

THE 8.4 CENT AMERICANA PIANO COIL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The 8.4 cent Americana series piano coil was issued on July 13, 1978. This stamp was issued to be used on third class bulk rate mailings that included more than 200 pieces or 50 pounds of mail. After presort requirements were instituted on January 28th, 1979, the stamp was compatible with that rate. It came in a coil of 500 or 3,000 stamps. It was available with tagging or precanceled. When presort rates changed again on March 22, 1981 to 10.4 cents, the stamp became obsolete.

TREATMENT: This is a traditional exhibit. Production and varieties of the stamp are shown, followed by precancels and uses on cover. A label from the coil of 500 stamps is shown. During production of the stamp, joint lines and precancel gaps were created. The stamp was primarily intended for use with precancels, all 145 of which are shown. The imperforate between and imperforate errors are covered in this exhibit. There are abundant types of freaks, including shifted precancels, miscut, and misperforated items.

RARITY: All major Scott listed varieties of the stamp are shown in this exhibit. Multiple examples of the imperforate between error are shown, with varying placements relative to the joint line. The imperforate error is represented with the 2-bar precancel as well as with the Newark, NJ, and Brownstown, IN, city/state precancel. The Brownstown, IN imperforate is rare, and the Scott catalog values it accordingly. The Wayne, PA precancel, shown with the other 144 precancels, is one of the most difficult to locate precancels in the entire Americana series. As the stamp was intended to be used precanceled, the unprecanceled stamp is difficult to find on covers. This exhibit includes two examples of this use. Because this stamp was intended for individual use on bulk rate, third class mail, other uses on covers are hard to locate. This exhibit includes an example of forwarded bulk rate mail, two examples of bulk rate mail returned to the sender, several examples of first class mail (including one cover damaged in handling), and an example of first class certified mail.

MISSING MATERIAL: Other than the USPS publicity photo, pre-production material is not known for this stamp and is therefore not included in this exhibit. The Washington, DC and Oklahoma City imperforate precancels are absent from the exhibit due to their very high rarity.

REFERENCES:

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