

Synopses of Exhibit Washington and Franklin Coils 1912 Issue Perf.-8.5

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit will show one step in the development of Bureau issued government coils. It is a postal exhibit that shows examples of coils on and off cover. It also includes coil examples from the previous perf-8.5 for comparison of designs. The exhibit shows two major design changes made with this issue from 1912. The first change involved replacing Franklin's bust with Washington's on the 1 cent stamp. The second was adding the numbers 1 and 2 along with the word "cents" for the denominations. The reason for these changes was to eliminate confusion between denominations and to conform to the Universal Postal Union regulations.

Challenge Factor: Collecting mint and used pairs is not too difficult since many of these coils were saved and are easy to find. Used line pairs and large multiples are a bit more difficult task to complete. Plate numbers for the vertical coils are quite difficult since they changed the plates to create better spaced coils. Examples with the imprint and letter "A" are very scarce because they were made from the earlier "A" plates when the imprint consisted of the letter and number. Plate numbers on the horizontal coils are not too hard but still a challenge. The hardest items to find are solo uses on cover to foreign destinations along with unusual rate examples.

What is Presented: The exhibit shows a comparison of the old design and new design for the perf-8.5 coils. It includes a few production varieties along with a number of used pairs, line pairs, and multiples off cover. There are also examples of a major production change in the vertical coils which show specific position pieces on cover and plate blocks from the new plates labeled with the imprint, "COIL STAMPS". The majority of the exhibit shows a nice variety of solo usages to domestic and foreign destinations.

Organization: The exhibit begins with production examples and various mint and used examples off cover. It continues with examples from the major production change of the vertical coils and proceeds to various contemporary uses of perf-8.5 coils on cover to domestic and foreign destinations. Items of significant importance are double matted with a contrasting color.

Material Highlights: The items listed below are found in the same order as in the exhibit.

- 1) The unique discovery copy of the 1 cent paste-up pair with plate #6037 used to pay the drop letter rate during the war.
- 2) The unique discovery copy of a 2 cent vertical paste-up coil with plate #6494.
- 3) A 1 cent vertical coil used on a postcard mailed on a RFD route.
- 4) A 1 cent horizontal coil on post card held for postage because of an item attached to the card.
- 5) A 1 cent horizontal coil on postcard mailed on a RFD Steamboat route via the St. Claire River between Detroit and Algonac.
- 6) A 1 cent horizontal coil used to pay the third class printed matter rate on a postcard.