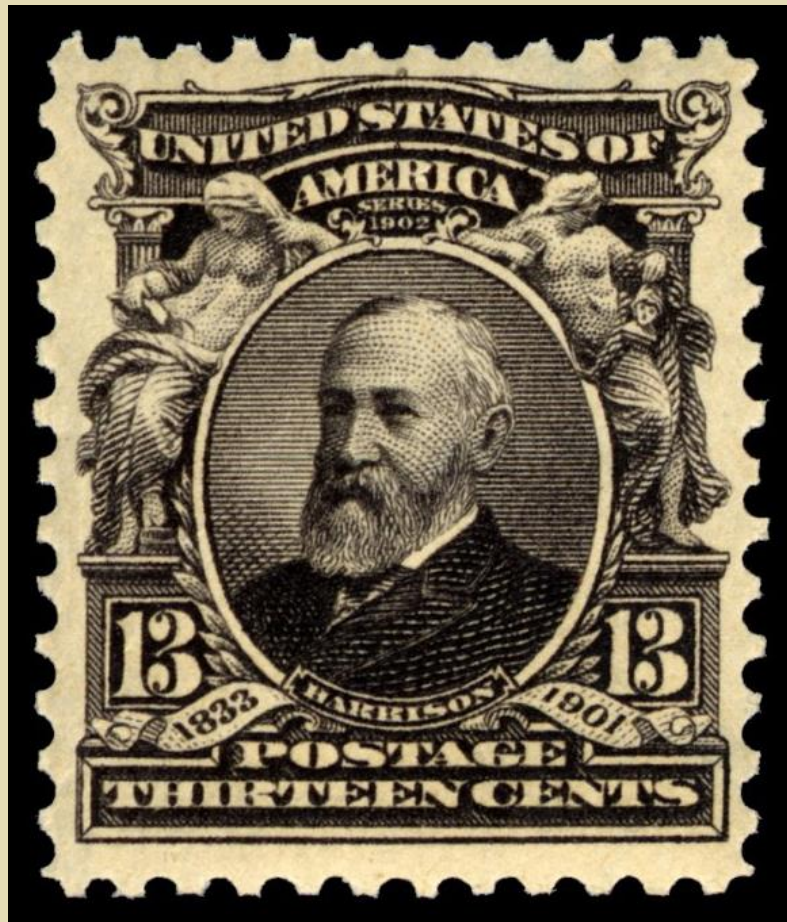
- 16th US President, Emancipation Proclamation ended lawful slavery.
- Lincoln was viewed to be the *best image* to be on US mail sent around the world at the time. (UPU letter rate was .05).
- Two robed female figures holding flags represent the reunited nation.
- Design also used to produce imperforate sheets for use by private vending and postage-affixing machines.

- Lincoln (SC#317) was one of three experimental endwise coil stamps introduced by the PO in February 1908. Issued in limited quantities - highly prized twentieth-century rarities.
- Current Values range from \$4k to \$18k



\$.13 - Benjamin Harrison

November 18, 1902 (SC #308 Purple black)



- American statesman & Senator, 23rd President, grandson of Wm H. Harrison, 9th President.
- One of five presidents who won electoral vote but lost popular vote.
- First stamp of Series 1902 issued
- 13-cent rate used to pay the eight-cent registry fee plus the five-cents-per-half-ounce foreign letter rate.

\$1.00 - Admiral David Farragut

Issued: June 5, 1903 (SC #311 Black, P12)



- Naval Commander who led fleets along the Mississippi to capture multiple confederate ports including New Orleans between 1862 and '64.
- Vignette used based on Mathew Brady photograph.
- Vignette portrait flanked by seated marine with musket and sailor with a grappling hook.
- Earliest known date of use is Feb 17, 1904.

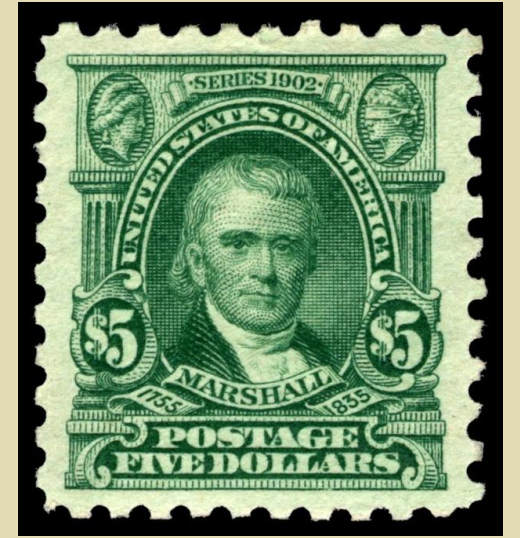




\$5 - John Marshall

Issued: June 5, 1903 (SC #313 Dark Green, P12)

Reprinted/Reissued: 1917 (SC #480 Light Green, P10)



- American statesman & jurist, 4th Chief Justice of the US. Served in Congress and as Secretary of State under Adams & Jefferson.
- Designer: R. Ostrander Smith from a painting by William James Hubbard.
- Multiple Engravers: George F. C. Smillie (portrait), Robert F. Ponickau & Marcus W. Baldwin (frame), and Lyman F. Ellis (lettering and numerals).
- Plates of two hundred sold in panes of one hundred stamps with P12'
- Frequently used to pay intra-Post Office Department funds transfers.
- WWII Increased Demand: High Value Machine parts + Liberty Bonds

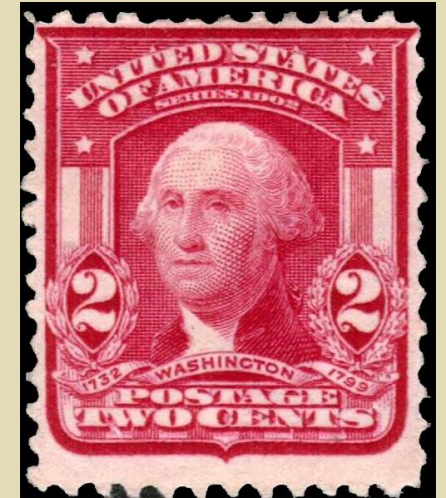
\$0.02- Washington Design Controversy

SC #317 - 'Flag' version Issued: Nov 11, 1903 (Carmine, P12)

SC# 317 - 'Shield' version replaced SC#301



301

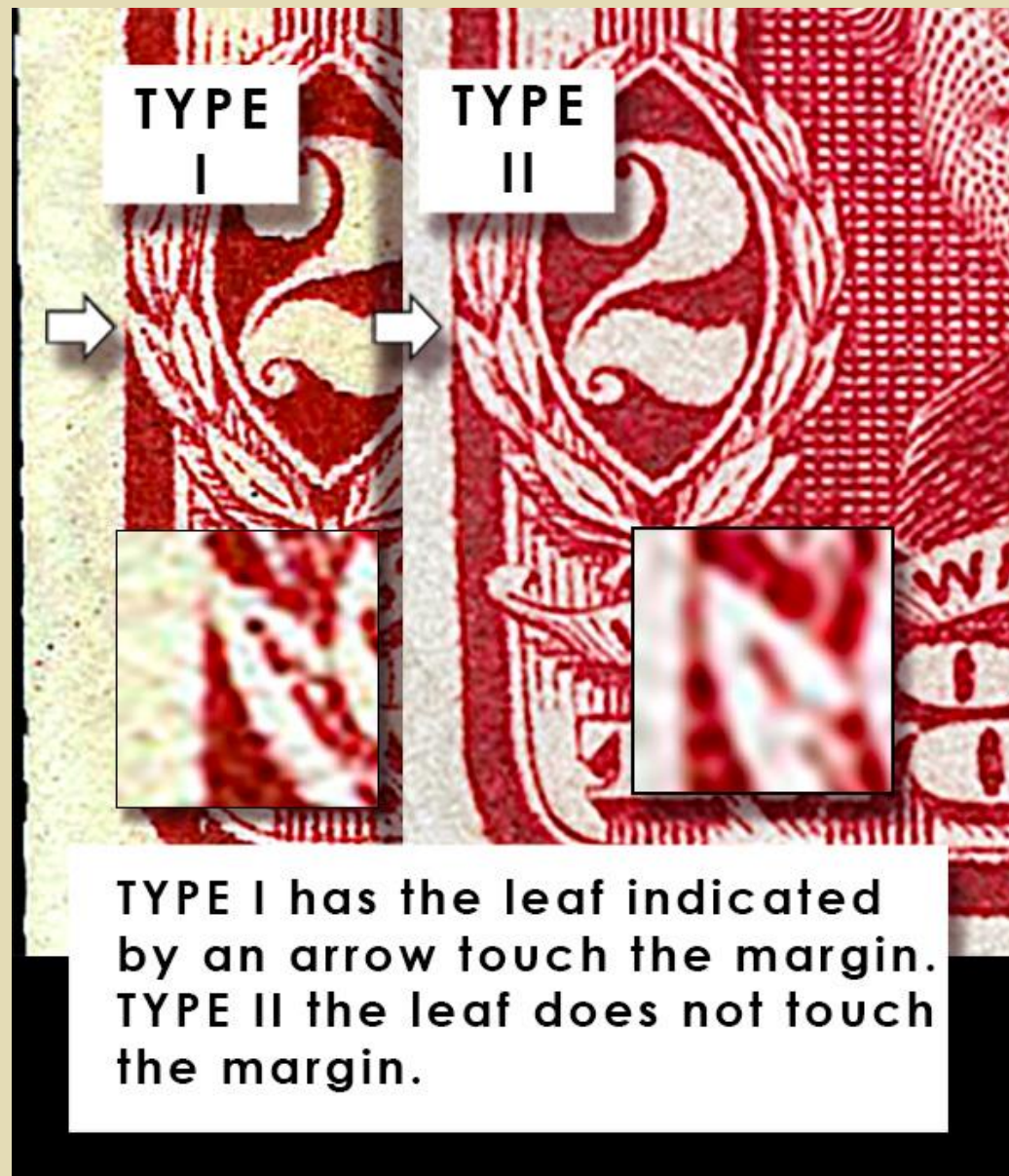


317

- SC#301 production often imparted a red-faced and unattractive appearance to Washington's portrait. Critics were not kind:
 - The *New York Sun* observed... "this inking problem gave Washington the nose of a toper."
 - Image of Washington was thought too weak and did not reflect his *iconic heroism*.
- Public contempt led to its replacement in November 1903 by the 2-cent Washington 'Shield' stamp.
 - Series 1902 Chief Designer R. Ostrander Smith was unhappy at BEP and had already returned to the American Bank Note Company
 - Replacement designed by Clair Aubrey Huston
- Issued as a sheet stamp, produced in booklets of 24, 48, and 96 in multiple panes of six stamps. In 1906 the stamps were also made available in imperforate full sheets of four hundred for use by private manufacturers of vending and affixing machines, who applied their own designed perforations.



319: Type I & II



- Original die damaged
- New die exhibiting slight changes was made in mid-1908 to create new transfer rolls for needed plates.
- Many color variations:
 - Carmine
 - Lake
 - Carmine Rose
 - Scarlet

Imperforates and Coils



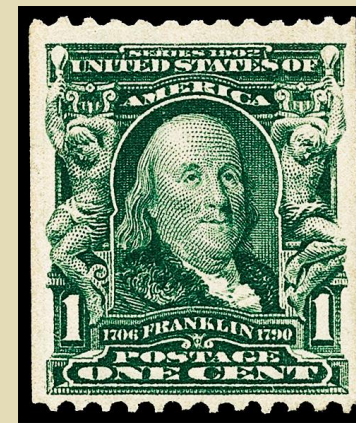
314



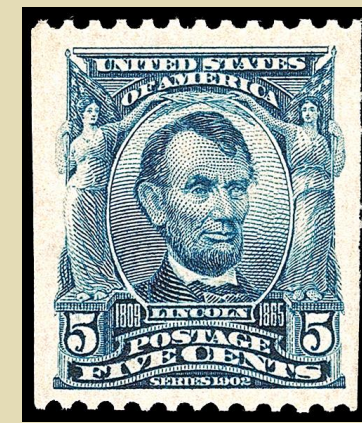
314A*



315*



316*



317*



318*



319



320



321*



322*

* indicates limited production and very high market values

Private Perfs & Coils



Schermack

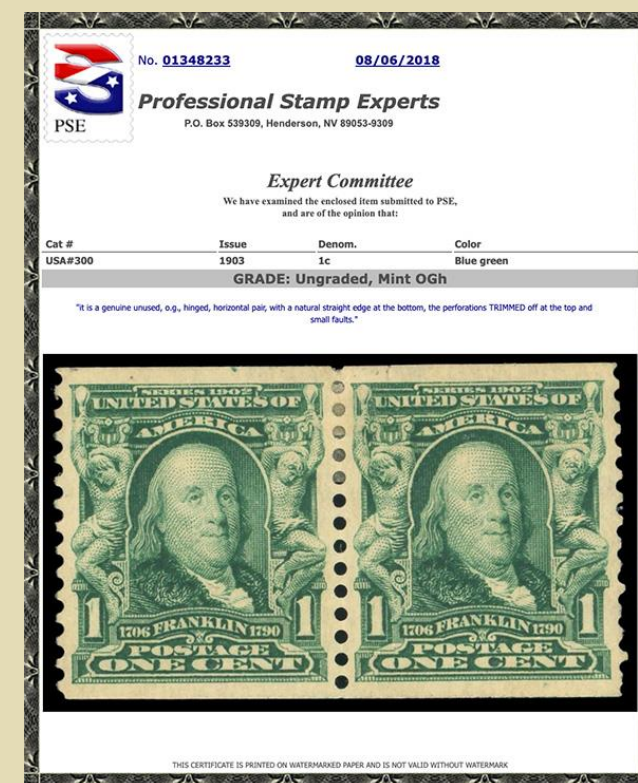
US Auto Vending

Brinkerhoff

Mail-O-Meter

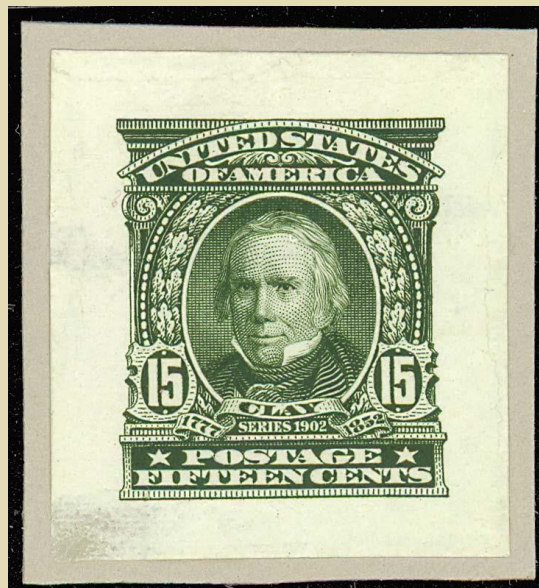
Int'l Vending Machine

- Commercial Stamp vending & affixing machines available early 1900s.
- Manufacturers requested imperforate sheets of 400 stamps - could be cut as needed to accommodate new vending designs. (SC#s 314, 314A, 315 & 320)
- PO experimented with both vertical and horizontal coil strips of the 1, 2 and 5 cent issues for selected vending machines. (SC#s 316, 317, 318, 321, 322)
- Very limited production, highly sought by collectors, lots of counterfeits.



Summary and conclusions

- Trans-Mississippian and Pan-American series' had been critical successes both with the public and the media. Designer Raymond Ostrander Smith was in his prime and the PO sought to capitalize on this momentum by issuing a new highly designed definitive set.
- BPE hoped that the new 'artistic' designs would create interest in the Post Office. Sadly the reverse was true. The new designs were much disliked by the public and the press. Particularly disliked were the 1¢ Franklin and 2¢ Washington portraits. They were considered caricatures of the presidents and were called Mr Dooleys, after a popular newspaper comic character of the time. So fierce was the backlash against the 2¢ design that it was replaced within a year by the 2¢ shield design.
- Although the stamps say 1902 on the design, only two stamps were issued that year, the 8¢ Martha Washington and the 13¢ Benjamin Harrison. PO stated that the date referred to the date of design, not issue.
- The 1902 series stimulated some new experiments; the booklet stamp and coil stamps, both of which proved to be a great success. It also saw the introduction of the imperforate stamp, meant primarily for vending and affixing machine manufacturers.
- Series 1902 unique designs remain some of the most iconic examples of highly artistic American philatelic material and are prized acquisitions by collectors old and young.



Thank you !

