

Washington & Franklin Coils

Third Bureau Perforated Issues 1908-1922

The **Purpose of This Exhibit:** is to show the development of Third Bureau perforated government issued coils from 1908 to 1922. It will be accomplished by showing the progression of changes in production and postal uses to domestic and foreign destinations.

Exhibit Plan

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Flat Plate Issues: Each section will include production examples and postal uses of the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. 1908 Perf-12 Double Line WatermarkB. 1910 Perf-12 Single Line WatermarkC. 1910 Perf-8.5D. 1912 Perf-8.5E. 1914 Perf-10 | <p>II. Rotary Press Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Production: The production process for both rotary press issues was identical. The only significant difference being the second issue was printed on unwatermarked paper.B. Postal Uses<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. 1914-1916 SL Watermark2. 1916-1922 Unwatermarked |
|--|--|

Historical Significance

The development of the Third Bureau coil issues is directly tied to the industrial revolution. The invention of vending and affixing machines, and the businesses associated with their use were responsible for encouraging the production and development of government coils. The following reasons contributed to the development of coils.

- Vending machines made it convenient for the public to purchase stamps.
- They reduced the cost of clerks and the branches needed within the city.
- Affixing machines speed up the process of applying stamps to mail.
- Exactly 444 different major issues of United States stamps resulted because of the development of coils.
- A large number of other varieties such as paste-ups, line pairs, shades, spacing, and imperforate errors were created because of coils.
- The development of the rotary press is attributed to coils.
- Coil stamp production increased dramatically, from one million to six million coil stamps per day, due to the development of the rotary press.

What Is Shown

The exhibit will show production and postal uses of the flat plate and rotary press coil issues.

What Is Not Shown

The exhibit does not contain any archival material because it was not made specifically for the production of coil stamps. Flat plate coil stamps were made from sheet stamps. Archival material for rotary press coils is not available to the public because it is all contained in the national archives.

Philatelic Importance

The production of coils also played an important role in creating collector interest in a new variety of stamps. While the first two issues of coil stamps were not well received, by the third issue collectors realized coils were indeed a different variety to collect. This was due in part to the third issue having gauge 8.5 perforations which was unique to the 1910 coil issue. These perforations were not used for any other format such as sheet stamps or booklets.

References

- Johl, M. G. (1976). *United States Postage Stamps 1902-1935*. Lawrence, MA: Quarterman Publications.
- Armstrong, M. A. (1977). *The Coil Issues of the United States 1906-1938* (First ed.). Lawrenceville, NJ: Trenton Printing Company.
- Shoults, G. A. (2013). Plate Numbers and Imprints for the 1910 Perf 8.5 Coil Series. *The United States Philatelist*, 84(9), 1003rd ser., 398-7.

Key Items Are Highlighted In Red