

Washington & Franklin Coils 1908 Perf-12 Issues

Purpose of Exhibit: The purpose of the exhibit is to show the development of the first Bureau coil issue of 1908 by using the coil stamps, production material, and uses to domestic and foreign destinations.

Importance: The first Washington & Franklin coil issue produced by the Bureau was experimental in nature. Coil stamps were not sold over the counter like regular sheet stamps. They had to be ordered by the local postmaster for a nominal fee. The development of vending and affixing machines drove the development and experimentation with coil stamps. At the turn of the century there was great interest by businesses to find easier ways to affix stamps to their mailings. The United States Postal Service invited inventors to submit designs for vending machines to be used in public places to sell stamps after hours. The first vending machine used by the Postal service to sell coil stamps to the public was developed by Layton Parkhurst. The demand for coil stamps increased dramatically and pushed the Bureau to develop faster and better methods of production. Just a few years later the demand for coil stamps lead to the development of the rotary press stamp machine in 1914 which increased stamp production from 1 million to 6 million stamps per day. The numerous different coil stamp issues created a new collecting area and the various production varieties added to that interest. The first two coil issues were not of much interest to collectors because the designs were the same as the sheet stamps, but had straight edges. When the third issue in 1910 was produced it had a different perforation gauge not used for sheet stamps. At this point collector interest increased dramatically when they realized coil stamps were indeed a different issue to collect. The Bureau produced 5 different flat plate coil issues from 1908 to 1914. In 1914 the Bureau transitioned over to the Rotary Press to print coil stamps.

Organization: The exhibit is organized in order of development of the stamps, production examples, and uses. The production examples follow the sequence from the paper and watermark used to plates, plate markings, and coil construction. The uses are organized by format and denomination. The 1908 issue produced four vertical coils and five horizontal coils.

Challenge Factor: The 1908 issue presents a very difficult challenge to the exhibitor because of the very low population of the 4, 5, and 10 coils on cover. The stamps in mint format are not too difficult, but many of the production examples presented in the exhibit are very difficult and unique. As for the covers, the most difficult to acquire on cover is the 10 cent horizontal coil. There are six documented examples known. The exhibitor has researched old auction results, collectors, and a census from the Washington-Franklin committee chairman for the United States Stamp Society, to assemble this information. The six times the 10c Scott 356 on cover has come to auction are: 1982 Unknown Sale, 1989 Ed Sisken Sale, 1997 Agris Sale, 2009 Kelleher Sale, 2012 Jim Meher Sale, and 2014 Siegel's Rarities Sale. The current example in the exhibit was acquired by private sale in 2018. One of the key reasons why this coil stamp is so difficult on cover is how it came about. The only reason it exists is due to The Bell Pharmaceutical Company placing a special order with the local postmaster. This stamp, as well as the famous 3 cent Orangeburg coil, were able to be ordered by this option available to businesses in that time period. The 10 cent stamp was ordered by Bell & Company for sending out their samples of ant-acid pills. They did not use all of the order and the extra rolls were returned and distributed to some main post offices for sale. This is how stamp dealers acquired them to sell to their customers. This is also why the majority of the known covers, 5 of 6 are stamp dealer mail. This example is the only commercial, or non stamp dealer example of the six known. For the 4 and 5 cent denominations the exhibit contains one or more examples of each on cover.

Scott 350, 4c vertical coil: 5 documented uses (1 registered use EDU, 1 registered use to Germany, German Treaty Rate)

Scott 354, 4c horizontal coil: 6 documented uses, (1 registered use, largest known multiple, 1 solo use, only one known)

Scott 351, 5c vertical coil: 9 documented uses, 3 solo uses, (1 registered use, EDU, 1 solo use to Australia)

Scott 355, 5c horizontal coil: 6 documented uses (1 registered use, EDU, 1 solo use, only one known)

New Additions & Changes: **Two incredibly scarce and rare covers have just been added to the exhibit. They have been off the market for over 30 years and are the only documented solo uses.** A 4c horizontal solo use paying the double weight first class fee and a 5c horizontal solo use paying the UPU fee to Barbados. The 10 cent horizontal coil is the most prized addition because of the difficulty of acquisition. A treaty rate use of the 2 cent horizontal coil to Canada, and a UPU use of the 2 cent vertical coil to Japan have been added. There have been a few production pieces added as well. The exhibitor has located and added three examples of the reverse paste-up production varieties. A 2, 4, and 5 cent horizontal reverse paste-up complete a set of values for each horizontal coil for the 1908 issue. A new discovery of a repair splice with craft paper on a 4c vertical paste-up pair has been added. Three examples of the Parkhurst Vending Machine application have been added to the exhibit. The only documented mint pair of the 2c Scott 349, a post card with the 1c Scott 348, and the only documented use of the 2c Scott 349 on cover. The exhibitor has also done personal research on a new production variety. Paste-ups with guide line and arrow have been discovered with an unusual pin hole that is only been found on paste-ups with the guide line and arrow. Other paste-ups have been examined and there were no pin holes found. It has been determined by the exhibitor that something held the pane of 400 down on the cutting table as the pane was pushed on the table top to cut it into strips of 20. It has been suggested that the pin holes occur on the guide line and arrow because the markings are located in the center of the sheet and it was being held in place so the sheet could be kept straight and neat while it was being cut. There have been perforated and imperforate paste-up coils from the 1908 and 1910 issues found with this unusual production marking.

Exhibit Highlights: This exhibit contains some of the most difficult Washington & Franklin coil issues known. There have been a number of well known exhibitors and collectors of this material over the years, and this exhibit may be the most comprehensive and complete exhibit ever assembled. Many of the covers in the exhibit have come from these past exhibitors and collectors. What may set this exhibit apart is the completeness. Past exhibitors usually were missing one or more examples on cover. Highlights: Listed in the order they appear in the exhibit.

- 1) The 10c, Scott 356, horizontal coil on cover, 1 of 6 documented examples, only non-stamp dealer use.
- 2) Pre and post pre printing paper folds, 1 cent, Scott 348, vertical coils.
- 3) Only documented use of a reverse paste-up on post card, 1 cent, Scott 352, horizontal coil.
- 4) Only documented example of a plate number on tab at the left of a 1 cent 352 horizontal coil
- 5) A 2c, Scott 353, horizontal strip of four with two repair splices, unique.
- 6) A 4c, Scott 350, domestic use, Earliest Documented Use. 1 of 5 known.
- 7) A 4c, Scott 350, German Treaty Rate, only use to a foreign destination, 2 of 5 known.
- 8) A 3c Scott 353, treaty rate to Canada, first documented use to a foreign destination.
- 9) A 5c, Scott 351, vertical pair, Earliest Document Use, new discovery, moves the date up 79 days.
- 10) A 4c, Scott 354, solo use paying the first class double weight letter fee, only documented solo use.
- 11) A 5c, Scott 355, horizontal pair, Earliest Documented Use, 1 of 5 documented uses.
- 12) A 5c, Scott 355 solo use to Barbados, only documented solo use.
- 13) A 3c, Scott 389, Orangeburg Coil on cover, has been added to the ending to highlight the transition from hand assembled issues to Auto-Wound issues. This was the last hand assembled issue produced by the Bureau.

Washington & Franklin Coils

1908 Perf-12 Issues

The Purpose of This Exhibit is to show the development of the 1908 Third Bureau coil issues. It includes the coil stamps, production examples, and uses to domestic and foreign destinations. **Key Items Highlighted in Red**

Exhibit Plan

I. Production

- A. Paper
- B. Plates
- C. Plate Markings
- D. Coil Construction

II. Uses

- A. Vertical Format
 - 1. One Cent
 - 2. Two Cent
 - 3. Four Cent
 - 4. Five Cent

B. Horizontal Format

- 1. One Cent
- 2. Two Cent
- 3. Four Cent
- 4. Five Cent

III. Epilogue: Transition to 1910 Issue

- A. Key Production Changes
- B. Earliest Documented Use

Key Items: Major rarities are matted and outlined in **Red**. Rarity statements are in **Red Italics**. Largest known frankings or multiples are in **Bold Red** block letters

The 10 Cent Double Lined Watermarked Coil

This coil along with the rare 3 cent Orangeburg coil are a result of a special order placed by the Bell Pharmaceutical Company. In 1908 a business could place a special order with the local postmaster for stamps in coil format. **This is the only non stamp dealer use of this coil out of the six known.**



Six Documented Uses

First class registered, 2 cents plus 10 cents registry fee. June 1, 1912 Philadelphia registry cancel.
PF 550778