VOLUME XX, No. 3 JULY, 1941

COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

Published Quarterly by THE COLLECTORS CLUB.

Publication Office, Federalsburg, Md.

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Vol. XX. JULY, 1941. No. 3.

MEXICO.

The Cracked Plate of the 2 Reales, 1856 Issue

By Gerard Gilbert

This plate (plate II) was probably first put to press in 1857 and was also used for the 1861 and the 1867-68 issues.

All of the plates used for the printing of these issues were *Galvanoplasty* plates. Perhaps a description of the manufacturing of this type of plate will help materially in understanding how these cracks happened. A very thin plate of soft brass of about 1/5th of a millemeter in thickness is stretched and fixed on a soft ground material. A sub die taken from the original die is then struck or pressed into the brass plate as many times as the number of stamps required to make up the plate. This being done the plate is then put into an electrolytic bath in order to reinforce the thin brass plate at its back. The surface design is protected from a deposit with a coating material which is later dissolved leaving the struck design as originally impressed. It is then mounted on a block of wood and is ready for the press.

We had the opportunity in Paris to inspect all the engraved plates that were used for the printing of all the early French stamps from 1849 to 1871. All these plates were Galvanoplasty. Our inspection proved that all subjects were struck in rotation one by one on the brass plate and in some instances the die having been struck upside down explains the so-called "tete-beche" entries. The original die was never used for these entries but sub-dies made from the original were used and when they became worn were discarded for a new one. In two instances a wrong one was used, when a 20c die was used on one plate of the 40c 1849 issue. This had to be corrected, the figure 4 being engraved by hand to replace the figure 2.

In this discussion of the Galvanoplasty plate we would like to add that we feel sure that the early plates of the U. S. stamps such as the '47, '51-'56 et cetera were manufactured by the same process and that the re-cut on the 10 cent '47 was made on the brass plate before being electrolytically reinforced.

Mexico Two Reales 1856-57, 1861, 1867-68

The first plate of the two reales value was a plate of 60 subjects ten horizontal rows of six. The postal demands of this value were considerable and a new plate was laid down during 1857 with 190 subjects of ten horizontal rows of nineteen subjects. This plate is known to have a great many cracks, the most important one being through stamp 189. It is possible that the brass shell of this plate had thinner edges or that the zinc content was such as to make the plate more brittle.

In the illustration on opposite page we are showing No. 189:—

Figs. 1, 2, 3, 1856-57 issue, 2 Reales yellow green, different stage of crack.
Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1861 issue, 2 Reales black on rose, different stages of crack.
Fig. 9, 1867 issue, 2 Reales **blue green on bluish paper,** Mexico Gothic surcharge. On this illustration it is easy to see that a small piece of metal belonging to the brass plate is broken. It looks like a flake going from the cheek down to the shoulder.

The supply of the thin bluish paper being exhausted, the plate had to be cleaned in order to print this stamp in its previous colour of 1861. We are showing here two cliches, which we think belong to trial printings after cleaning of the plate used for the 2 R. blue green. This is a known practise of printers.

Figs. 10, 11, 1867-68 issue, 2 Reales grey-black on rose, no surcharge, the broken piece of metal is still there very close to the stage of the crack of No. 9 (2R. blue green).
Fig. 12, 1867-68 issue, 2 Reales grey-black on rose, part of the broken piece of metal is already gone, showing thick inking on the broken border, the acid of the ink having worked like rust on steel.
Fig. 13, 1867-68 issue, 2 Reales grey-black on rose. The whole piece of brass is now completely missing. The thickness of the brass plate (about 1/5th of a millimeter) prevents the inking in this place, so that the paper appears there in its genuine colour, rose.

The study of the "crack" which started in 1857, enables us now to prove that the plate was used in 1867 when the Republic was proclaimed again in Mexico. The first new set issued was the following:
August 16, 1867 *Thin bluish-grey* wove paper watermark on the sheet R. P. S.

½ Real grey	Surcharged "Mexico" in Gothic type
1 Real pale blue	
2 Real blue green	Used only in Federal District, in the District of Chalco and in
4 Real rose	the Diligencias offices of Morelos.

Very soon, however, the supply of this paper was exhausted. By this time, the stock of the paper used for the 1861 issue had been found, as well as remainders of the 1861 issue, not yet surcharged. These were most probably the values that remained in stock:

½ Real black on brown or buff .....1861 issues
1 Real black on green in small quantity .....1861 issues
2 Real black on rose in small quantity .....1861 issues
4 Real red on white in very small quantity .....1856 issues
8 Real black on brown .....1861 issues
8 Real green on brown in very small quantity .....1861 issues

For the ½ Real, the use of this value being very small, the supply of the ½ R. grey on bluish paper was still sufficient.

The 1 R. value had to be reprinted in grey-black on green.

The 2 R. value had to be reprinted in grey-black on rose.

The 4 R. value had to be reprinted in *red* on an *orange yellow* paper instead of *pink* on *yellow.*

The 8 R. value was not reprinted because there were enough remainder of 8 Reales value of 1861 for all postal needs.

Illustration No. 14 and 15, 2 R. grey-black on rose, Mexico Gothic shows that this plate was used up to its end, giving the proof that no reprint could be made from 2 R. Plate II. If any of the so called Reprints exist, they are bound to be from Plate I.

Study of this crack proves also that:

Scott's #42 ½ R Gray should be listed before #35 ½ R Buff
Scott's #43 1 R Blue should be listed before #36 1 R Green
Scott's #44 2 R Green should be listed before #37 2 R Pink
Scott's #45 4 R Rose should be listed before #38 4 R Red
Gibbons #51 ½ R Grey should be listed before #44 ½ R Buff
Gibbons #52 1 R Blue should be listed before #45 1 R Green
Gibbons #53 2 R Green should be listed before #46 2 R Pink
Gibbons #54 4 R Rose should be listed before #47 4 R Red

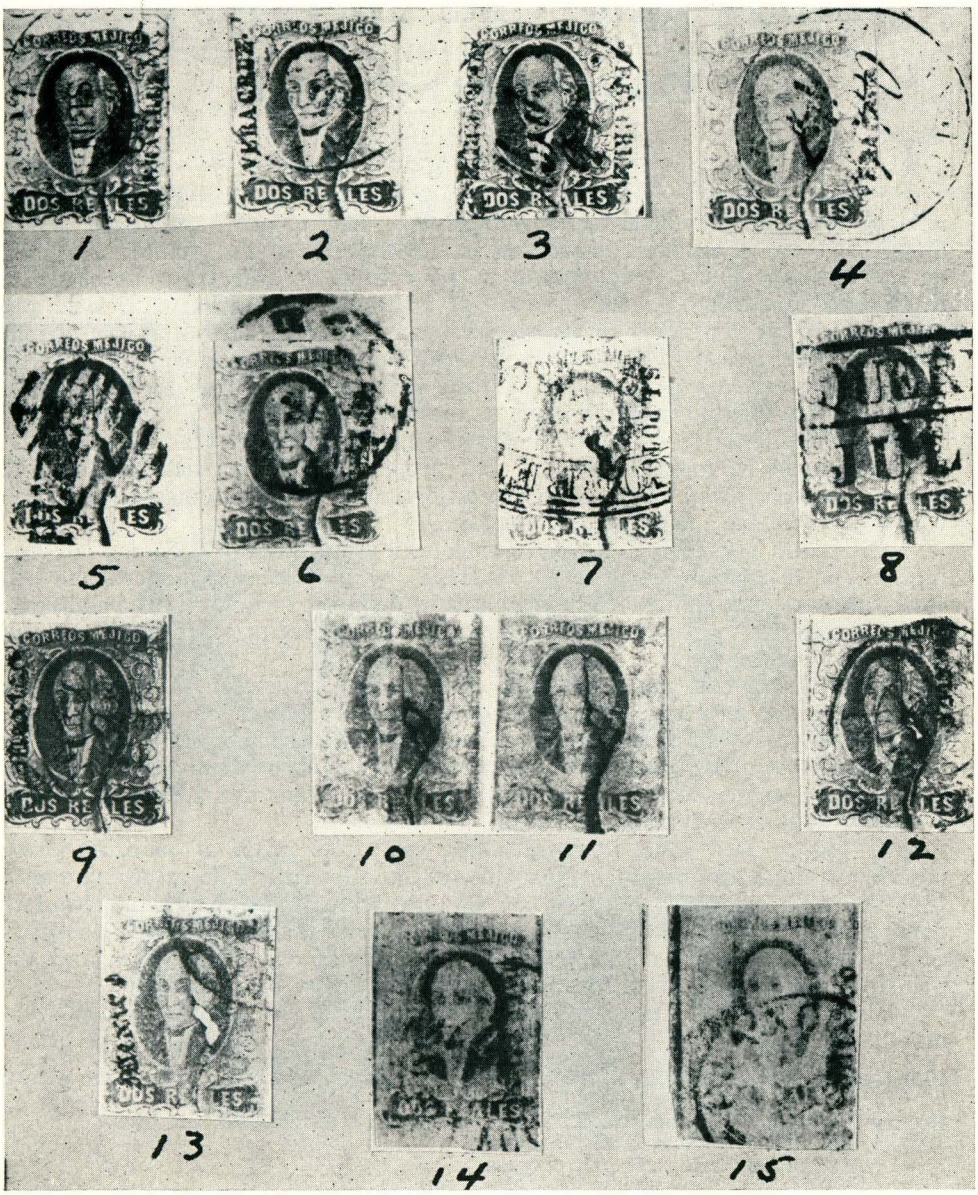


Fig. #1. 1857 Start of crack.
Fig. #2. 1857 Crack goes a little further.
Fig. #3. 1857 Crack goes up to the collar.
Fig. #4. 1861 Crack goes up to the cheek.
Fig. #5. 1861 Crack reaches the forehead.
Fig. #6. 1861 Start of a piece crack.
Fig. #7. 1861 Piece crack shows clearly.
Fig. #8. 1861 Piece crack shows clearly.
Fig. #9. 1867 Aug. 16th. 2 R Blue Green on bluish paper. Gothic "Mexico". After cleaning of the plate the crack is now very clear also crack of a piece.
Fig. #10. 1867 2 R Black on Rose. Same state as shown on #9.
Fig. #11. 1867 2 R Black on Rose. Crack still clearer.
Fig. #12. 1867 2 R Black on Rose, Gothic "Mexico". Part of piece gone.
Fig. #13. 1867 2 R Black on Rose, Gothic "Mexico". Piece of brass plate completely missing.
Figs. #14 and 15. 1867 These two stamps belong to the same plate. They are not No. 189. They both have the Gothic "Mexico" surcharge. They belong to the last state of the plate.

Rotary and Flat Dies in U. S. Envelope Stamps

THOMAS D. PERRY

Few stamp collectors realize that rotary and flat printings are as characteristic of stamped envelopes as of adhesives. The printing processes are far different, between intaglio engraving on the adhesives and embossed printing on the envelopes, but curves and flats occur in both, and are most easily distinguished in envelopes. In the case of adhesives the actual thin steel plate containing a large number of impressions can be curved to a diameter of many inches, making a slight difference in the width or height of the stamp. Envelope stamps, however, are printed singly, with recesses in the dies for the colorless lines, and are far too thick to bend to the small diameters (6″ and 8″) of the printing cylinders. The master die for the flat and each of the curved printing processes must be individually cut and prepared, and the distinct differences between them are well known, and are perpetuated in the sub-master dies (when values are changed) and the printing dies.

The recent offering of stamped envelopes by the Philatelic Agency at Washington, the increased attention to envelopes by philatelic catalogers, the probability of new designs for envelope stamps in the near future, and the consequent renewed interest in envelope collecting, make a description of these envelope dies most timely.

There have been many printing and folding processes employed in producing stamped envelopes, a number of which have passed out of use. Among the twentieth century U. S. envelopes, each printing process seems to have had its special style of printing press and accompanying type of distinguishable die, although the writer recognizes some inconsistencies that are difficult to explain, probably because of inadequate facts.

At the present time, however, there are three types of printing presses used in envelope production, all three used on the 1c, 2c and 3c values, two on the 1½c and only one each on the 4c, 5c, 6c and 6c air mail. For the present this description will be limited to current envelopes, of which a plentiful supply is easily obtainable for study, leaving the older and non-current dies and their printing methods for another article to appear in the near future.

The three types of presses in current use are, in the order of their development:

Flat Bed, O'Connell and Hartford (Wickham) presses, both using the same printing dies.

Rotary Cylinder, the curvature difference requiring separate printing dies.
6″ dia. cylinders, Huckins presses.
8″ dia. cylinders, Harris presses.

Only flat bed presses had been used in Hartford by the Plimpton-Morgan organization, before envelope manufacturing was shifted to Dayton in 1907. The Hartford press was designed and developed by Horace J. Wickham, master mechanic of the Plimpton-Morgan Companies from 1876 to 1906, and was operated under his name until 1907. It came to be called the Hartford press after its removal to Dayton about 1914, to distinguish it from the O'Connell press, an improved type of flat bed press originated by Mr. J. J. O'Connell, which reached its present form about 1932. Mr. O'Connell has been associated with the U. S. envelope manufacturing program for half a century and is now manager of the International Envelope Corporation at Dayton.

The Huckins press, as used for envelope production at Dayton, is a modification of the regular rotary printing press manufactured by the Standard

Envelope Company of Philadelphia, and is named after A. S. Huckins. It is the type of machine with which U. S. stamped envelopes were first produced after the manufacturing was transferred to Dayton in 1907, and still continues to be the major production type in use there. In 1929 the Harris rotary press was equipped for embossing, as was the Huckins in 1907, but an earlier model of the Harris had been used many years earlier at Dayton to print return corner cards only, from linotype slugs with tapered bodies.

The Huckins and Harris rotary presses are limited to the printing operation only, requiring a folding machine to convert the printed blanks into envelopes. Both the Hartford and O'Connell presses combine printing and subsequent folding in one continuous operation, but are slower than the rotary presses.

The flat bed printing method is the historic way of making stamped envelopes, since their first issue in 1853. Just when the Wickham flat bed press began to be used at Hartford is not known, and there is no evidence that any rotary presses were used before the Dayton regime.

The envelope stamps resulting from these three printing methods are shown in the enlarged illustrations (Fig. 1) of the 2c value, the only denomination in which all four varieties occur.



Fig. 1. Rotary and Flat Envelope Dies.
Upper left, Huckins rotary printing, die A. Right, Harris rotary printing, die I. Lower left, die H and lower right, die H-2. O'Connell and Hartford flat bed printing.

The distinctions between these dies can best be described as follows:—

A Uniformly well shaped heavy lettering, "C" and "G" normal, "N" in CENTS wide and tapers outward at the bottom, "U" medium in width, "E" of POSTAGE close to figure of value and slopes down to the right.

H Usually thin lettering, sometimes nearly as heavy as die A, "C" and "G" very open, "U" wide, "E" further from figure of value and nearly horizontal, "N" in CENTS with parallel side strokes, short (1½mm.) cross bars on all "T"s.

H-2 Same as die H, with longer (1¾mm.) cross bars on all "T"s.

I Heavy lettering as in die A, but "C", "G" and "U" are very narrow, in fact all lettering is distinctly condensed.

Some collectors prefer other methods of identification: the measurement of the embossing (not necessarily the colorless area) from the tip of the nose to the nape of the neck is 9¼mm. in dies A and I, and 9mm. for dies H and H-2. It may be helpful to remember the 5c value occurs only in die A, the 6c value only in die H, and the flat press impression of the 1½c value is always die H-2. There is never any doubt about the condensed lettering of die I.

It is unfortunate that these dies of the different values were not more systematically designated, but they were usually assigned letters in the order in which they were found with inadequate knowledge of their background, and it is now too late to change what has been accepted as standard in envelope literature for many years. The printing dies in current use are given in Table 1, with the year of origin of die indicated.

Table 1

ENVELOPE PRINTING DIES IN USE

Values	Huckins	O'Connell Hartford	O'Connell Hartford	Harris
1c	A 1917	C 1919	—	E 1930
* 1½c	A 1925	—	H-2 1925	—
2c	A 1916	H 1918	H-2 1924	I 1929
# 3c	A 1917	H 1918	—	I 1932
4c	A 1919	—	—	—
5c	A 1920	—	—	—
# 6c	—	H 1932	—	—
+ 6c Air	—	—	—	B 1934

Year dates indicated when die originated.
* 1½c rate effective April 15, 1925.
\# 3c and 6c rates re-established June 16, 1932. Effective also 1917-20.
\+ Rate changed from 8c to 6c on July 1, 1934.

The altering of the 2c, die H, into die H-2, with longer cross bars on the "T"s, both for the flat bed press remains unexplained, and it is not recognized in the Post Office Department records. It is to be noted that this change occurred in 1924, and H-2 was used for the master die in making the 1½c die in 1925, while die H was the model for the 6c die in 1932. The author has a growing doubt whether die H-2 should have been accorded the formal recognition that it has.

Some envelope enthusiasts have maintained that there are more types of current printing dies than those illustrated, but the author has shown these variations to a group of executives at Dayton and they have pronounced them all the products of the three printing methods outlined. It is known that the manufacture of these printing dies has been partly at the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia and partly at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing in Washington, and it is quite possible that some of them may have beeen re-worked, with minor changes. There is no evidence, as yet, that any new master dies have been made. The author deplores any attempt to inject these minor varieties into the envelope collecting program, at least until there is tangible evidence of fundamental differences. Experience has proved that a number of earlier varieties, now established in the catalogs, are quite difficult to justify.

The occurence of the different printing methods in the currently issued stamped envelopes may seem somewhat erratic until a study is made of just what is happening under the present (January 1, 1937) official schedule which offers the public its choice in stamped envelope styles. This schedule may be seen in any postoffice lobby and indicates the permissible sizes, paper colors and qualities, window fronts, return cards, quantities and conditions surrounding the purchase of each style. This schedule has been arranged in tabular

TABLE 2

UNITED STATES STAMPED ENVELOPES

Contract of 1937 to 1940 — Schedule of January 1, 1937

Description	Value of Stamp	Die	Printing Press	Top Flap Name	Type	Gum	Sizes and Paper Colors: 5 Wh	5 Am	5 Bl	6 Wh	6 Am	6 Bl	7 Wh	7 Am	7 Bl	8 Wh	8 Am	8 Bl	9 Wh	9 Am	9 Bl	13 Wh	13 Am	13 Bl
Standard Quality Paper	1¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	P	*							*	P	P				*	*	*
	1¢	C	O'Co	Flat	Yes		D	D	D							D	D	D				D	*	D
	1¢	E	Harr	Roty	Yes		P	P	P							*	*	P				*	P	P
24 pound Substance	1¢	A	Huck	Roty	No		P	*	P							*	P	P				*	P	P
	1¢	E	Harr	Roty	No		*	*	*							*	*	*				*	*	*
Watermark 36 - "r"	1½¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*							*	*	*				*	*	*
	1½¢	H-2	O'Co	Flat	Yes		D	D	D							D	D	D				D	*	D
Solid Front High Back	2¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	P	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*
	2¢	H&H-2	O'Co	Flat	Yes		*	*	*				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	*	*	*
	2¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		P	P	P				P	P	P	P	P	P	D	D	D	*	*	*
	3¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3¢	H	O'Co	Flat	Yes		*	*	P				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	*	*	*
	3¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				*	P	*	P	P	P	D	D	D	*	*	*
	6¢Air	B	Harr	Roty	Yes		0	0	0				0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0
Same as above except Window Front	1¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	P	*							*	P	*				*	*	*
	1¢	E	Harr	Roty	Yes		P	P	P							P	P	P				P	P	P
	1¢	A	Huck	Roty	No		*	P	P							*	P	*				*	P	P
	1¢	E	Harr	Roty	No		P	P	P							*	P	P				*	P	P
	1½¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	P	*							*	*	*				*	*	P
Low Back	2¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*	P	P				*	*	*
	2¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*	D	D	D	*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*
	3¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*	*	*				*	*	*
	3¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*	D	D	D	*	*	*	P	P	P				*	*	*
Extra Quality Paper	1¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*							*	*	P				*	*	*
	1¢	C	O'Co	Flat	Yes		D	D	D							D	D	D				D	D	D
	1¢	E	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*							*	P	P				P	P	P
28 pound Substance	1½¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*							*	*	*				*	*	*
	1½¢	H-2	O'Co	Flat	Yes		D	D	D							D	?	?				D	D	D
Watermark 35 - "q"	2¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2¢	H&H-2	O'Co	Flat	Yes		*	*	*				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	*	*	*
	2¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				P	P	P	P	P	P	D	D	D	*	*	P
Solid Front High Back	3¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3¢	H	O'CO	Flat	Yes		*	*	*				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	*	*	*
	3¢	I	Harr	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				*	*	P	P	P	P	D	D	D	*	*	*
	4¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		0	0	0				*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	5¢	A	Huck	Roty	Yes		*	*	*				0	0	0	P	P	P	0	0	0			
	6¢	H	O'Co	Flat	Yes		0	0	0				*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	*			

ABBREVIATIONS

Harr - Harris Rotary Press
Huck - Huckins Rotary Press
O'Co - O'Connell or Hartford Flat Press

* - Issued and known 229
? - Reported, Not verified 2
P - Possible, Not yet found. 102
D - Doubtful, Found with earlier Watermarks .86
419

0 - Not specified on schedule; All blank spaces in table also indicate non-scheduled

TABULATION OF SIZES:

5 - 3-1/2" x 6-5/16" - 89 x 160mm
6 - 3-5/8" x 8-5/8" - 92 x 219
7 - 3-7/8" x 8-7/8" - 98 x 225
8 - 4-1/8" x 9-1/2" - 105 x 241
9 - 4-3/8" x 10-1/8" - 111 x 257
13 - 3-3/4" x 6-3/4" - 95 x 171

form for easier study and is given in Table 2. This chart arrangement shows more clearly, than the regular catalog listing, just what types have been issued, as well as those that might have occurred, and indicates blank spaces for items that were not included on the standard schedule. The chart form may also be helpful to those collectors who may not be familiar with envelope catalogs. A careful examination of this table reveals some very interesting facts, viz.:

1. The flat bed presses, Hartford and O'Connell, seem to be limited in this contract, to the production of sizes 5 and 13, except in the case of the 6c, which is offered in sizes 7, 8 and 9, and only a flat bed printing die is available. With earlier watermarks in former contracts, flat bed stamps of other denominations were sometimes, but not commonly, used on sizes 7, 8 and 9.
2. Window envelopes never come with high backs and are usually, but not always, made on Harris rotary presses. Airmail envelopes are made on Harris presses only. Precanceled envelopes are usually from Harris presses, but occasionally from the Huckins rotary presses. Window envelopes, airmails, and precancels never occur with flat bed printing.
3. Flat bed printing has not been used (with two exceptions) for the last two contracts at least, (1933-6 and 1937-40) for the 1c and 1½c values, but the printing dies are available, and they might be used again.
4. Size 6, in the present contract, (1937-40), has always been produced on the Huckins press, although a few of this size were made on Harris presses in earlier contracts.
5. Envelopes with ungummed top flaps are usually, but not always, precanceled. All precanceled envelopes are required to be made without gum on the top flaps.
6. Size 9 in all values, except 6c, is produced on the Huckins press. The Harris press has not been equipped to turn out this size of envelope.
7. A summary of what is known to have happened and what might occur is interesting:

Issued and known (*)	229	54.6%
Reported, not verified (?)	2	0.5%
Possible, not yet found (P)	102	24.3%
Doubtful, found with earlier watermarks (D)	86	20.6%
	419	100.0%

It is quite apparent that it is the policy of the envelope contractors or manufacturers to prefer certain types of presses for certain classes and styles of envelopes. It may well be, that with the lessened annual demand for stamped envelopes, from 3,228,586,578 in 1929 to 1,604,935,706 in 1939, there are enough machines to permit such allocations, and reduce the amount of machine adjustments that would be required by successive changes in shape, style or size of envelopes on a single production unit. However, under production pressure or due to human frailty, exceptions might and do occur. The contracts awarded every four years by the Postoffice Department for the supply of stamped envelopes, do not specify the details of production methods, and the contractor is thus free to operate his plant and equipment in the most economical manner, and according to his own discretion.

It is little short of amazing, that of the combinations that might be issued in stamped envelopes, only 54.6% have been found in the first three and three quarter years of the four year contract; that nearly one quarter (24.3%) are considered reasonably possible, but are not known to have occurred; and that approximately one fifth (20.6%) are considered of doubtful issue, due probably to the preference of the manufacturer for his own standardized procedure.

In order to find out just what proportion of the possible varieties, and how many of each, come in an average current mail, the author sorted over some twenty five thousand covers. These were from the incoming mail of a large Philadelphia manufacturing company, from which package mail and adhesive covers had been eliminated. Probably most of the circular matter was destroyed, since it was the policy of the company to hold all envelopes for one week to determine whether return address might be needed for the identification

of enclosures. The result of this survey, so far as stamped envelopes are concerned is given in Table 3, but watermarks and gummed flaps were not noted.

Table 3

FREQUENCY OF OCCURENCE—U. S. STAMPED ENVELOPES

Representative Large City Mail

STYLE	VALUE	DIE	PRESS	SIZES 5	6	7	8	9	13	Total
White	1c	A	Huck	—			—		1	1
Stand.		I	Harr	4			11		2	17
Solid										
Front	1½c	A	Huck	—			24		8	32
	2c	A	Huck	7		10	362	8	128	515
		H&H2	O'Co	148		—	—	—	109	257
		I	Harr	3		—	—	—	7	10
	3c	A	Huck	1209		172	1818	117	477	3793
		H	O'Co	11		3	—	—	621	635
		I	Harr	106		5	—	—	367	478
	6c	A M	Harr	—		—	66	—	9	75
White	1c	A	Huck	—			—		1	1
Stand.										
Window	1½c	A	Huck	—			1		—	1
Front	2c	A	Huck	18	1	—	31		55	105
		I	Harr	48	—	116	280		99	543
	3c	A	Huck	3	33	—	929		108	1073
		I	Harr	147	—	893	5		270	1315
White	1c	A	Huck	—			—		1	1
Extra										
Solid	1½c	A	Huck	—			1		—	1
Front	2c	A	Huck	2		19	68	3	80	172
		H&H2	O'Co	40		—	—	—	26	66
		I	Harr	3		—	—	—	14	17
	3c	A	Huck	440		46	826	44	79	1435
		H	O'Co	42		—	—	—	193	235
		I	Harr	4		—	—	—	53	57
White Total				2235	34	1264	4422	172	2708	10835
Amber	1½c	A	Huck	—			1		—	1
Stand.										
Solid	2c	A	Huck	—	—	—	15	—	—	15
Front	3c	A	Huck	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
		I	Harr	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Amber	2c	A	Huck	—	—	—	—		2	2
Stand.		I	Harr	—	—	8	—		6	14
Window										
Front	3c	A	Huck	—	1	1	1		—	3
		I	Harr	1	—	2	—		—	3
Amber	1½c	A	Huck	—			1		—	1
Extra										
Solid										
Front										
Amber Total				3	1	13	18	—	8	43
Blue	1½c	A	Huck	—			2		—	2
Stand.										
Solid	2c	A	Huck	2		—	—	10	2	14
Front		H&H2	O'Co	3		—	—	—	3	6
		I	Harr	—		—	—	—	2	2
	3c	A	Huck	56		20	133	—	110	319
		H	O'Co	1		—	—	—	8	9
		I	Harr	1		—	—	—	64	65

Blue	2c	A	Huck	1	—	—	3		8	12
Stand		I	Harr	6	—	15	14		5	40
Window	3c	A	Huck	—	4	—	20		6	30
Front		I	Harr	—	—	77	—		21	98
Blue	3c	A	Huck	1		8	13	—	—	22
Extra										
Solid										
Front										
Blue Total				71	4	120	185	10	229	619
Grand Total, all colors				2309	39	1397	4625	182	2945	11497

A condensed summary of this table is given in Table 5.

The metered mail in this same lot was also sorted for total stamp value on each cover with the result shown in Table 4.

Table 4

METERED MAIL BY VALUES

Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
1c	318	9c	27
1½c	153	11c	1
2c	2116	12c	18
3c	10875	13c	15
4c	116	15c	1
5c	5	16c	5
6c	529	18c	4
7c	1	Total	14726

It is interesting to note that of the 201 known varieties of stamped envelopes, over half, or 110, were found in this lot, including a few varieties that had not been found before. No values over 3c were found in the stamped envelopes, and the proportion of 2c values was larger in a big city than would have been the case in a small town mail. However it was probably reasonably typical of an average incoming mail.

The percentages of stamped envelopes, according to the major classifications are given in Table 5, which is a percentage summary of Table 3. These results are quite illuminating as to what is actually happening.

The envelope watermarks of the 1937-40 contract, and of the current issue, are illustrated in Fig. 2. The angling date figures indicate extra quality paper.

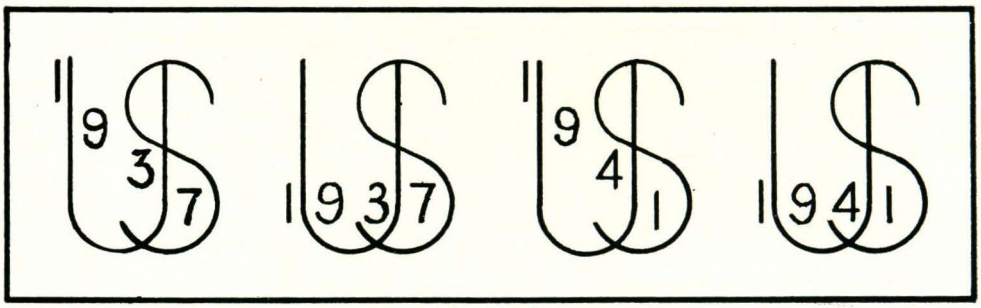


Fig. No. 2.

Is it not perfectly obvious that the entire envelope collector is always living in an alluring atmosphere of expectation, searching zealously for what may happen at any time in his chosen collecting field? The chances are excellent for a new discovery, that may put him a bit ahead of his fellow collectors! And we are just beginning to find the new watermarks (1941) of the envelope manu-

facturing contract that started January 1, 1941, with plenty of the old (1937) watermarks still coming through! What other collecting field, in a modest price zone, can offer such a tantalizing opportunity for current discoveries?

Table 5

FREQUENCY PERCENTAGES

This is a summary of Table 3.

Classification	Quantity	Percent
Size 5	2309	20.0%
6	39	.3
7	1397	12.0
8	4625	40.4
9	182	1.6
13	2945	25.7
	11497	100.0%
Stand. Quality Paper		
Solid Front	6250	54.3%
Window Front	3240	28.3
Ex. Qual. Solid Front	2007	17.4
	11497	100.0%
White Paper	10835	94.3%
Amber	43	.4
Blue	619	5.3
	11497	100.0%
Values 1c	20	0.2%
1½c	38	.4
2c	1790	15.6
3c	9574	83.3
6c Airmail	75	.6
	11497	100.0%
Huckins Rotary	7504	65.2%
O'Connell-Hartford Flat	1805	15.7
Harris Rotary	2188	19.1
	11497	100.0%

History of Preparation of the U. S. 1861 Stamps.

VARIATIONS OF THE 24 CENTS DESIGNS.

By CLARENCE W. BRAZER.

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First Award Paper for Philatelic Research.
Read at Collectors Club, N. Y. C., June 4, 1941.

This article was submitted to Elliott Perry for his opinion as to publication and I am pleased to quote this eminent student of the 1861 issue as follows: "I am heartily in favor of publishing the article, for I regard it as having very great philatelic value and adding much to the knowledge of the extremely interesting issue of which it treats." "In my opinion all American Philately is indebted to you and should congratulate you upon having gathered and published so much new information in such a logical and entertaining manner."

In presenting this paper, I have no desire to be an iconoclast and destroy the high values that have been established for the Premiere Gravure stamps, which remain just as rare as they always have been whether they are issued stamps, or essays as I believe. My only object is to present the facts as I have discovered them, with necessary interpretations, and then let the readers judge for themselves. In order to separate the facts from the discussion, the facts will be stated in italics.

I wish also to affirm my admiration for John N. Luff's magnus opus on The Postage Stamps of the United States, published in 1902, forty years after the 1861 events herein discussed in 1941; or eighty years since they occurred. New information has been found which was not known to Mr. Luff. Therefore if I appear to argue with the bible of U. S. Philately, I hope it will be understood that this paper is an effort to complete and correct the record. While I now present enough facts to give a picture of the preparation of this issue of 1861, more facts are still needed as to details, and for these the search will continue.

Back in 1932 I wondered why only a difference in color, and no variations in design, had been discovered between the Premiere Gravure and Regular Issue adhesive stamps of the 1861 24 cents and 30 cents stamps, when a difference in design in all the other values of the set had been discovered and announced in a paper read to the National Philatelic Society by John N. Luff on May 26, 1896. Therein he first claimed the Premiere Gravure "designs were issued as stamps"—"that they have done postal duty and that there is a full set of them, each differing in some way from the corresponding value of the regular issue." "I have not been able to find any variations in the twenty-four and thirty cents stamps."—"A few slight retouches may be found on some of the twenty-four cents stamps but I think they indicate late touching up of the plate, rather than alterations on the die." "Accepting this (August 15th.) as the date of issue of the stamps of the first type, we have yet to learn the date for the second types." In his 1902 book John Luff supplied the information as to quantities of stamps issued on August 16th. etc., which thereby superseded his 1896 beliefs as to date of issue, but he still held to the two complete issues of stamps. On page 85 of his book he said—"the premiere gravures were issued

in the early part of August 1861. The 14th. of the month is usually given as the date of issue, though I have not found the authority for the statement.'' This was probably from John K. Tiffany's book, first published in 1887, in the title heading descriptions of the regular issue as ''Issue of August 14th, 1861''.

The 3 cents and 12 cents variations in design were so noticeable as to have been known long before. Neither Tiffany's nor Luff's books give us anything documentary about this 1861 issue prior to the (undated) August printed announcement to postmasters accompanying the first shipments of stamps. We have known that the Advertisement for Proposals was dated March 27, 1861 and a short paragraph about essays accompanying the bids, had been known, but the eighteen weeks period from that date until August 16, 1861 when the stamps were delivered, had remained a mystery to philatelists. In Pat Paragraphs for October, 1934, Elliott Perry published a newspaper article dated August 10th announcing ''The new stamps will be ready by the middle of the month.''

As no facts as to the history of the preparation of this Civil War Issue were known, I began a research for it, and a study of my many die and plate proofs which required chronological arrangement. In *Stamps* for March 15th, April 1st, and April 8th, 1933, I first published my findings of many additional variations in design found on die proofs of all values of the Premiere Gravure and Regular Issues, including proofs of the 24 cents and 30 cents which had not previously been known. In summing up these studies I then stated—(March 15th., 1933) ''the so called Premiere Gravures are nothing more than essays, with the exception of the 10 cents which was used for postage'' and (April 8th., 1933) ''This evidence tends to confirm the original opinion, held prior to 1895, that all values of the Premiere Gravures, except the 10 cents and 24 cents, were really finished essays.''

HISTORICAL

The country was so much exercised with news of the beginnings of the Civil War that less important news was crowded out of the daily papers. In my research to find the historical facts of this 1861 issue of postage stamps, I have read New York papers from March 15th. to August 16th. The main item of importance found was the philatelically unknown and most important *complete Advertisement for Proposals dated March 27., 1861,* which is appended hereto. *Toppan, Carpenter & Co.'s contract for postage stamps was to expire on June 10th., so a new contract was advertised, for a six year term from July 1st., 1861.* (It is interesting to note that *the Confederate States P. M. G. advertised for bids on Confederate Postage Stamps on that very same day to be received* a day later than the U. S. A. *on May 1st.*) (1)

One of the requirements advertised was:

"Each bid is to be accompanied with a specimen of the style of engraving, and the quality of paper to be furnished, which will be submitted to a board of disinterested experts or artists for examinations; and the accepted bidder, before the final consummation of the contract, will be required to prepare designs and furnish proof impressions of the engravings of the several denominations of the stamps."

A ''specimen of the style of engraving'' required engraved designs. Those actually furnished which, if not identical with the stamps later issued, are philatelically known as ''Essays.''

This advertisement favored Toppan, Carpenter & Co. by requiring *''the heads of Washington and Franklin''* on the same value stamps as they had produced from 1851 to 1861, but that each *''denomination must be given distinctly, in figures as well as letters, and the whole work must be executed in the best*

(1) See August Dietz "Postal Service on the Confederate States of America."

style of line engraving on steel." The head of Jefferson on the 5 cents seems to have been forgotten in the advertisement, but *was provided for in the contract.*

PROPOSALS & ESSAYS SUBMITTED

Die Essays of the Premiere Gravure designs for all 8 values must have been submitted (or essayed) with *the bid of the National Bank Note Co.* From *this advertisement dated March 27th, requiring "Proposals will be received until 12 n of 30th April"* we learn that *the National Bank Note Co. had only about a month in which to design and engrave 8 dies. The National Bank Note Co. was a new organization, formed two years before, and had no old vignettes to use for these stamps.* Consequently, *all of the 8 designs were then first engraved. The only duplication was the vignettes on the 10 cents and 12 cents which were from the same master die engraved by Wm. E. Marshall. The 12 cents vignette is a smaller oval and has some lines on the queue added, so that these vignettes are not identical.* It is therefore readily conceivable that all these hastily prepared engravings might have been improved by further consideration.

When *the proposals were opened on April 30th.*, it was found that *Toppan, Carpenter & Co. "were underbid for this contract by the National Bank Note Co."* (as I found in a letter from Charles F. Steel to Postmaster General Wanamaker dated July 22, 1889). I also learn from the Contract I recently found, that the *National Bank Note Co. price was only 12 cents per thousand stamps,* while the previous Contract (which I also found) shows that, *Toppan, Carpenter & Co. had previously received 18 cents per thousand stamps. The Postmaster General's Report of 1861 says the P. O. D. saved about 30% by this new contract.*

The Toppan, Carpenter & Co. die essays of April 30, 1861, Mason's Types 17 to 22, were similar to the set of 8 stamps they produced from 1851 to 1861, except that the required numerals were added to the designs of the 1 cent, 3 cents, 5 cents, 12 cents, 24 cents, 90 cents values. The 10 cents and 30 cents designs already contained numerals, so die proofs of these values were contained in the set with six new designs in die essays. Their colors of all 8 values were, however, practically the same as they used on the previously issued stamps as shown by the accompanying exhibit.

The Postmaster General's Report dated December 2, 1861 states:

"In order to prevent the fraudulent use of the large quantity of stamps remaining unaccounted for, in the hands of postmasters in the disloyal states, it was deemed advisable to **change the design and color** of those manufactured under the new contract."

The American Bank Note Co. also submitted a bid with 7 *model* essays for postage stamps. *These were* little more than the required "specimen of the style of engraving" and *all in black. They are Masons Essays 134C, 134D, 134E, 134F, 134H, 134I and 134J. The Washington head vignettes on the 3 cents essays 134E and 134J, and on the 5 cents (or 12 cents?) 134H and 134I are all the same, and were inherited from Bald, Cousland & Co. The frames of the 3 cents essays 134C and 134D are also similar to the Bald, Cousland & Co. Essays 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 of 1851.* The beautiful *5 cents essay 134F is a Washington head on the frame that the A. B. N. C. engraved for the 5 cents Nova Scotia stamp of 1860.* It is noticeable that the above essays *134C, 134D and 134F do not contain "denominations given distinctly in figures" as required by the advertisement,* but are so similar to the others that there can be no doubt they are part of the set essayed by the *American Bank Note Co.* whose *name is engraved on 134H.* Their letter of May 6, 1861 to the Postmaster General, which I published on page 125 of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* for April, 1941, clearly shows their rivalry with Toppan, Carpenter & Co. for the postage stamp contract. *The award of this contract was then under consideration. "A prominent firm of engravers" were editorially spanked by the N. Y.*

Tribune on May 9, for bidding on postage stamps and bank notes to both the United States and the Confederacy at the same time. The American Bank Note Co. letter shows this accusation was not entirely true as their *negotiation with the Postmaster General of the Confederacy was on March 4, 1861,* before either government advertised for postage stamp proposals.

It is not likely there were any other, than the three above, bidders equipped at that time to comply with the specifications advertised and to submit essays line engraved on steel. The Continental Bank Note Co. was not formed until 1863, and practically all the other bank note engraving firms of importance had been consolidated into the American Bank Note Co. in 1858.

ESSAYS CONSIDERED BY BOARD OF ARTISTS

As provided in the Advertisement for bids, the various essay designs and the proposals submitted by the bidders on April 30th. *"will be submitted to a Board of disinterested experts or artists for examination."* The National Bank Note Co. die essays, in the premiere gravure designs, were favorably considered. No doubt this Board of Artists desired to see how these irregular border Premiere Gravure die essay designs would appear in finished plate sheets, and so *the National Bank Note Co. made plates No. 1 to No. 8 of all the values* and submitted finished essays, perforated and gummed which showed they could produce finished stamps. The gum is brown and does not appear to have been applied by experienced gummers. *The Advertisement required "the accepted bidder" to "furnish proof impressions of the engravings of the several denominations of the stamps."* I estimate this may have required most of May and possibly some of June. So in June (not August) *these Premiere Gravure plate essays were printed in trial colors generally similar to those of the previously issued stamps* and essayed to the Board for approval. *The finished plate sheets, which were submitted, were on transparent stamp paper, perforated and gummed. Some of the 3 cents and 90 cents exist on transparent paper imperforate, and the 90 cents also in green.* (I also have the 90 cents completed design as issued but imperforate in two shades of blue and one of these which has white gum has "Specimen" diagonally in manuscript).

As the National Bank Note Co. did not have previous experience in producing perforated stamps, these plates were all laid down with the same 21.5mm. horizontal *by about 26mm. vertical spacing on centers, regardless of the varying sizes of the different value designs.*

It is these incomplete Premiere Gravure finished essays on stamp paper that, due to the War necessity, were probably sent to the Foreign Governments in June, in lieu of specimens of the new issue of stamps, when those governments were advised that the old stamps would not be recognized. *The final variations in design were so unnoticeable that even philatelists did not discover them (except the 3 cents and 12 cents) until about 35 years later.*

CHANGING THE DIES

Luff's book states "The first designs did not give full satisfaction and improvements were ordered."

The Board of Artists, from consideration of these Premiere Gravure essay sheets, may then have required the changes to "square up" the designs and strengthen the shadows and the silhouettes, as submitted on these finished plate essays. In any event that is what was done. Knowing the desire of all good artists to improve their hurriedly executed work, I believe that the engravers of the National Bank Note Co., no doubt, took this opportunity to improve the hurriedly prepared die essay engravings, by adding further details. Possibly the 24 cents die and some other dies had been touched up before the

plates were made. Other changes may have been ordered. All the changes, or variations in the designs, were artistic improvements.

The first dies must have been hardened in order to take up transfers to make the Premiere Gravure essay plates. Some of the dies appear to have been softened and re-engraved, and in other cases (I have not yet completed the study of all my die proofs of other values) *duplicate laydown dies were made and re-engraved in the completed designs, and die proofs in black were made* and submitted for final approval. *These laydown* dies differ in size from the early dies. Probably it was sometime in June before the revised and completed designs were approved.

SELECTING THE COLORS

The Board of Artists also had the duty of selecting the colors for the stamps. I have the finished Premiere Gravure plate essays of the 3 cents in four hues of red: in Ridgway's 1i/1 Dim deep Red, 3k/0 dark orange-red Red (Scott's brown red), 7h/1 Dim orange Red, (all of which are common and frequently sold as No. 56) and also in a rare 71/2 Dull red-violet Red which is a similar color to Scott's No. 64 pink. I also have the 90 cents Premiere Gravure plate essay in green on the transparent stamp paper imperforate, without gum.

Probably about the time the Premiere Gravure plates were printed in June, the Board desired to consider other colors, as *the Postmaster General's report stated "it was deemed advisable to change the designs and color"* of the new stamps. Of the 1 cent design I have die essays in five colors printed on India paper, from the die *after* the generally known retouches designating regular issue had been added to the die, *but before the die was completed* by strengthening the silhouette of the frame, thus showing that *color trials were made before the design engraving was completed.* These colors are dull red, orange, yellow, brown, green and blue. The 3 cents Premiere Gravure die was printed in black, pink, dull carmine, red, red brown, brown red and scarlet. The 3 cents completed die proofs on India paper exist in black, gray, scarlet, rose, orange red, green and blue. I also have the *Premiere Gravure plate essays on India paper, the 1 cent in Indigo, dark ultramarine, ultramarine and blue, and the 3 cents similar to the first three colors of those essays finished on stamp paper.* I also have impressions from *the Premiere Gravure dies of the 3 cents on the transparent stamp paper in 11 hues of red,* including 3i/0, 5i/0, 7i/0, 1-/1, 1i/1, 3-/1, 71-/2, 1-/2, 1i/2, 67d/2, and 69b/2. The last two are hues of pink, showing that this color was probably somewhat favored, as an early regularly issued stamp was pink. I also have *the 30 cents die impressions on imperforate transparent stamp paper without gum in 6 hues of orange-yellow including 11i/0, 13h/1, 15i/0, 17i/0, 17j/1 and 19h/1.*

I also have die impressions of all values each in several colors including the 24 cents Type II in 8 colors: 1-/2 Dull Red, 5i/0 deep orange-red Red, 7i/0 red Orange, 9m/0 dusky Orange, 11m/0 dusky-yellow (brown), 15j/0 yellow Orange, 47m/2 Dull dusky g-b. Blue (a little brighter than Scott's No. 70a steel blue) *and 65m/3 Smoky dusky r-r. Violet* which is similar to Scott's No. 60 Violet. *My 30 cents die color trials are Premiere Gravure design in: 1-/2 Dull Red, 5i/0 deep orange-orange Red, 9i/0 deep orange-red Orange* (approximate premiere color), *13i/0 deep orange yellow Orange* (an issued color), *7m/1 Dim dusky red Orange (brown) and 47m/2 Dull dusky g-b. Blue.* The 90 cents was tried in 16 hues of blue from dark indigo blue to light ultramarine. I have the *90 cents Premiere Gravure die essays marked* No. 13 in bright ultramarine No. 14 in dull ultramarine, No. 15 in 47m/2 indigo blue and No. 16 in a darker blue. I also have the *90 cents completed die proofs in scarlet, yellow, red-brown, brown, gray, and blue.* It is not necessary here to give all colors known of the other values. *Some of these die trial colors are from the premiere*

gravure state of the die, some from an intermediate state and others apparently from the completed design as issued, thus placing their dates of printing as during the process of changing the dies. Due to existence of proofs from intermediate states of the dies, minute examination and comparison with the issued stamps is necessary, to determine whether all designs were actually changed in some details between the premiere gravure designs and the regularly issued designs.

The idea *"to change the design and color"* from the previous issue probably means that the intention was to change the hues of colors. In a P. O. D. letter of June 1, 1860 approving a lilac "shade" they also requested "care to preserve the most marked difference between the "tints" of lilac and those of the 5 cents stamp" which apparently gave the contractors an option. (Note the careless use of "shade" and "tints" by the P. O. D. apparently meaning the same thing.)

THE TRANSPARENT PAPER

This Board also had the duty of approving the stamp paper. The premiere gravure plate essays, and some die essays, were printed on a thin transparent bank-note paper, probably found too good to tear readily when perforated. After 80 years I do not find this ungummed paper "brittle," but crisp as a bank-note. *Several other transparent, semi-transparent and more opaque experimental papers were tried for the 1 cent and 3 cents stamps in completed design, but in three varying hues of blue and red. Some of these finished proofs perforated and gummed in my collection are on paper so thick that the impressions are not clear.* In any event *a thicker and more opaque paper was approved.* It may have required too long to obtain a supply of the approved paper, and due to the urgency of speed in delivery *the transparent paper on hand was temporarily used* until the new paper arrived. *Some stamps in the completed designs exist on the early transparent paper in the early colors.*

I estimate that it took about eight weeks to do all the above and obtain the Board's approval, which was perhaps obtained about the first of July.

NEW PLATES

In perforating the Premiere Gravure plate essays, it may have been found that the uniform spacing on centers of all the designs, whether large or small, left between the large designs only about 1¼mm. wide gutters, which did not give sufficient room for perforating the large designs. Consequently, when the six new plates having the completed designs of the 1c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 12c and 90c were made, these larger designs were spaced to leave 2¾mm. gutters between the stamps. The original spacing was large enough for perforating the small size 24 cents and 30 cents designs, so it was unnecessary to make new plates for these two values.

PRINTING THE STAMPS

Re-making at least 6 new plates with the 4 duplicate plates, No. 10 of the 1 cent and Nos. 12, 13, 14 of the 3 cents, must have required considerable time late in June and early in July, so that they may have been ready to harden and print about the time the new plant for printing, drying, gumming, perforating and packing was ready for operation. It is quite likely that a P. O. D. Agent was assigned to the N. B. N. C. plant as soon as the finished plates were approved, if not before. As Toppan, Carpenter & Co.'s contract expired on June 10th. the Stamp Agent probably was soon thereafter sent to the National Bank Note Co., though he may have had a vacation between times. If all final approvals had been obtained the printing of stamps to be issued might have begun. It is possible some color hues may have been changed during the early printings

of the stamps, such as the 3 cents pink, 5 cents buff, 10 cents dark green, 24 cents steel blue and 90 cents dull blue. While *no contract was yet signed,* or date of beginning determined the printing of the stamps no doubt was begun, because of the urgency. This is proved by the large quantity ready for delivery on August 15th. the day the contract was to begin.

It must have been known before June 1, 1861 that the contract would be awarded to the National Bank Note Co., for Charles F. Steel said (in a letter of July 22, 1889 addressed to P. M. G. Wanamaker) *"In 1861" (about June 1) —"I went to New York and fitted up the National Bank Note Co. establishment." He had been engaged in the finishing of postage stamps by Toppan, Carpenter & Co. since 1855.* From Steel's other papers, I find that on June 11 *he was employed by the National Bank Note Co. "to take charge of their production of postage stamps, set up a plant in new premises* (at 53 Broadway) *in New York and devise an accurate system for accounting for paper sheets printed, etc. that nothing be lost."* Steel's work began after the stamps were printed, (as defined in his later contract of March 1, 1873 with the Continental Bank Note Co.) He issued the paper to the printer and received it from the printing room. Obtaining new machinery, fitting up the new premises, finding and breaking in employees, may have required most of June and part of July.

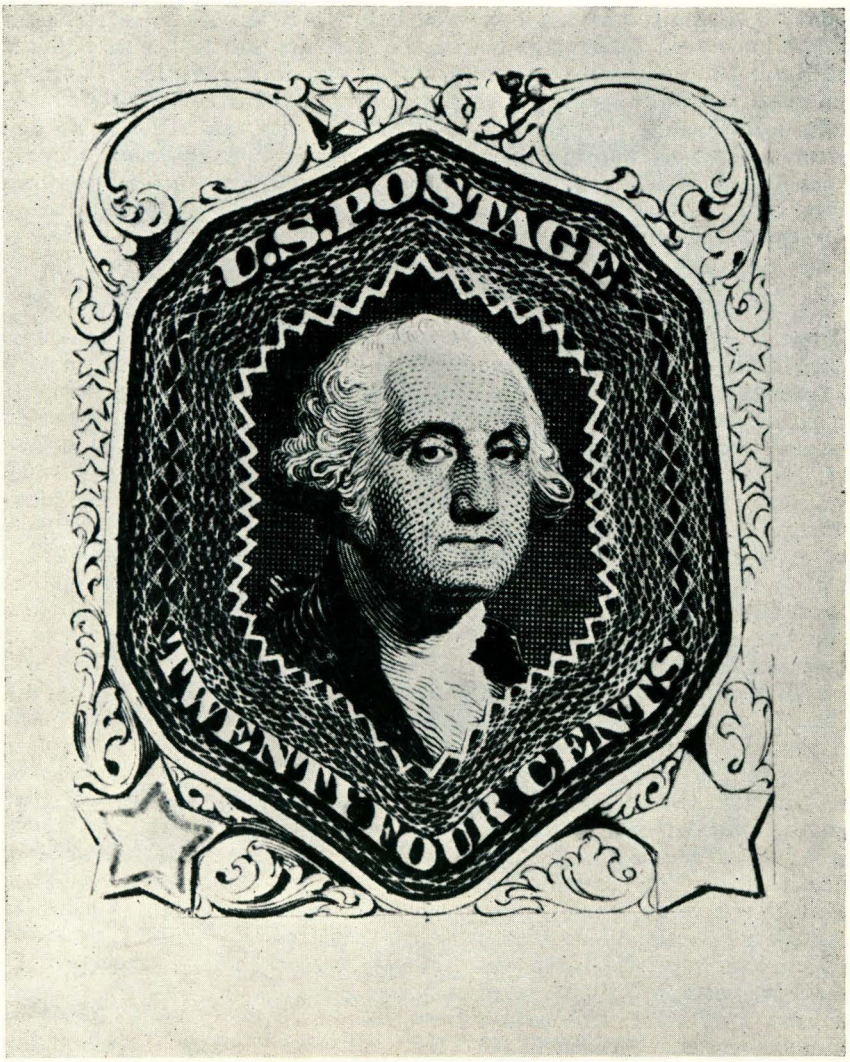
From the information available, let us estimate the time required to print and deliver the stamps. I find among Charles F. Steel's papers *a letter from the National Bank Note Co. dated September 12, 1861,* after about three months operation, *authorizing him to put in force "the daily task for experienced gummers of 1000 sheets per day"* or 200,000 stamps each. The gumming was done by hand. Also *"the daily task for experienced perforators of 7,500 sheets per day"* or 1,500,000 stamps. An illustration of a perforating machine in Harpers Magazine for February, 1862 shows wheels set to perforate one direction at a time. While gumming required 7.5 times as long as perforating, seven or more gummers could work at the same time. However it is not likely that the Company had more than one perforating machine available, probably with changeable spacers, one for horizontal and one for vertical spacing. This was the "bottle neck" in the stamp finishing plant. So we will take the possible quantity of production after September 12th. as about 1,500,000 stamps per day, provided that many stamps were printed, gummed and dried ready to be perforated. *The same authorization provided for a possibility of overtime work producing 2,500 sheets beyond the daily task* or 10,000 sheets which would be a maximum of 2,000,000 stamps per day capacity in this perforating stage of the finishing operations, one month after beginning.

According to the article *in the N. Y. Evening Post for August 24, 1861* (published by Elliott Perry in Pat Paragraphs, November, 1931) *the N. B. N. C. then had "nine presses in this establishment, six of them driven by steam, and now running night and day to meet the demand for the new stamps."* and *"the manufacturers are producing them at the rate of 1,300,000 a day."* This was 200,000 under a regular day capacity for the perforating, one month later.

According to the records given by John Luff *about 8,000,000 stamps were delivered to the P. O. D. Agent the first two days, on August 16th, and 17th.* The accompanying contract shows *this was immediately after the contract was to begin on August 15th.* At a production capacity of 1,300,000 stamps per day it would have required at least a week previous to August 15th. to finish those ready for delivery on the 16th., and quite probably some of the stamps had been printed the first few days in August.

THE CONTRACT

The appended contract for this 1861 issue, which I believe has not heretofore been published or known to philatelists, was *"to commence on the fifteenth*



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Photo.

INCOMPLETE DIE ESSAY OF 24 CENTS.

Vignette Engraved by Wm. E. Marshall.
Frame Engine Work by Cyrus Durand.
Design probably by James MacDonough.

Note pencil sketch by designer in lower left star. Engraving on neck stock under chin is incomplete. Also the colorless jagged interior frame about the vignette, later had a hand engraved line added. The acid etching covers the colorless spaces between the engraved lines on coat collar, under chin and cheek, hair under the ears, under the eyebrows, upper left background and defining the ornamental scrolls outside lozenge exterior frame, enriching the color of the design.

day of August" 1861. This therefore is definitely the reason why the stamps previously prepared were not delivered before August 16th., as the contractors could not have paid for stamps before the contract was to begin. That the National Bank Note Co. were good sports and patriotic citizens is amply proved by the great amount of stamps produced and delivered before *this contract was actually signed and delivered which was on November 5, 1861.* No doubt the Government lawyers had many other more urgent War contracts to prepare at that time, and consequently this routine contract was allowed to wait. The contract, was, however, signed before the first quarterly payment became due on November 15th.

THE 24 CENTS DIE DESIGNS

TYPE I. *There were two dies for the 24 cents stamp.* The first is *Die No. 445 and the large size die sinkage measures 56.5 x 56 mm.* I designate impressions from the first state of this die as Type I. *I have die essay impressions on India paper from the Type I state of the large Die 445 in colors 61m/4 Smoky dusky violet-red Violet, 69k/3 Dismal dark red-violet, 61m/3 Dismal dusky v-r. Violet, and a stamp size copy in 61k/4 Smoky dark v-r. Violet—which are probably 4 trial hues. These die essays were submitted on April 30th.*

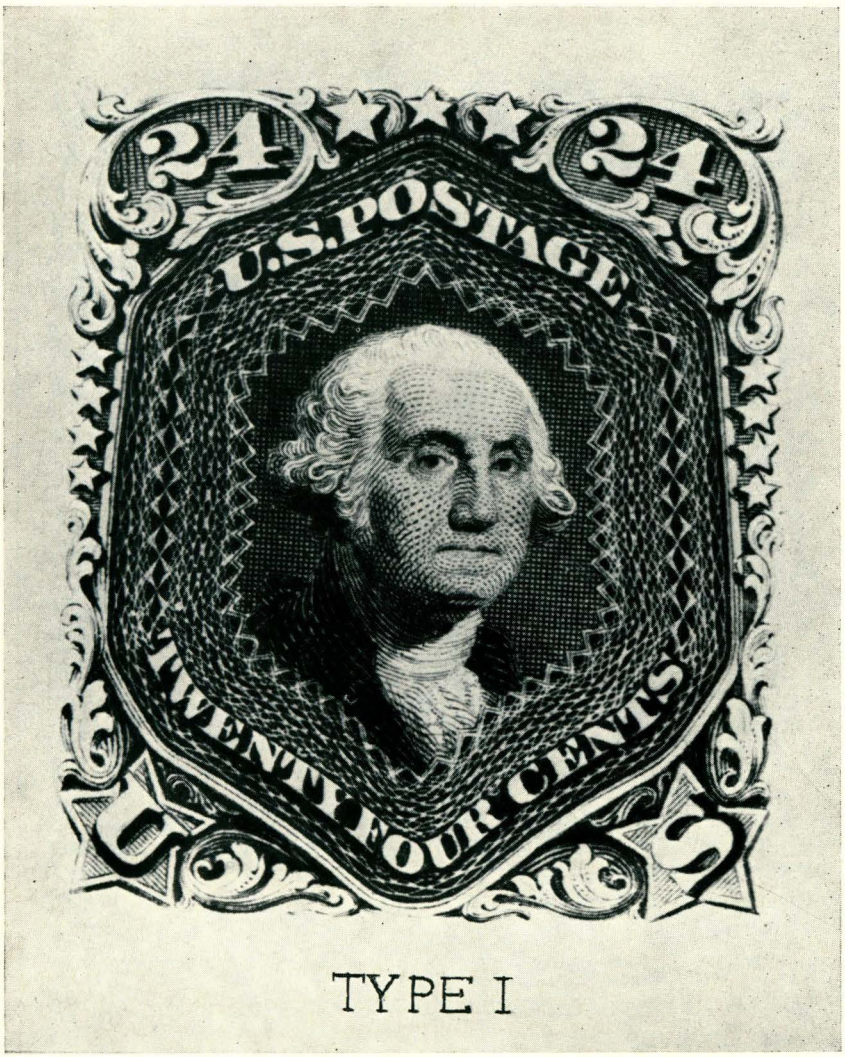
TYPE III. The second state of this large size *Die No. 445 is the finely completed state as shown in the illustration and designated as Type III, and is from a black impression.* I have not seen this Type III proof in colors. The re-engraving of this large Die No. 445 Type III is of finer workmanship than that on the small Type II die. The oval shadows over the numerals 24, the front of the right coat collar, and the hair about the right ear, etc. appear to have been strengthened by acid etching. I believe this die Type III is the design finally approved. If not, why go to the time and expense to complete it?

TYPE II. *The second small size Type II die has no die number nor imprint and the* die sinkage measures 51 x 53.5 mm. I believe this die was a laydown from the first state of Die 445 Type I, and was crudely re-engraved. I designate this small die Type II, as illustrated. This die was *considerably re-engraved about the top and bottom in many places* as indicated by arrows on the illustration. The most distinctive retouches are indicated by A. F. and the dot at C. The flaws transferred to the left frame at N and O are noticeable also on plate proofs and on stamps. The recutting of this die is more crudely done than on Type III, and was probably unsatisfactory, therefore Die 445 Type III was completed by a more expert engraver.

I have trial color impressions from this small die Type II in 8 colors as given above under "SELECTING THE COLORS," *which include 65m/3 Dismal dusky red-red violet* a catalogued Premiere Gravure stamp color, *and 47m/2* g-b Blue or a bright "steel blue" now generally considered an early printing of the stamp. This die design was used for the June plate essays.

THE 24 CENTS PLATE DESIGNS

The first or early Premiere Gravure state of Plate No. 6 was made by a transfer from the small size die Type II. I have a horizontal imprint strip of four (95L to 98L) India paper essays, from the left pane before the number 6 was engraved on the plate. This color 61n/3 Dismal very dusky r-r. Violet is generally called a Premiere Gravure color. *I also have a block of 50 (51L to 100L) India paper essays from the bottom of the left pane after the Plate No. 6 had been engraved on the plate, in color 69m/3* Dismal dusky red-violet Red. *I also have India paper plate essays from this early state of the plate in colors 61m/3 Dismal dusky v-r. Violet and 63m/3 Dismal dusky red Violet. Thus the early state of the plate was printed in four hues of red violet,* probably as trial color essays.



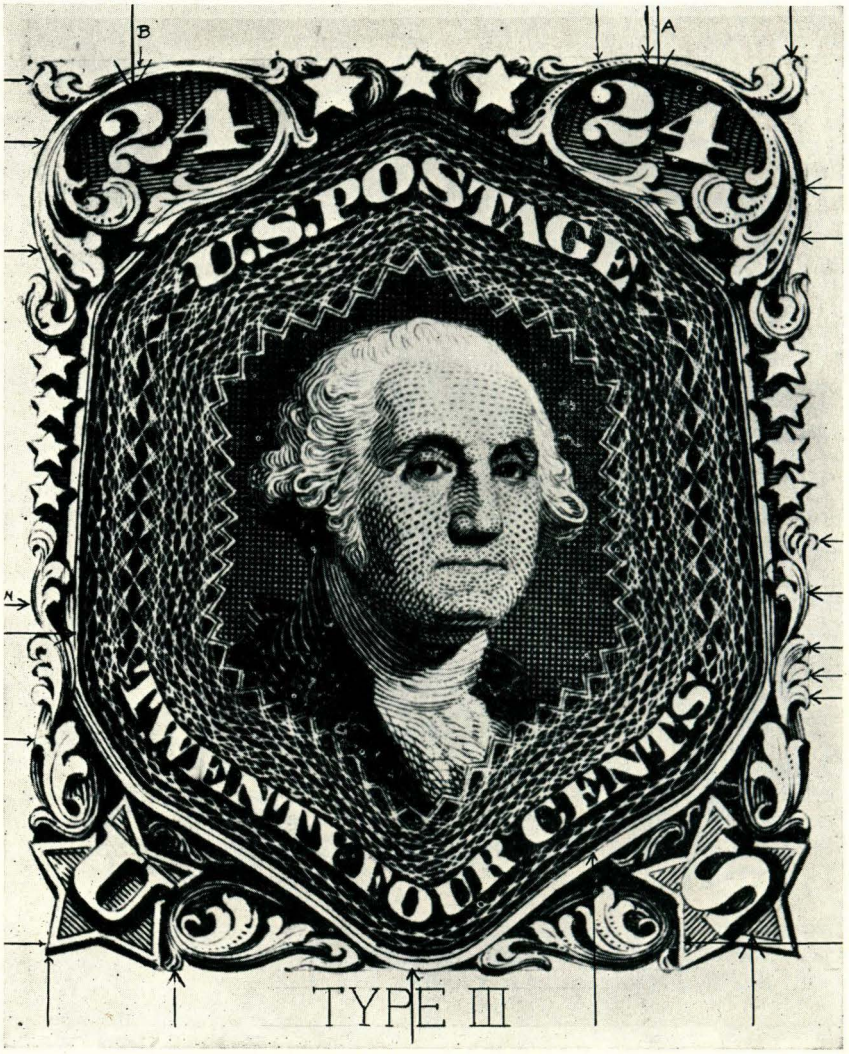
Stanley B. Ashbrook, Photo.

DIE ESSAY SUBMITTED WITH BID ON APRIL 30TH.

From incomplete Die No. 445, size 56.5x56mm.

Compare with TYPE III which is the completed design.

This plate No. 6 was completely re-entered and not "a late touching up of the plate" as believed by John Luff. I have *a block of 12 India paper plate proofs 83R to 98R from the bottom of the right pane* showing Plate No. 6 and Imprint *in color 69n/3 Dismal dusky red-violet Red with many shifted re-entries.* I have other India paper plate proofs in color 61i/4 Smoky deep v-r. Violet which also show re-entry. Karl Burroughs has kindly loaned me his larger *block of fifty 51R to 100R from the bottom of the right pane, also in color 69n/3.* From information in my published articles he has studied it, position by position. *This block also is full of re-entries.* I have seen his extensive notes which I hope he will publish for the benefit of students interested. Mr. Burroughs has found many shifts on the stamps. He gives me permission to



Horace W. Barr, Photo.

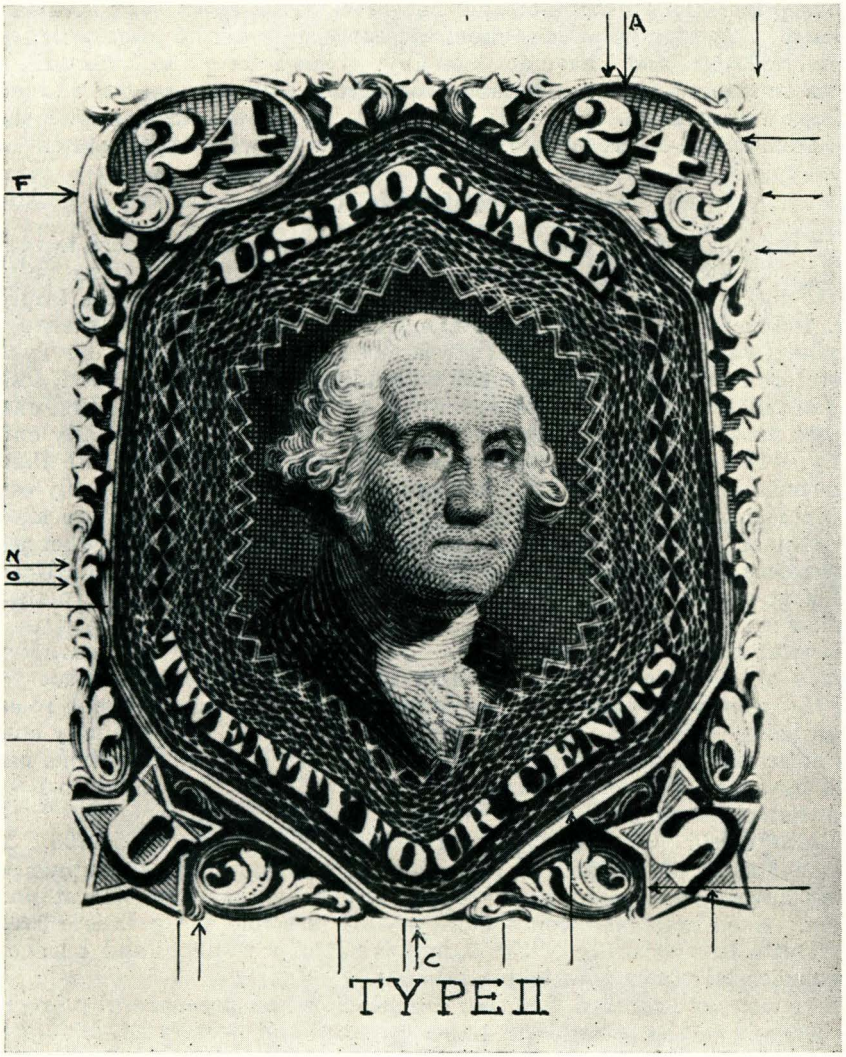
DIE PROOF FROM COMPLETED DIE NO. 445.

Compare with Type I at points indicated by arrows. The shadows over the numerals 24 at A and B have an acid etching added. Note there are no flaws at N as on TYPE II.

quote: that the tops of Nos. 74R and 96R resemble the Premiere Gravure Type II design on the die essays. Also that Nos. 84R and 100R are in this class but not as clear as 74R and 96R. Only 7 of these positions show no shifts, and 82R is the most perfect re-entry without shift.

I find that No. 96R has a clear shift raised above the top of the original entry. Generally the shifts are microscopic but some are easily seen without magnification. As this study covers only 25% of the plate, it is possible that some positions in both panes may have escaped complete re-entry.

When and why was Plate 6 re-entered? John Luff seems to have believed it was "a *late* touching up." If it was late then we would expect that the plate



Stanley B. Ashbrook, Photo.

DIE ESSAY OF PREMIERE GRAVURE DESIGN.

Size of die 51x53.5mm.

The June plate essays are in this design. Note absence of acid etched shadows over numerals 24 particularly at A where the colorless paper may be seen between the engraved shadow lines. Also note crude re-cutting at F and broken line flaws at N and O. Compare with TYPE III completed design which was used to re-enter Plate 6 before the stamps were printed.

had become worn before it was re-entered. But the India paper plate proofs from the re-entered plate do not seem to show wear at the places where the original entry was not covered by the shifted re-entries. In 1861 I believe the plates were hardened before printing the stamps, and that all the 50,000 impressions printed from Plate 6 could probably have been obtained at that time from a hardened plate without it becoming worn and re-entered at a later date. I do

not recall ever having seen a 24c stamp that appeared to come from a noticeably worn plate. There was therefore no necessity for re-entering because of a worn plate. Any stamps printed from the early state of the plate would be in the premiere design, and I have not seen any. Thus I am led to believe that this plate was re-entered before it became worn from printing stamps, and before any stamps were printed. The 1867 grilled stamps and the 1875 re-issue stamps are also from the re-entered Plate No. 6 and show no wear of the plate.

CONCLUSION

Why did the National Bank Note Co. take the time and expense to re-enter this plate soon after it was made and before it was worn? I can see only one answer to this question; that the completed design Type III of the large size Die No. 445 is the final approved design and that the Premiere Gravure state of the plate, which contained the crude recutting of the small size die Type II, was therefore re-entered with a transfer from the completed approved designs; perhaps in an effort to correct these crudities, or simply because the first entered design was not that which was finally approved. Some of the originally entered crude Type II die recuts and flaws were so deeply cut into the plate that the finer line cutting of the Type III die in approved design did not entirely correct the original entries. The late state of the re-entered plate therefore shows a combination of transfers from both dies Type II and Type III, whereas the early premiere gravure state of the plate is only Type II. The issued stamps which I have examined seem to come from the re-entered state of the plate, and many show shifts.

The most distinctive feature of the late plate design is a wide oval shadow over the 2 of the right 24 which nearly eliminates the colorless space found here on the premiere gravure designs. Due to some of the lines of the re-entered design being shifted on the plate, they overlay some of the originally entered designs and thus produce variations in the designs of various positions on the plate. I have a used 24 cents stamp in color 69k/3 which is similar to position 74R, in that clear paper shows in the shadow over the upper right 2. This variety also exists in the brown and gray printing of 1865-1866. It is possible that some of the 150 positions on the left pane and the upper right pane may have escaped re-entry, or may have had a short transfer at the top or bottom. Such positions should more or less resemble the premiere gravure design. But a further study of the stamps is out of my sphere and I leave this to the experienced plater with better eyesight.

I have not yet searched for (nor found) finished premiere gravure plate designs Type II on the transparent paper gummed and perforated, or imperforate, which were probably part of the set of 8 premiere sheets originally submitted in June. These not re-entered designs, should be found on transparent paper in unused condition with brown gum, or with a clear trial target cancellation, and probably in one of the colors used for the early printings. I have heard of two possibilities, so now the chase is on. I hope some may be found and I would enjoy seeing one.

COLORS OF THE 24 CENTS

The colors of the 24 cents stamps are very difficult to fix due to the fading of the violet colors, but many proofs have been kept fresh and are more easily determined. Stamp paper ages yellower after 80 years, whereas India paper retains its whiteness. Karl Burroughs' original die essay premiere gravure No. 60E autographed by the vignette engraver William E. Marshall is said to be Ridgway's 61n/2 Dull v. dusky v-r. Violet.

Scott's catalog lists two "gray lilacs" No. 60a on transparent paper and No. 78a on opaque paper. These colors may have been printed at the same

time on the different papers, but the catalog lists No. 60a under "First Designs" and No. 78a under "Regular Issue"! The No. 70b steel blue color stamp which may be 47i/4, 49i/4 or 49k/4 also must be an early color as it exists on the transparent paper.

Thus by piecing together the fragments of documentary evidence and the physical evidence of existing essays and proofs, we are able to reconstruct at least an outline history of the preparation of the 1861 issue of U. S. stamps, as it now appears to me. There is much more cooperative evidence available among the essays and proofs of the other denominations, which will be written at a future time. It is quite evident that all the premiere gravure designs, or wrongly called "August" or "First Issue" stamps, were essays—and that all stamps, except the Type I 10c, issued after August 15th were the completed designs. Thus from proofs we learn to know our stamps.

This paper as presented at the Collectors Club with slide illustrations also included the 30 cents designs TYPE I and TYPE II, showing variations in the design as discovered by the author, but this portion of the paper has been reserved for future publication.

I am greatly indebted to Horace Barr for making the photographs and slides, to Karl Burroughs for the loan of his block of 24 cents regular issue India plate proofs and his notes on shifted transfers: and to Winthrop S. Boggs for preparing slides and showing them to us. Also to Stanley B. Ashbrook for the three photographs of my essays and proofs illustrated above.

THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS.

New York Daily Tribune, Saturday, March 30, 1861—Page 3.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, March 27, 1861.

PROPOSALS for POSTAGE STAMPS.—Proposals will be received until 12m of 30th. April next for furnishing Postage Stamps of the general style and description of those now in use, on suitable paper of the best quality, for a term of six years, commencing 1st. July next.

Bidders will state the price per thousand stamps, deliverable in packages of ten thousand each at the Post-Office Department in Washington.

Also, the price per thousand, in similar packages, deliverable to the agent of the Department at the place of manufacture.

Also, the price per thousand, delivered in larger packages, as required either at the Department or place of manufacture.

Also, the price per thousand, separated in such quantities as may be daily ordered for the use of the post-offices, never less than two hundred stamps, and securely packed in tin cases, suitable binder's board boxes, with muslin or other equally strong covers, or lined envelopes, according to the quantity and distance to be conveyed as may be required by the Department; stating the difference, if any, between the cost of delivery to an agent at the place of manufacture and at Washington, D. C. All such packages, before mailing to be reexamined and the stamps recounted by an agent of this Department.

Bidders will also give the additional cost for directing packages for the mails and preparing blank receipts, under the direction of an agent of the Department, either at the Department or manufactory.

Proposals must be made for the stamps in sheets, perfectly gummed, and perforated in such manner that each separate stamp can be readily detached and used.

The denominations of stamps now in use are one cent, three cents, five cents, ten cents, twelve cents, twenty-four cents, thirty cents, and ninety cents. The heads of Washington and Franklin are to be preserved as the leading designs; the former on all the stamps except those of one cent and thirty cents on which are to be the head of Franklin. On all the stamps the denomination must be given **distinctly**, in figures as well as letters, and the whole work must be executed in the best style of line engraving on steel.

The whole number of postage stamps furnished to the Department during the year ending the 30th. June, 1860, was 216,370,660.

From past experience it is supposed that the number of packages mailed will average above two hundred daily, varying in size from two sheets or 200 stamps up to 500 sheets, or 50,000 stamps; but by far the larger proportion of packages contain not more than 20 sheets or 2,000 stamps.

Each bid is to be accompanied with a specimen of the style of engraving and the quality of paper to be furnished, which will be submitted to a board of disinterested experts or artists for examination; and the accepted bidder, before the final consummation of the contract, will be required to prepare designs and furnish proof impressions of the engravings of the several denominations of the stamps.

Specimens of board and tin-boxes and lined envelopes must also be submitted with each bid. It is necessary to protect the boxes by muslin or other covers in the most effectual manner against wet and abrasion. The contract will require all dies and plates to be prepared and kept in repair, and that new dies and plates shall be made, either for the present denominations of stamps or others, without charge, at the pleasure of the Department; and all such dies and plates are to be the property of the United States for the service of the Post Office Department.

No bids will be considered except from parties who have been actually engaged in the business of copper plate and steel engraving and printing, and are thus engaged at the time of bidding, and who are occupying suitable fire-proof premises and provided with all the necessary facilities to execute the work promptly, and give the requisite protection to the stamps, dies and plates in their possession.

Parties not known to the Department will furnish proof as to these points with their bids.

In awarding the contract the Postmaster General reserves the right of deciding which bid, in its practical results, may be most to the interest of the Department, having reference to the style of the work, security, mode of packing, &c.

Proposals should be carefully **sealed** and marked "Proposals for Postage Stamps" and addressed to the **"Third Assistant Postmaster General."**

M. Blair
Postmaster-General

SIX-YEAR CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL BANK NOTE CO. AUGUST 15TH., 1861 TO AUGUST 15TH., 1867.

This agreement made between the United States of America, by Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General, of the one part, and the National Bank Note Company, of New York, by Robert S. Oakley, President of said company, of the other part, Witnesseth, that it is agreed on the part of the United States of America to employ the said "National Bank Note Company" to manufacture and furnish for the use of the Post Office Department, all the postage stamps which may be required by the Postmaster General for a term of Six years, to commence on the **fifteenth day of August Anno Domini Eighteen Hundred and Sixty one,**(2) according to the stipulations and provisions herein contained, viz:

The said party of the second part agrees to manufacture and furnish said postage stamps for the price or sum of **twelve cents per thousand stamps,** and deliver the same to the Agent of the Department at New York, separated in such quantities as may be daily ordered for the use of the post offices, and **never less than two hundred stamps in a package,** and securely packed in tin cases, or in suitable binders, board boxes, with muslin or other equally strong covers, or in lined envelopes, according to the quantity and distance said packages are to be conveyed, as may be required by the Post Office Department, and to direct such packages for mails and fill up and direct the blank receipts therefor under the direction of an Agent of the Department, which said blank receipts are to accompany each package, and will be furnished by the Department, and that all such packages, before mailing shall be re-examined and re-counted by the said Agent of the Department, and that all said stamps shall be furnished in sheets, printed upon **good paper, equal to the approved sample, and in such colored inks, of the best quality as the Postmaster General may direct;** perfectly gummed and perforated on the lines of separation in such a manner that each stamp may be readily detached and used; **provided that the colors shall not be more expensive than those now used.**

And the said party of the second part agrees to furnish the said stamps of the denominations of one cent, three cents, five cents, ten cents, twelve cents, twenty-four cents, thirty cents, and ninety cents, in such quantities as they may be ordered by the Post Office Department. The heads of Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin are to be preserved as the leading designs, the former on all the stamps, except those of one cent, five cents and thirty cents; the head of Franklin on the one cent, and thirty cents and of Jefferson on the five cents; on all the stamps **the denomination to be distinctly given in figures as well as letters,** and the whole work to be executed in the best style of line engraving on steel.

(2)Bold face type is used by the Author for emphasis.

And the said party of the second part further agrees to engrave and keep in repair all the steel dies and plates necessary to furnish the above mentioned denomination of stamps or others, without charge, at the pleasure of the Department, and that said dies and plates are to be the property of the United States for the service of the Post Office Department.

And the said party of the second part, further agrees that all the orders of the said Department for stamps of the respective denominations, and for such other denominations as may hereafter be ordered, shall be filled and executed with reasonable dispatch and the stamps be delivered to the Agent of the Department appointed to receive them, and at the end of each quarter, or oftener if required, the said party of the second part shall furnish a statement, under oath, of all the stamps of each denomination furnished or delivered to said Agent.

And the said party of the second part further agrees that when the said dies and plates are not in actual use in the making of said stamps, they shall be carefully enveloped and sealed up, the Agent of the Department placing his seal, and the party of the second part placing their seal upon the package, which shall be deposited for safe keeping either with the Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York or with the Postmaster of New York as the Postmaster General may direct. The reopening of said package, when again required for use, is to take place in the presence of an Agent of the Department and the said party of the second part, or their agent, each breaking his own seal. And the party of the second part further agrees that if the Postmaster shall deem it necessary, he may appoint a Special Agent of the Department who shall be present at all times when the dies and plates are taken from the place of deposit to be delivered to the party of the second part for the execution of any order for stamps given by the Department, and be and remain with them during the process of printing said stamps, and to receive said stamps as fast as they may be furnished.

And the said party of the second part further agrees that they will not prepare or permit to be prepared in their establishment, any similar dies, plates or engraving, from which printed stamps might be issued resembling those prepared for the Post Office Department, and further that they will adopt every means in their power to prevent the issue, by anyone in their employment, or connected with their establishment, of postage stamps from the dies and plates engraved and used for the Post Office Department, or of any other stamps resembling them.

And the said party of the second part agrees that they will be responsible to the United States for any damage that may be sustained by any violation of any of the foregoing stipulations or by any omission to fulfill them in their true spirit and meaning, and that for such violation or omission the Postmaster General shall have the right to annul this agreement.

And it is agreed upon the part of the United States to pay the said party of the second part quarter yearly for all the stamps delivered to and inspected by the proper officer or agent of the Post Office Department, in the city of New York at the price or sum of **twelve cents per thousand,** and that no additional expense to, or allowance thereof will be made by the United States for or on account of any making or changing of dies or plates or colors of inks, or on account of packages or boxes or any account or pretence whatever in connection with or growing out of this contract; provided that no more expensive packages, paper or ink than now used shall be required.

And it is further agreed that the right shall be reserved to the Postmaster General of requiring the said party of the second part, whenever he the Postmaster General may deem it expedient so to do, that the packing, directing, filling up and directing the receipts, and the delivery of the stamps as above provided for unto the Post Office at New York, shall be changed and that said delivery, directing, packing, etc. shall be made at the Post Office Department, and it is agreed and understood between the parties hereto, that in the event of such change of plan of delivery being made, the said party of the second part shall have and receive two and a half cents per thousand stamps, making fourteen and a half cents per thousand, payable quarter yearly as aforesaid for all the stamps delivered at the Post Office Department after inspection and approval by a proper officer or agent of said Department.

And it is further agreed and understood that the said National Bank Note Company shall not dispose of, assign or transfer this contract to any other company of party, without the consent of the Postmaster General being first had and obtained thereto.

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and respective seals, **this fifth day of November, One thousand eight hundred and sixty one.**

Attest
A. N. Zevely (3rd Asst. P. M. G.)

M. Blair (P. O. Seal)
P. M. G.

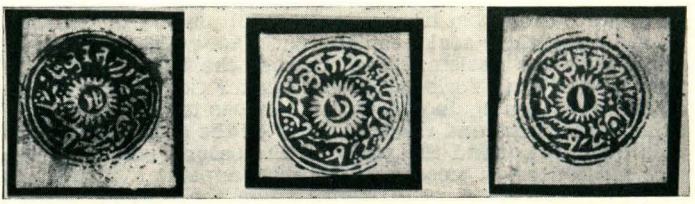
Attest
James Macdonough, Secretary

National Bank Note Co.
by R. S. Oakley
President

The Circular Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir

By Donald S. Haverbeck

Second Award Paper for Philatelic Research
Read at Collectors Club, N. Y. C., June 4, 1941.



½ Anna. 1 Anna. ¼ Rupee.

The stamps of the State of Jammu-Kashmir are philatelically the most interesting and important of that little-known group of stamp issuing states referred to as the Indian Feudatory States. It has long been neglected by collectors in this country.

It has been believed that there were numerous forgeries and reprints which could not be told from the genuine by the average collector. The question has also been raised, that the inscriptions and denominations could not be read or understood. It is my purpose, therefore, to show that both of these beliefs are erroneous. For the sake of brevity I shall confine this discussion to the circular stamps of 1866-1867.

The first issue of stamps consisted of three denominations, circular in form, and which have a single design common to all. There was a separate die engraved for each denomination, the engraving having been done in the city of Jammu by an expert seal cutter whose identity is unknown. Sir David Masson states that the dies were engraved on brass.

The design is composed of a vernacular inscription within a double lined circle, surrounding a central circle containing the figures of value. This central circle represents a sun, the symbol of the ruling Maharaja and also of the principal city and summer capital, Srinagar.

The inscription in the outer circle reads to the left and right from a character resembling a numeral "3". This character begins the sentence, reading from left to right, "Dak Jammu 1923" translated as "Post of Jammu 1923" (Samvat Era). The second inscription reading right to left from the character "3" is in Persian and is translated "Dominions of the Ruler of Jammu and Kashmir".

The denomination of the stamp is determined by the character in the center circle or sun. These are native numerals for ½ anna, 1 anna and ¼ rupee (4 annas) respectively.

I will now discuss at some length an error of some fifty years standing, the reading of the numerals of value. The illustration in Scott's catalogue labeled "1 anna" should be "¼ rupee" and the illustration labeled "¼ rupee" should be "1 anna". I will now give the reasoning which supports my contention. In East Indian monetary notations, all fractions are expressed in powers of a quarter (¼), that is, after counting quarters, they count quarters of a quarter, etc. Rupees are expressed by the ordinary figures. For the quarters of a

Rupee, or four annas, vertical bars are placed after the figures to denote quarters, each bar representing four annas. To the right of the vertical bars are placed diagonal or horizontal bars representing sixteenths of a rupee or annas. Next is written a curved line with the concave side toward the rupee column, sometimes elongated and conventionalized so as to enclose the anna bars entirely from below. To the right of this line vertical bars represent quarters of an anna and again ordinary figures denote pies. The illustration of the Court Fee stamps of British India and also various State revenue stamps clearly indicates the use of this form of notation and shows that its use was universal throughout India.



State Revenue and Court Fee Stamps.

As examples of the above 5 |)||| is 5 Rupees 4 and ¾ annas. 3 -) is 3 Rupees 1 anna. 25 ||)6 is 25 Rupees 8 annas 6 pies.

The use of this discriminating arc eliminates the use of a zero to indicate the absence of Rupees. Therefore on the circular stamps of Jammu-Kashmir these signs can only represent:) || two quarters or ½ anna; -) or ৲ would indicate one anna, while | would represent ¼ Rupee or 4 annas.

Further evidence to support this contention can be gathered from a close study of the covers bearing these stamps and correlating the amount of postage which the covers carry to the weight of the cover and to the Postal rates of the period. The Postal rates established in 1866 for the Jammu-Kashmir Post-office were as follows: Letters weighing ¼ Tola or less, ½ anna. Over ¼ Tola and less than 1 Tola, 1 anna. Each additional Tola, 1 anna.

In the English system of weights and measures 1 Tola equals 0.4114 ounces or 2.4305 Tolas equals 1 ounce.

In practise postage was paid in the following manner: A letter weighing less than ¼ Tola bore the ½ anna stamp, from ¼ Tola to 1 Tola, 1½ annas, and 1¼ Tolas required 2½ annas. Thus a letter weighing 0.42 ounces would carry 2½ annas postage. But on the other hand a letter requiring 8½ annas postage would weigh at least 7¼ Tolas or 2.98 ounces, a heavy letter even with our thick paper. I have weighed and checked all available covers bearing the 1 anna and 4 annas stamps and I will now outline one typical case of a small cover bearing what has been considered 8½ annas postage. There is no indication that any special rate for registry has been charged or that the cover was sent out side of the boundaries of the state, so it is considered as a normal rate letter. This letter should weigh at least 7¼ Tolas or 2.98 ounces to require this much postage. However, when weighed, the envelope alone was 0.15 ounces. If we assume that the enclosure was of the same kind of paper as the envelope, then the average enclosure would weigh approximately 0.30 ounces, which would make the entire letter weigh 0.45 ounces or 1¼ Tolas. A letter of this weight would require only 2½ annas postage. Now considering that ৲ represents 1 anna, the postage fee paid becomes logical as the stamps would represent two 1 anna and one ½ anna. This empirical test worked in every similar case. Therefore we must conclude that Scott's type A2 represents the 4 annas stamp and that type A3 represents the 1 anna stamp.

When we study early philatelic literature we find that until 1885 the denominations had been given as I have indicated. During this time it had been accepted that there were two dies of the ½ anna and ¼ Rupee of which "Die 1" was very rare. Major Evans, writing in his "Philatelic Handbook" in 1885, stated that it was more reasonable to assume that there should be two dies of the commonly used denominations, the ½ anna and 1 anna, and that there should be only one die of the ¼ Rupee which was not used as much. Accordingly, he transposed the values to the form in which they are listed in the catalogues today. Sir David Masson proved beyond reasonable doubt that the stamps of "Die 1" were forgeries and showed that there had been only one die for each value of the circular stamps. This naturally removes the basis for Major Evans classification. But it appears that the connection between his argument and the acceptance of "Die 1" was not seen either by Sir David Masson or by Sefi and Mortimer, for they both adhere to Evans classification. However, a brief study of this evidence shows that reversing the catalogue listings for the 1 and 4 annas stamps answers the questions raised by Sefi and Mortimer as to why the small covers of this period carried so much postage. (I refer, "Stamps of Jammu-Kashmir," Sefi and Mortimer, pp. 39 et. seq.)

The date of issue of the circular stamps is given in the diary of the postmaster as being 11 Jat 1923 Samvat. (The calendar of the Samvat Era is used in Jammu-Kashmir and is based upon a lunar month). According to my calculations, 11 Jat 1923 Samvat coincides with March 25, 1866 A. D. The covers again substantiate this, as I have seen two bearing postmarks of late March and have in my own collection one with the dates of April 5 and 6.

The first issued were the ½ anna, black; the 1 anna royal blue and ultramarine; and the 4 annas royal blue and ultramarine. In 1867 the 1 anna and 4 annas appeared in indigo. These stamps were issued for use in both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. The royal blue represents the earliest printing of the stamps while the ultramarine color does not appear until May of 1866. The printings in royal blue do not appear to have been issued to Jammu province as the stamps always are cancelled with the Srinagar seal. For the first six months only the ½ anna is known with the Jammu seal cancellation. The 4 anna stamp was prepared for use in black but is not known used.

These stamps were all hand stamped from the single die on a paper of native manufacture which shows laid lines but which is entirely different in texture from the ordinary laid paper. The colors are invariably watercolor. There is one double print known of the ½ anna, black. This lack of double prints together with the fact that multiple pieces show an astonishing regularity of alignment tends to show that some form of device was used to hold the die in position during stamping.

During this period there were only three post offices in the State equipped with cancelling devices. These were Jammu, Srinagar, and Leh. These three cities all used circular seals. None of the impressions of these seals has been clear enough to permit translation. The seal of Jammu City was applied with magenta watercolor, while the one of Srinagar was applied with brick red watercolor. The city of Leh, the capital of the Ladakh district, used a seal similar in size and shape to the Srinagar seal which was applied in both red and black watercolor. There is also a large seal obliteration applied in black that is believed to originate at Leh.

From 1869 until 1878 the circular stamps were used in the province of Jammu only. This is an interesting occurrence that requires some attention. In 1867 each of the provinces were provided with distinctive stamps which were rectangular in form. The province of Kashmir was given a set of six denominations while Jammu only received one small plate of four stamps, one 1 anna and 3 of the ½ anna. Thus for the 4 anna denomination Jammu had to use the circular die. It appears that the other two dies were also placed into use about 1869, for in that year all three circular stamps appear printed in the

shades of red which were used only in that province. This usage lasted until 1878 when new stamps were issued for general use. Jammu made several unnecessary special printings in watercolor on native paper during the years 1874-76. There were also experimental printings in oil color on both native paper and a European laid paper. The following of the special printings are known used and properly deserve catalogue rank:

Watercolor on native paper
½ anna, black
½ anna, 1 anna, bright blue
4 annas, blue black
½ anna, 1 anna, 4 annas, emerald green
½ anna, yellow

Oil color on native paper
½ anna, 1 anna, red
½ anna, black
½ anna, 1 anna, slate blue
½ anna, 1 anna, sage green

Oil color on European laid paper
½ anna, 4 annas, red
½ anna, black
½ anna, 1 anna, 4 annas, slate blue
½ anna, yellow

There is also a printing made in April of 1878 on a thick brownish wove paper that is only known used. This must have been limited to one or two sheets as there are only about a dozen of them known of which seven are on cover. The denomination is the ½ anna and it is printed in red oil color. This stamp has not been listed in the catalogues and I think that it deserves catalogue rank more than the following stamps which were printed but as far as is known have not been used for postage:

Watercolor on native paper
1 anna, 4 annas, black
4 annas, bright blue
1 anna, 4 annas, yellow

Oil color on European laid paper
1 anna, red
4 annas, sage green

The reprints of the circular stamps are almost as interesting as the originals. All of the reprints were made by official authority and not by private individuals. They were, however, fraudulently substituted by the postal officials without the knowledge or sanction of the State for original stamps in the Treasuries and Post Offices. They were invariably printed in oil color or insoluble printers ink, and never in water color. The main cause of confusion to collectors was the fact that the reprints on both native and thin wove papers were undoubtedly seen and occasionally purchased from post offices. As a general rule any stamp on the thin wove paper is a reprint, with the exception of the ½ anna stamp in red oil color, already mentioned. The reprints on the native paper are rather scarce and can easily be distinguished by the impression which is too clearly printed. Occasionally the die has been printed with such pressure that the colored portion of the design is impressed in the paper.

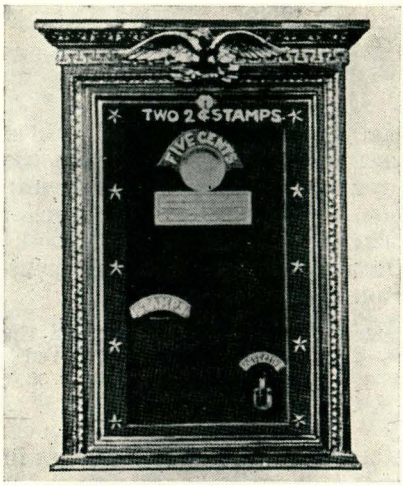
The forgeries of the circular stamps are, if anything, more interesting philatelically than the reprints. The rarest of them is the "Die 1" forgery. This is very seldom met with today and need not worry the average collector, who should consider himself lucky to get one. The principal importance of this forgery is that for over thirty years it was considered to be a rare die of the first issue and for that more prized than the genuine stamps. It can not be confused with a genuine stamp as the inscription is badly formed and a comparison with an original would immediately show it up. The only other important forgery is the official, or so-called "Missing Die" forgery. This was made by the set of Officials who were responsible for the reprints for the purpose of defrauding the Post Office. They occur mostly on the thin wove paper and so can be immediately rejected. There are a few printed on the native paper, but the colors are not good and comparison with originals will show them up immediately. There is one rule to remember with the circular stamps of Jammu-Kashmir, that is, any stamp on wove paper is either a reprint or a forgery.

Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps

By GEORGE P. HOWARD

(Continued from Vol. XX, page 104.)

CORRECTION: Inadvertently the titles of the two illustrations on the top of page 98 of the last article were reversed, and the following illustration was omitted from the same page.



United States Auto-Vending Co.
Profit Model—formerly a ticket vendor.

BUREAU COILS

It is just one third of a century since the Post Office Department issued the first stamps in coil form. These years have seen several coil issues and several changes in the method of producing coils:—automatic winding machinery, special plate format, special perforating wheels, and—most important of all—the rotary press. All these developments and the coil stamps themselves have been completely described by several competent authorities,(1) so that any discussion of Bureau coiled stamps in this article would be a needless repetition. But it may be of interest to collectors to know some of the machines which used these coils, what their problems were, and how their demands brought about changes in coil production.

To begin with, the testing of vending machines undertaken by a committee of the Post Office Department in 1906, 1907 and 1908 showed the necessity for some kind of coiled stamps. But before the Bureau issued its first coils several companies had installed their own machinery for making coils from imperforate sheets, some with private perforations adapted to the requirements of their particular machines. Therefore, when the Bureau issued the first endwise coils to the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Company, and later the first sidewise coils to the International Vending Machine Company, the other companies which could not use the Bureau perforations were placed in an unfavorable position. They still had the expense of making their own coils from the imperforate sheets, or of perforating the Bureau imperforate coils. The manufacturers of privately perforated coils complained to the Department and

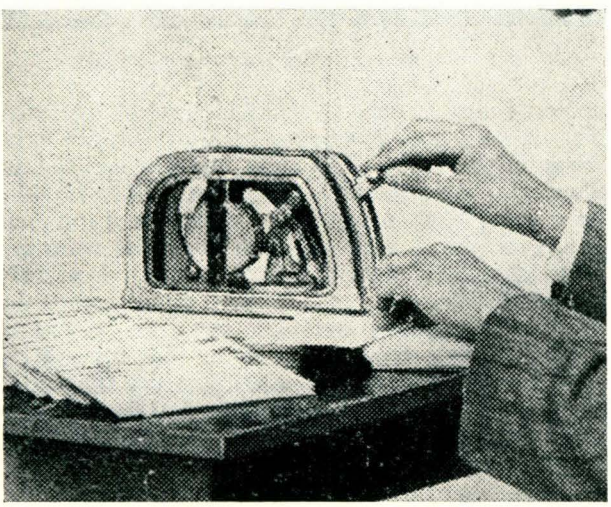
(1)See especially COIL STAMPS OF THE UNITED STATES by Philip H. Ward, Jr.; a series of articles in Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, beginning Jan. 17, 1920; Vol. XXXIV, No. 3.

evidently received some assurance that if the demand for their special coils was sufficient the Bureau would produce them. The Mail-om-eter and U. S. Auto-Vending companies even advertised that their special coils would soon be available to the public at all post offices. However, after examining the Schermack, Mail-om-eter and U. S. Auto-Vending perforations the Department altered its decision. The years ahead might bring forth any number of new special perforations, and to supply a large city post office with fifteen or twenty different types of coils would be a terrific expense and result in no end of confusion. About this time the demand for Bureau coils increased and the extra expense to the Bureau became such a burden that it was transferred to the public by making a small extra charge for each coil of stamps. This served to appease the manufacturers who still bore the cost of making their own coils.

Types of Bureau Coils

In the early years the endwise coil, unperforated, was the most popular. These were used in the Simplex Stamp Affixer, the first inexpensive stamp-affixer to receive any wide distribution. Technically, a stamp affixer using an imperforate coil was not practical. The machine could not see where to sever the stamp strip and, no matter how often adjustments were made, mutilated stamps were a common occurence. Within two years the company stopped making this machine, but the Department could not stop supplying imperforate coils for another four years because thousands of these machines were in use.

The other form of coil in heavy demand was the endwise coil, perforated. These were used in several machines:—the American and Elliott vending machines, the White, National, Elliott, Postcraft and Pence mailing machines. About 1920 a report was made for the Post Office Department to determine whether it was necessary to continue the issuing of endwise coils. At that time all of the above mentioned companies were out of business, but some of the affixing machines were still in use. Also there were unsold supplies of some of these machines which were periodically being pushed on the market. As we still have endwise coils we may assume that some of these affixers are still in use, and there is at least one vending machine company using endwise coils.

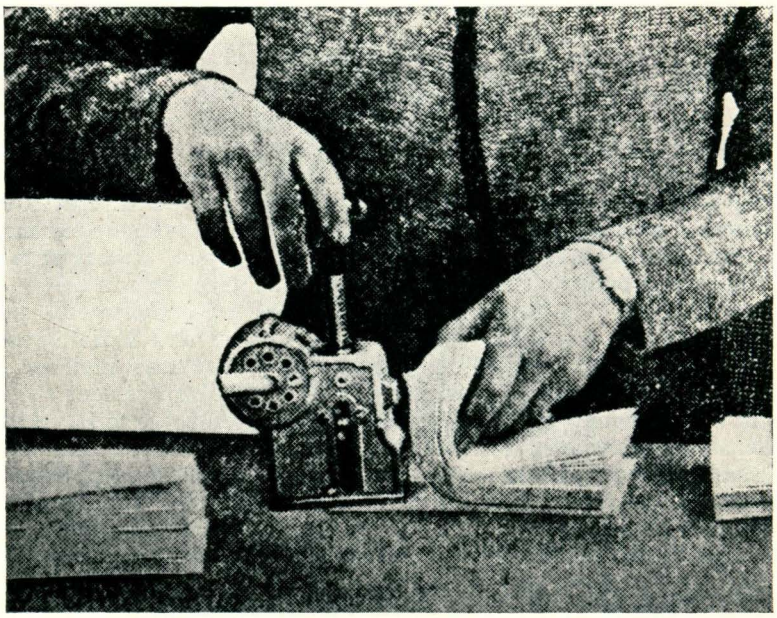


Stamp Affixer using endwise coils.(2)

These endwise coils might have been wound clockwise or counter-clockwise, face up or gum side up, with the top of the stamps heading in or heading out.

(2)From a booklet advertising the Postcraft Affixer.

As a matter of fact they were—and are—wound face up and head in. A glance at the accompanying illustration of an affixer using endwise coils will show the reason for this. As the coil unwinds the stamp strip feeds off the top of the coil and can pass readily downward through the mechanism of the affixer. The stamp will then emerge towards the operator bottom first and gum side down so that it may be affixed properly to the upper right-hand corner of the envelope. To operate this type of machine each piece of mail must be picked up by the left hand and inserted in the machine, then the right hand depresses the lever which operates the affixing mechanism. After a few years of popularity such machines were replaced by the "plunger" type which could be operated much more rapidly.



Stamp-affixer using sidewise coils.(3)

The illustration shows the more rapid method of operating a "plunger" type of machine. A bunch of envelopes held in the left hand are allowed to drop one at a time on the table. The right hand brings the machine over each envelope and depresses the plunger. Since the affixer is held to the right of the envelope the stamps must emerge left side first and gum side down in order to be right side up on the envelopes. Such machines were made by the Mail-om-eter, Multipost, Standard, Worldwide (Simplex), Postcraft, Rotaree, Puritan, Peerless, Kendall, Wizard, and several other companies. The general adoption of this type of machine has made the sidewise coil the most popular. These coils are wound by the Bureau clockwise, face up and right side in. The stamp strip will then unwind counter-clockwise off the top of the coil, pass downward through the machine to emerge left side first and face up.

The Bureau having adopted the two methods of winding coils described above, all machines invented after 1908 attempted to use these coils. It was not that the Bureau coils were better than any privately perforated coils the machine companies might have made, but rather a business necessity. With a private perforation the sale of machines would be restricted to those cities where the company could afford to establish perforating plants, but using a Bureau coil the entire United States was potential sales territory. However, inventors soon found that it was no easy task to make a machine to use Bureau coils.

(3)From an instruction booklet of the Standard Affixer.

Changes in Bureau Coils

Several of the early machines, particularly stamp vendors, advanced the coil strip by passing it over a wheel having pins spaced to pick up the perforations. These were rendered useless when the 1909 coils came out made from "Star" plates with varied spacings. On some of the sidewise coil strips the distance between perforations might be as narrow as three-quarters of an inch or as wide as an inch. To handle such coils a machine had to have feeding fingers which would reach up the coil strip further than the greatest distance expected, and then slide down the strip, picking up the perforations on the way. Needless to say, the makers of "pin-wheel" machines objected strenuously to the "Star" plate coils. So also did the users of endwise coils, for the width of these coils varied. Machines which had been made to use endwise coils cut from old type plates with a uniform spacing of 2¼mm between stamps could not use the wider coils cut from the outer rows of "star" sheets. One manufacturer instructed his patrons to lay the coil on its side and with a file to rasp off some of the paper. There were also objections from the makers of privately perforated endwise coils as their stripping machines, made to cut sheets printed from the old type plates, could not be used on "Star" plate sheets without cutting into the stamps on the outside rows. All these complaints brought about a new plate format, the "A" plate, with a uniform 2¾mm spacing between stamps.

Even with the new "A" plates the endwise coils were not always the same width for the coil strip down each side of the vertical guide line was always narrower than the rest. One of these narrower coils, operating in a track made for a wider coil, could twist from one side to the other so that the perforations would not be exactly parallel to the feeding fingers, thereby causing the machine to work improperly. This was overcome in 1912 by making special plates for endwise coils, the center space being 10mm wide so that the coil strip on each side of the vertical guide line could be trimmed to the same width as the others.

Then there was the matter of perforations. Almost all machine companies and users complained of the weak 12-gauge perforation which broke apart when and where it should not. The Bureau experienced the same trouble when they installed automatic coil winding machinery. Finally, late in 1910, the coil perforation was changed to 8½-gauge. This was bad news for the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Company. In their machine the stamp strip was held taut between pairs of rollers while a blunt instrument fell on the strip, tearing the perforations. This was one machine that worked well with the 12-gauge coils, did not always succeed in separating the 8½-gauge coils. There were other small, light vending machines which ejected a portion of the coil strip for the purchaser to tear off. These machines were often yanked off the counter by over-zealous patrons giving a too-vigorous pull. Eventually a 10-gauge perforation was adopted, which apparently satisfied both vending and affixing machine manufacturers. Today the only trouble experienced with perforations is when the perforating wheels are allowed to get dull and the paper is not punched out of the holes.

In many machines it is necessary for the coil strip to pass around a bend. Here the double paper and stiff joint of a past-up always caused trouble. Five years of continuous complaints finally produced the solution—the rotary press coils. And, "believe it or not," the use of this labor-saving machine was delayed by howls of "technocracy," or whatever they called it in those days.

New Form of Bureau Coil

There was always a demand from large business houses for electrically operated envelope-sealing and stamp-affixing machines, but oddly enough there

have been few machines of this type successfully marketed. This was due to the fact that Bureau coils were not wound in a suitable manner for use in such machines. Since the stamp must be applied to the upper right-hand corner of an envelope, it is customary for such machines to pass the envelopes from left to right, so that the right-hand edge of the envelope will trip the mechanism which applies the stamp. If endwise coils are used, in order to be right side up on the envelope they must feed toward the operator, or in other words at right angles to the direction in which the envelopes are traveling. Both the envelope and the stamp must stop momentarily as they meet, which slows down considerably the possible speed of the machine. Such a machine was manufactured around 1914-15 by the Pence Mailing Machine Company of Minneapolis.

The sidewise coil is more suited to a fast operating machine provided the coil can be mounted so that the envelopes and stamps travel in the same direction as they are being affixed. To accomplish this the sidewise coil must be wound so that the right-hand edge of the stamp feeds out first to meet the right-hand edge of the envelope. But unfortunately the Bureau sidewise coils feed out the left-hand edge of the stamp first. If such a coil is mounted on the left side of an affixer so that it unwinds with the gum side toward the envelopes, all the stamps will be upside down. If the envelopes are turned upside down to match the stamps, the affixing would be done on the left-hand side of the envelope instead of the right. If the coil were turned upside down instead of the envelopes the stamps would feed out face down and gum side up Therefore, in order to use the Bureau sidewise coil so that the stamps will be right side up and gum side toward the envelopes they must be mounted on the right side of the machine and feed out to the left. The stamp strip is then traveling in the opposite direction to the envelopes so that when a stamp is cut from the strip it must immediately do an about face to travel with the envelope. This type of machine has been manufactured for years by the Multipost Company of Rochester, New York.

The original Schermack Stamp Affixer—later called the Mail-om-eter and now known as the Mail-O-Meter—has always used the most practical form of sidewise coil for an automatic machine. The coil strip is wound counter-clockwise, gum-side out, with the left edge of the stamps toward the center of the coil. When placed flat on the left side of the machine the coil then unwinds clockwise, the stamp strip feeding off the back of the coil with the gum facing the envelopes and the right edge of the stamps traveling with the right edge of the envelope so that the affixing may be done while both are in motion. Because the Bureau coils were not wound in this way the Mailometer Company continued to make their own coils (with private perforations) for years after other private coils had ceased to be used. With the advent of the rotary press coils many Mailometer users rewound the Bureau coils so that they might be used in the machines, and the company itself installed machinery for rewinding in all its large offices. Finally, in December, 1928, the Bureau began to issue a new type of sidewise coil wound gum-side out for this type of machine. These coils contain 3000 stamps so that the rapidly operating machine will not have to be reloaded every few minutes. Had this type of coil been issued before the postage meter became established no doubt there would have been several other automatic affixers on the market.

EARLY MACHINES USING BUREAU COILS

There have been several hundred patents granted in the United States for stamp-vending and stamp-affixing machines, most of them made to operate with Bureau Coils. Only a small percentage of these ever went into production, and still fewer received more than a local or experimental use. But these few machines enjoyed such increasing popularity that the demand for coils grew with surprising rapidity. From July 1, 1909, to June 30, 1910, there were over

sixty-three thousand coils issued. Five years later, for the same twelve month period, over one million five hundred and ninety-one thousand coils were issued, an increase of over 2400%.

What were some of the popular stamp machines that helped to bring about this demand?

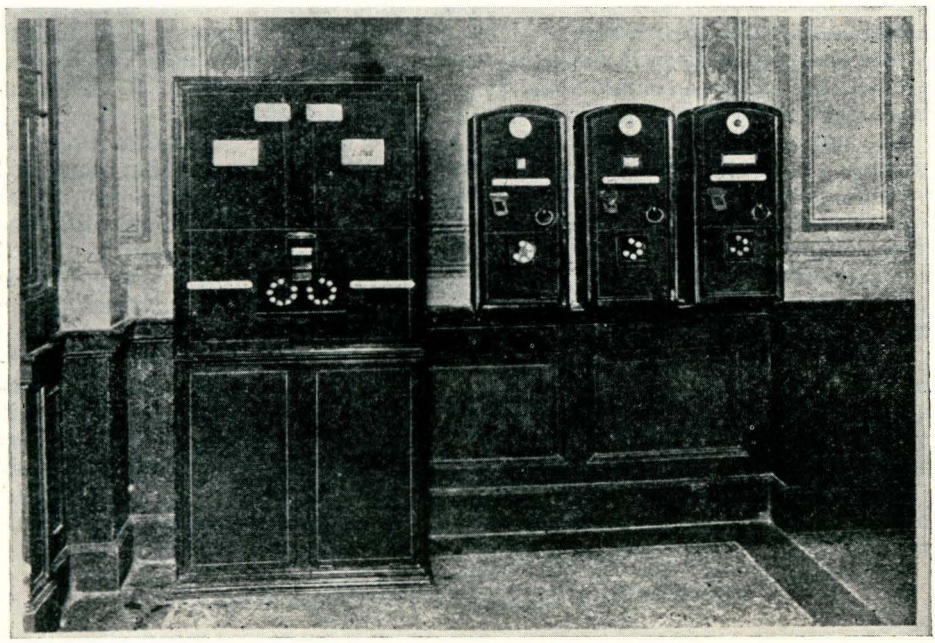
The American Stamp and Ticket Vending Company

In previous articles of this series four of the five vending machines granted post office trials in 1908 have been described. The fifth machine was manufactured by the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Company. Despite the very patriotic name, the company was actually the American branch of a German concern, the Abel'sche Briefmarken-Automaten-Vertriebs-Gesellschaft. Concerning the machine of this company, the following article appeared in 1908:(4)

With a view to affording the public a more convenient means of obtaining postage stamps, the German Postal Department has for the past twenty years been engaged in seeking a suitable machine for automatically vending stamps. A few years ago Mr. W. Abel of Berlin, in conjunction with Mr. H. Wollheim, succeeded in developing a very efficient apparatus of this kind, of which a description is given below.

At the very outset the machine was found available for public use and several were installed outside the Berlin post office, but the latest type of apparatus which has just been brought out has given such excellent results that the German postal authorities intend installing it on a large scale throughout the country.

A special feature of this apparatus is that the stamps form a continuous tape which is sufficient for from 500 to 1000 sales. The apparatus was designed for both hand and for motor operation. The type adopted by the German postal authorities is entirely automatic, dispensing with any manipulation on the part of the purchaser apart from the inserting of the coin.



Machines of the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Co.

The first American patent application for the Abel machine was filed September 23, 1903,(5) and was followed by many other patents throughout the

(4)Scientific American Supplement, Nov. 28, 1908.
(5)Patent No. 175042; granted Dec. 18, 1906.

next ten years. Mr. Wollheim came to the United States, founded the American company, and entered the Abel machines in the Post Office Department trials. It was to Mr. Wollheim that the first experimental Bureau coils were delivered in February, 1908. The American Company was located at 615 15th Street N W, Washington, and at 17 Park Row, New York. The Washington office was dropped when the Department did not adopt the machine, but the New York headquarters continued doing business down to the outbreak of the World War, at which time the address was 80 Maiden Lane.

The large machines of the American Company were electrically operated, the small machines manually operated by pulling out a ring. As the ring was pulled out the feeding pins slid back over the coil strip to drop into the first row of perforations. When the ring was released it snapped back into the machine, causing the pins to advance one stamp. Rubber rollers held the strip taut while a blunt instrument fell on the strip, tearing the perforations. The severed stamp was then released, dropping down the delivery chute. The machine was among the best and was granted a thirty day trial in the Washington post office: in fact, if we are to believe a German author, it was the very best.

> Of the twenty-six different automatic machines which were submitted to a careful examination by the Postal Administration, the product of the German Abel Company, which was made in the United States by the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Company, had to be recognized as the best, despite the fact that all American inventors were invited to take part in the competitive tests.
>
> The first four machines of this company were put in use in the Post Office in Washington at the beginning of 1908. Shortly thereafter sixteen machines were ordered for Boston.(6)

The Elliott Post Stamp Affixer Company

The early endwise Bureau coils were also used in machines manufactured by the Elliott Company of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Charles Elliott of Croydon, England, received a British patent on this machine January 7, 1892, and an American patent April 3, 1894.(7) Coming to Los Angeles as a Tea Broker, he started the stamp machine company as a side line early in 1908. The machines were produced and used during 1909 and part of 1910.

The stamp affixer was a small affair, 10 x 7 x 6 inches. To operate, the left hand slid an envelope under the front of the machine, which operation moistened the corner of the envelope. The right hand turned a crank on the side of the machine which actuated the affixing mechanism. The stamps were cut off at the perforations and pressed on the envelope by a rubber roller which also ejected the envelope from the machine. A counter, visible through the glass top of the case, advanced one unit at every revolution of the handle and kept track of the number of stamps affixed.

The Elliott Company also made 1c and 2c stamp vending machines, likewise using endwise coils.(8) Insertion of a coin (of two pennies in the 2c machine) released a lever which when pulled down advanced one stamp, cut it off at the perforations, and dropped it down the delivery chute. These machines were submitted to the Post Office Department in October, 1908. Both the vending and the affixing machines contained a special feed mechanism which would automatically take care of long or short paste-ups in the coil, the stamps always being cut at the perforations.

The Simplex Manufacturing Company

Most popular of the early stamp affixers was the machine manufactured by the Simplex Company of Thompsonville, Connecticut. The wide distribution of this inexpensive machine created a heavy demand for endwise imperforate coils during 1909 and 1910, and for several years thereafter although the machines

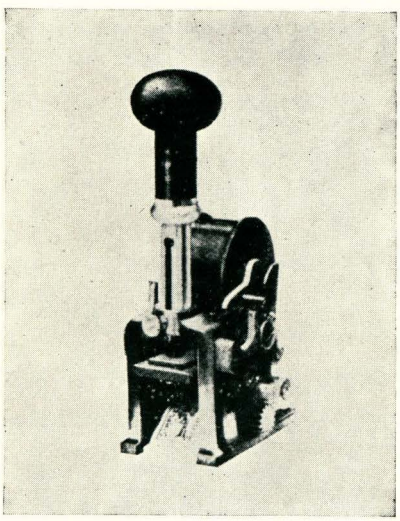
(6)Translated from Amtlich Verausgabt Rollenmarken der Verinigten Staten von Amerika, Hans Uberall.
(7)Patent No. 517740; application filed May 11, 1893.
(8)Described in patents 405799 and 965996.

were no longer being made. Mr. Charles J. Fancher of Granby, Conn., the inventor, had taken out his first patent in 1902.(9) This early machine used coils made by stripping and joining ordinary panes of perforated stamps. With the advent of imperforate stamps Mr. Fancher developed a machine (10) using endwise imperforate coils and interested the Simplex Company in its manufacture. During 1909 these machines were distributed by the Drummond-Ludlow Company of 116 Liberty Street, New York. Later the Simplex Company distributed them from their headquarters at 90 West Street, New York.



Business cover of the Simplex Co.

When not in operation the plunger of a Simplex machine was locked at the down position. When released, a spring inside the plunger forced it up, at the same time advancing the stamp strip over a moistened wick. Bringing the machine over the corner of an envelope, the operator depressed the plunger which cut off the moistened stamp and pressed it to the letter. As the machine was lifted from the envelope the plunger went up, thus advancing and moistening the next stamp. There was a thumb screw on the machine to regulate the amount of stamp strip fed forward at each operation. However, despite numerous adjustments there were many miscut stamps and Mr. Francher went to work on another machine using sidewise coils, perforated.



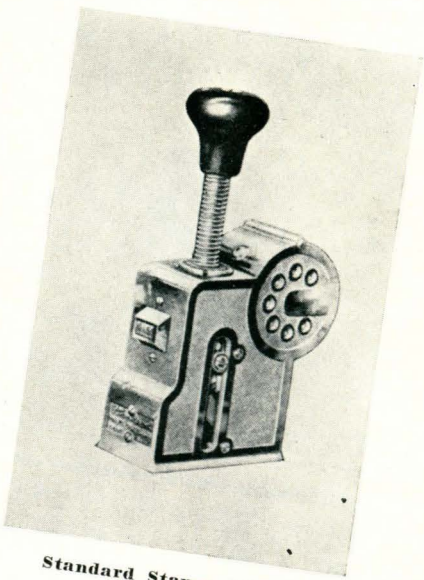
Simplex Machine using sidewise coils.

The new machine went into production in 1910 and was later improved by the addition of a lock and a counter. In 1911 this machine became known

(9)Patent No. 713415; application filed Jan. 25, 1902; granted Nov. 11, 1902.
(10)Patent No. 952439; application filed June 7, 1909; granted March 15, 1910.



The National Mailing Machine.



Standard Stamp Affixer.

as the WORLD WIDE Stamp Affixer, manufactured by the Extensive Manufacturing Company. The machines were still being made in the same factory in Thompsonville and distributed from the same headquarters at 90 West Street:—in other words it was the same company operating under a new name.



Dummy Stamps of the Simplex or Extensive Co.

All manufacturers of affixing machines made dummy stamps for demonstrating purposes, an interesting side line for the collector of coil stamps. The imperforate dummy coils of the Drummond-Ludlow Company were in bright vermillion, the later imperforates of the Simplex Company in green or red, while the World Wide stamps were red with a blue center. These latter are perforated 8½ gauge, showing they were used during the 1911-1913 period.

The Office Appliance Manufacturing Company

This company situated at 11 Pine Street, Providence, Rhode Island, manufactured a stamp affixer, the invention of Samuel B. White ([11]) of the same city. Unlike most small stamp affixers, the envelopes were inserted in the top of this machine, the coil strip feeding up from underneath. Teeth entered the perforations holding the coil strip while a presser descended, tearing off the end stamp and pressing it to the envelope. The machine had considerable distribution in Southern New England from late 1909 through 1912. Endwise Bureau coils, perforated, were used.

The National Envelope Sealing and Stamping Mfg. Co.

The machines manufactured by this company were the invention of Fred R. Allen of Providence, Rhode Island. The company was incorporated in Massachusetts and had headquarters in both Boston and Providence from late 1911 to 1914. Around 1915 they re-organized in Brattleboro, Vermont. Two different machines were made, a small hand machine using endwise coils, perforated, and an electrically operated machine using sidewise coils, perforated. The large machine looked very much like the Schermack affixer, as can be seen from the illustration. The many patent applications filed by Mr. Allen cover a period from 1909 to 1916.

The Standard Stamp Affixer Company

The Standard Stamp Affixer Company of Somerville, Massachusetts, began making a small, stationary stamp-affixer in 1910, the invention of Frederick W. Storck.([12]) The company later moved to Boston, and finally to Everett, Mass., from which city it is still operating. The first type of machine was not too successful, but in 1913 a portable model of the "plunger" type was adopted and is still being made, the only change having been a re-designing of the case in 1928. These machines use sidewise coils, perforated.

Several designs of dummy stamps have been used by the Standard Company

(11) First patent application Sept. 30, 1909; granted Aug. 30, 1910; No. 968619.
(12) Patent No. 993732; application filed May 14, 1910; granted May 30, 1911.

during their existence, but today they do their testing with blank coils which are supplied by the Department at cost. These blank coils are made of the same paper as coil stamps; gummed, perforated, cut and rolled in the same manner as all Bureau coils.

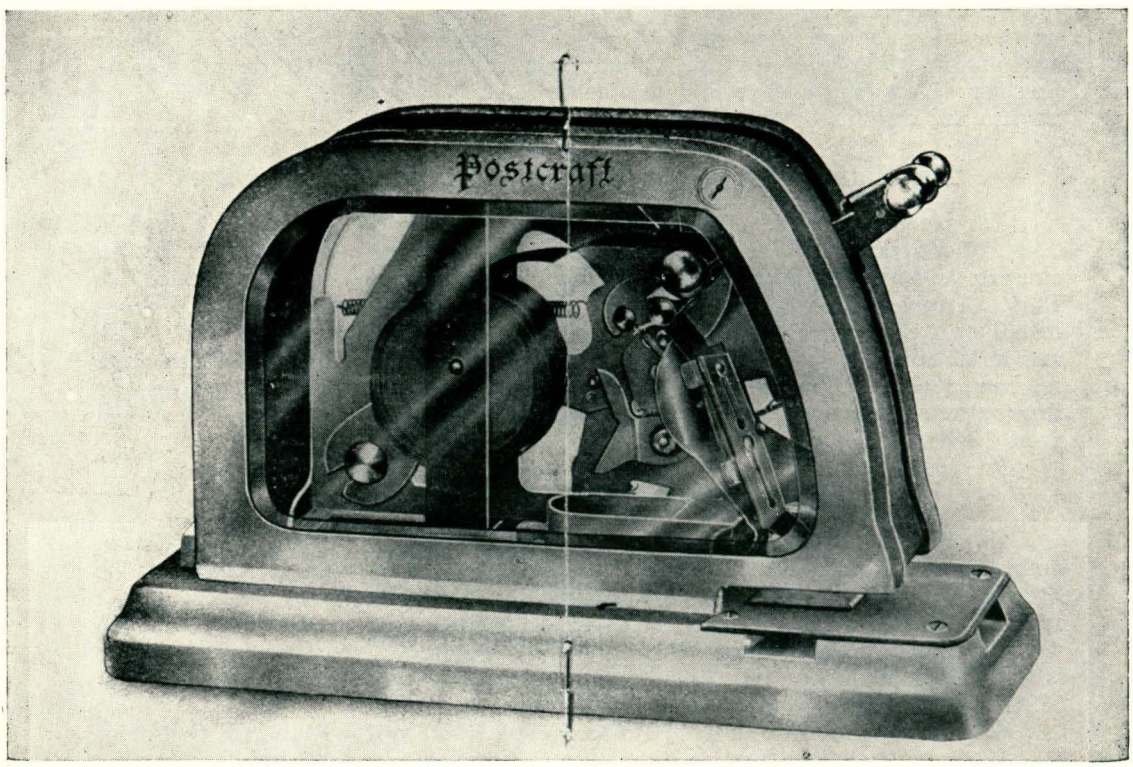


Dummy Stamps of the Standard Co.

In 1913 Mr. Storck invented an envelope sealing machine which was manufactured under the company name:—Standard Envelope Sealer Mfg. Co. In 1923 a third machine was added to the company's list of products:—the Standard Postal Permit Printer, which is today probably the best known of all permit printers. Mr. Storck is now President of the Standard Mailing Machines Company which produces all three of the machines.

The P. R. Manufacturing Company

The stamp machines produced by the P. R. Manufacturing Company of Detroit, Michigan, were the inventions of George L. Reichhelm, originally of Denver, Colorado. In 1910 a vending machine was marketed, but was not very



The Postcraft Affixer.

successful. It used endwise coils, perforated, and operated by means of a crank after the manner of a Schermack vending machine. In 1911 they began to make an affixing machine which became popularly known as the Postcraft.([13]) Under this name a separate company was formed with headquarters in New York City. The Postcraft Affixer ([14]) also used endwise coils, perforated, until late 1914 when the company brought out a new machine of the "plunger" type using sidewise coils.

The Puritan Stamp Affixer Company

This company, located at 301 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts, made a small affixer using sidewise coils in 1913. The machine was not successful and would not be worthy of mention here but for the persistence with which its production and sale were continued over a period of years. The Puritan Stamp Affixer was marketed for about a year. Later the same machine appeared under the name of the Peerless Stamp Affixer. The second venture was no more successful than the first and after a year the sale under this name was discontinued. A year or two later the same machine came on the market again, this time as the Kendall Stamp Affixer. Once again it failed, but the three attempts had succeeded in distributing a considerable number of machines in Eastern Massachusetts. Around 1920 the tools and patent rights were bought by the Bircher Company of Rochester, New York, manufacturers of machines for opening envelopes.

The Pence Mailing Machine Company

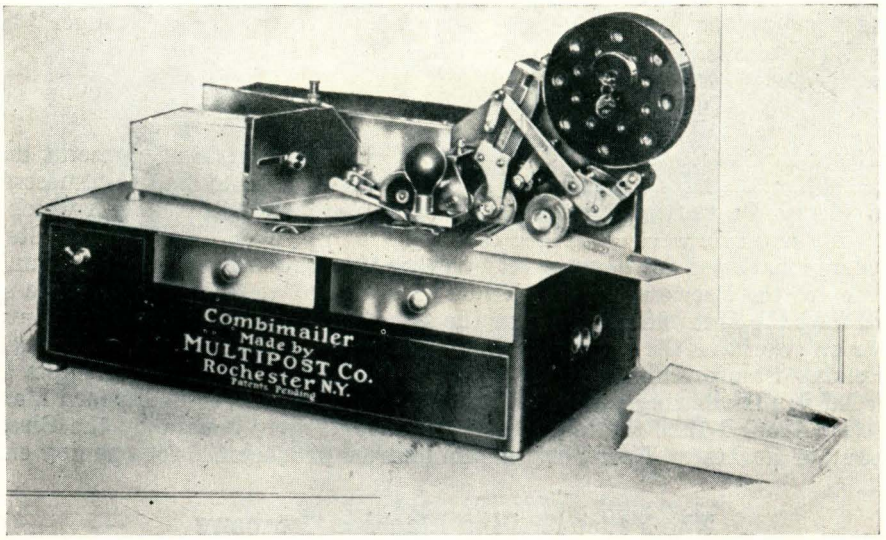
Of the three companies manufacturing combined envelope-sealing and stamp-affixing machines this was the least successful. Established around 1914 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this company produced and distributed such a machine for about three years. In the early 1920's the Bircher Company of Rochester, New York, took over the machines and materials of the Pence Company and made further sales. The Pence machine (invention of Sidney L. Long) was the only electrically operated affixer using endwise Bureau coils, perforated. As has been previously explained, this type of coil is not suited to fast operating machines since the coil strip unwinds in a direction at right angles to the movement of the envelopes. It is therefore necessary for both envelope and stamp to stop moving as they meet in the affixing process, which of course limits the possible speed of the machine. The expense of a mechanical mailing machine is justified only if its speed is considerably greater than that of hand labor.

The Multipost Company

The Multipost Company of Rochester, New York, was formed in 1910 by William F. Schweiger, Bennett D. Straight and Edward C. Morris; all experienced in the stamp machine field. Mr. Schweiger had been General Manager of the Schermack or Mail-om-eter Company of Detroit, which he left because he did not believe in their policy of using privately perforated coils. It was his idea to start the new company to make machines adapted to the use of Bureau coils and hence saleable in any city in the United States. Mr. Straight was the mechanical expert who invented the Mail-om-eter Junior, a small affixer using sidewise wound Bureau coils. This affixer was manufactured by the new company under the name of Multipost Jr.,([15]) and is still on the market at $35.00 ($30.00 without the counting device). The capital for the new company was supplied by Mr. Morris, who had been interested in stamp-affixers since

(13)Patent No. 1076517; granted Oct. 21, 1913; application filed March 2, 1911.
(14)A second Postcraft Company operated from Utica, New York, around 1918.
(15)Patent No. 1012021; application filed June 6, 1910; granted Dec. 19, 1911.

the early 1900's when he had backed a machine invented by Louis J. Hall of Chicago. Of the three men who started the company Mr. Schweiger finally obtained complete control and served as its President until his death two years ago.



The Multipost "Combimailer".

In 1913 the Multipost Company began to manufacture an electrically operated machine for sealing and stamping mail. Difficulties with the stiff joints of paste-ups prevented any widespread use of the machine in its early years, but all such problems were solved with the advent of rotary press coils. The early 1920's gave birth to the postage meter machine which was obviously to become the formidable rival of all stamp-affixing machines. Realizing this the Multipost Company instigated a movement to allow the use of precancelled coils on first class mail, postmarked by the sender. This would allow such mail to be handled in the post office with the same speed as "metered" mail. Permission for this form of mailing was granted in the Postal Bulletin of August 7, 1924. A canceller was then added to the Multipost machine, which became known as the "Superia" Multipost. Today this machine is called the "Combimailer" and may be used either as a permit printer or to affix and cancel coil stamps. The Multipost Company advises its patrons to mail under a first-class precancel permit. If precancelled coils are used in the small "Junior" affixer, the company makes a small hand canceller for postmarking the first class mail. The accompanying illustrations show a Rochester precancel affixed and postmarked by a Combimailer in the offices of the Multipost Company, and a Boston precancel applied by a Multipost Junior and postmarked with a Multipost hand-stamp canceller.



Precancelled coils affixed and postmarked by Multipost machines.

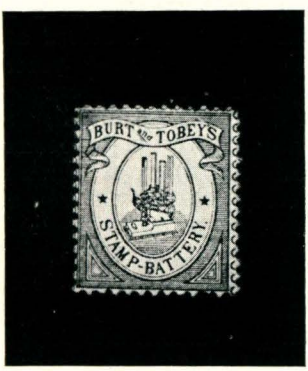
Among several other mailing aids manufactured by the Multipost Company, they marketed one postage meter machine in 1933 and a second in 1936. These machines printed a Type E indicia like that of the Mail-O-Meter and early Pitney-Bowes machines, the meter numbers being M-2 and M-3. No other meter machines are known to have been placed by the Multipost Company so they can hardly be considered a competitor of the Pitney-Bowes Company. But in the field of stamp affixers they are the largest producers in the United States.



Dummy advertising stamp of the Multipost Co.

The companies above mentioned all obtained some permanence before 1915 and placed a sufficient number of machines on the market to create the demand for coil stamps which increased so rapidly during the first five years of their use. Many other companies have started since, some successful, others short-lived.

What does the future hold for stamp machine companies and coil stamps? Postage meter machines have already taken the place of the large mechanical stamp-affixers. It is quite within the realm of probability to foresee new postal regulations which will permit small, single-denomination postage meters,—operating like a hand stamp,—to replace the small stamp-affixers using coil stamps. Then if the modern Mailomats should replace the vending machines there would be no call for coil stamps. Should the next third of a century see these changes, collectors of coil stamps would then seek avidly for illustrations of the old stamp machines, advertising matter, and the dummy testing or advertising stamps. Gather such associated material today, before it is too late.



Dummy stamp of a machine of the 1890's.

I bring this article to a close with an illustration of a dummy stamp which is perhaps one of the first used in the United States for demonstrating a stamp-affixing machine. The "Stamp Battery" was not a coil machine, it was of the old type in which single stamps were piled one above the other in a magazine. The Burt and Tobey machine had either two or four stamp magazines for different denominations of stamps, any one of which could be brought into position above the affixing mechanism. Charles W. Tobey of New Bedford, Massachusetts, applied for a patent on this machine April 11, 1890,—the fourteenth stamp affixer to be patented in the United States, and one of the first to go into production.

Finis.

The Railroad Postmarks of France

By Carroll Chase

(Continued from Vol. XIX, No. 4, Page 269.)

The postmarks of the railroad stations (in French "Gares de chemin de fer") form so large a group that it is not possible to describe them in detail, though I shall try to give a fairly complete outline.

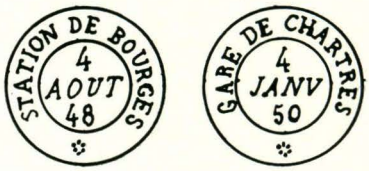


Fig. No. 65.

The earliest are supposed to date back to 1848 and I say "supposed" purposely. Figure No. 65 shows two postmarks listed in the Catalogue des Estampilles, pages 196 and 197. The "Station" is listed from one city—Bourges—while the other type "Gare de ——" is given as existing from eight towns. There is quite a mystery regarding these two markings. They have been listed for many years, but I have never seen a single example from any of the nine towns. What is more, I have asked most of the prominent collectors and dealers about them and I even wrote a short article in the *Echo de la Timbrologie* requesting information. All this was without any result except that Monsieur Gilbert tells me he has seen (and has shown me a tracing of) one example of the "Gare de Bar-le-Duc" dated January 6, 1850. It is surely strange that I can find a trace of but one copy of these nine listed postmarks. Except for the postmark from Bar-le-Duc just mentioned, I have noted no station postmark dated earlier than 1854.

The railroad station postmarks resemble more or less closely the ambulants, having the same three main types as well as a few essays. These markings from Paris are numerous and will be described after the others. The station postmarks may be easily identified as they practically all include the word "Gare" (Station), "Entrepot" (literally, storage place) or "Transit." They are mostly in black though blue may be found, as well as violet, the last very rare. Most of them are regular government postmarks though the administrative markings of the railroad companies, of which many stations had examples, are interesting and keenly collected, though they are not really postal. A few typical examples of these latter are given in Figure No. 66. They are practically never found on the stamp. They date back at least to January, 1854. The commonest show the names of the station in one straight line, framed or not, but many others are quite elaborate. They are found mostly on letters sent on railroad company business from the various stations; never-the-less they also come on ordinary commercial letters sent from stations possessing no government postmark. I have seen them in black, red and blue.

Before taking up the types one by one, a few words of explanation. As a rule the postmarks reading, for example, "Gare de Dijon" and those showing "Dijon Gare" are used by separate services. "Gare de Dijon" is found on letters collected from the regular station letter box (open to the public) cancelled by the postman charged with this service and handed by him to the ambulants and courriers convoyeurs who pass. The service called "Dijon Gare" (with which the postman charged with the "Gare de Dijon" has nothing to do) receives the *sacks* of mail from the ambulants and courriers convoyeurs passing, opens them, sorts the contents and makes up other "dépêches" (sacks) for the

MARBACHE

LAFERTÉ-BOURBONNE

CHOISY

FLOURE

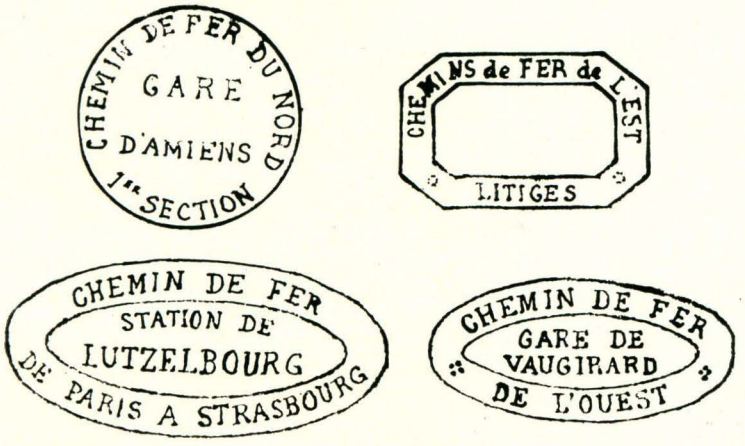


Fig. No. 66.

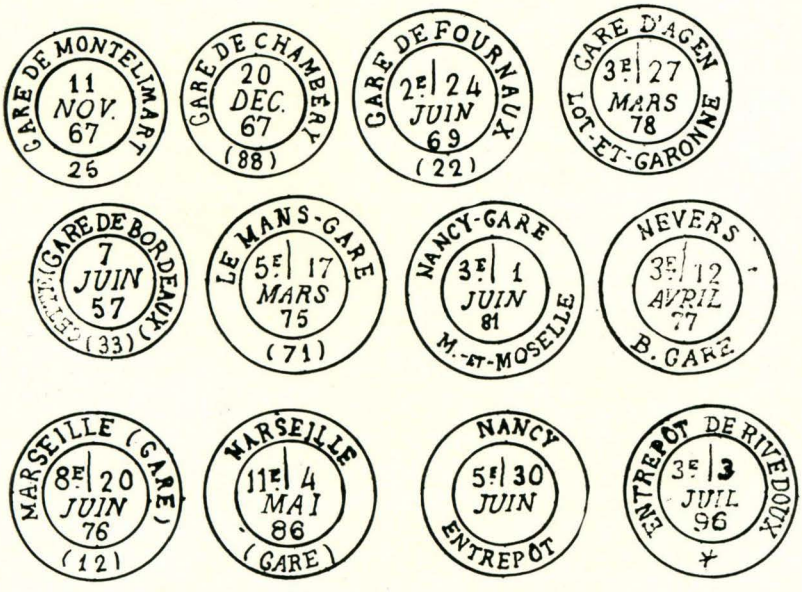


Fig. No. 67.

region. The markings showing "Entrepôt" correspond with the second just described—"Dijon Gare." The "transit" postmarks are found only from a few very important stations where mail is sorted.

Comparatively few of the several thousand railway stations in France had postmarks. I have seen markings from a few over four hundred of them, of which about half—a few over two hundred—exist in the Type I. I have seen only three, all Type II or III from Algeria, though a few more probably exist. As for the postmarks showing "Entrepôt"—I have seen about forty including only two Type I.

Figure No. 67 shows a selection of the typical Type I postmarks. As with the town postmarks, those made before May, 1875 almost always show the number of the department, while those made from that time on have the name of the department. Before April 1st, 1876 it was forbidden to use the station postmark in obliterating the stamps, while after that date it was obligatory. Three stations—Nîmes, Montpellier, and more rarely Vierzon, in spite of the regulations, occasionally used the station postmark for obliterating the stamp. Except for these three cities a station marking on a stamp is rare before 1876. Of the Type I postmarks illustrated, a few may be especially mentioned. The type of the two from Marseille with GARE in parenthesis, have been seen only from this city. The "Cette (Gare de Bordeaux)" is listed in the Catalogue des Estampilles but has not been encountered. A certain few government railroad station postmarks exist from small towns, in which at that time, there was no regular post office. These are rare and desirable. Fournaux (Creuse) and Rivedoux, on the island of Ré (Charente Inférieure) are examples. The "Nevers B. Gare" (Boîte Gare) meaning "Station letter box" is different from all the rest. For some reason or other, the station post offices of two cities only were given special postmarks showing "B. Gare" and at the same time "griffes" showing the number used in that city but with the initials B. G. included. See Figure No. 68. The one from Nevers (2654) is not particularly scarce, but the griffe from La Charité (897) is decidedly rare.



Fig. No. 68.

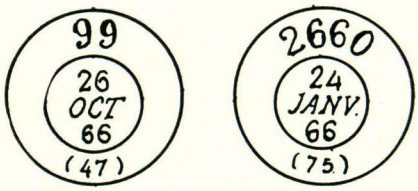


Fig. No. 69.

In 1864, perhaps July 1st (the earliest I have seen being dated July 3rd of that year), twenty-four of the more important railroad stations, all at junctions, were designated as "Bureaux de Passe," which might be translated as "Sorting railroad station offices for mail addressed beyond." The list is as follows:

99 Angers	1987 Laval	2660 Niort
305 Bar-le-Duc	2056 Lisieux	2915 Poitiers
506 Blois	2188 Le Mans	3112 Rennes
691 Caen	2351 Mézières	3219 Rouen
897 La Charité	2435 Montbéliard	3325 Saumur
947 Châteauroux	2565 Moulins-sur-Allier	3533 Saint-Brieuc
978 Chaumont	2598 Nancy	4169 Vesoul
1307 Dijon	2654 Nevers	4201 Vierzon

One more office, 898, Charlesville, has been listed, but probably by error, as there was a similar office at Mézières, and the same railroad station served both towns! These Bureaux de Passe had odd postmarks (See Figure No. 69) showing the number of the town instead of the name. The number corresponds with the one in large figures for the same city. These are found normally on the back

of the envelopes, though two towns—1307 Dijon and 4201 Vierzon (and very rarely some of the others) used them occasionally to cancel the stamp. All exist in black though 99 Angers, 978 Chaumont, 1978 Laval and 2056 Lisieux have been seen, though very rarely, in red. A few of these numbers are decidedly rare, so it is not easy to complete the set. For example, I have never seen 2435 Montbéliard. These postmarks were in use regularly from 1864 until about 1876, and from that time on until 1882 at least, they are still found occasionally. A few of these markings exist in two or three minor types.

Figure 70 shows two postmarks, one Type I and one Type II from the "Gare de Lille" including "ambulant," or its abbreviation, with a brigade letter. The Type I has been seen used only in 1887 while the Type II was in use at least from 1896 to 1902. These are rare, especially the Type I. As will be mentioned later, several of the Paris railroad stations had postmarks showing a brigade letter, exactly as did the ambulants, but Lille was evidently the only other city to have them. These Paris stations, as well as Lille, had brigades of employés who did exactly the same work as the ambulant brigades except of course that they were stationary. The reason why Lille had such a service was undoubtedly because the important ambulant between Paris and Lille had more work than it could do during its short run of some three hours.

A good range of the Type II postmarks is shown in Figure 71. These

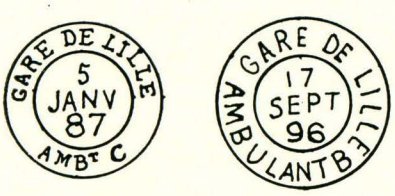


Fig. No. 70.

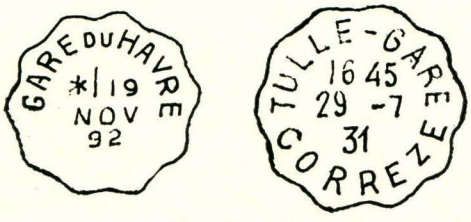


Fig. No. 72.

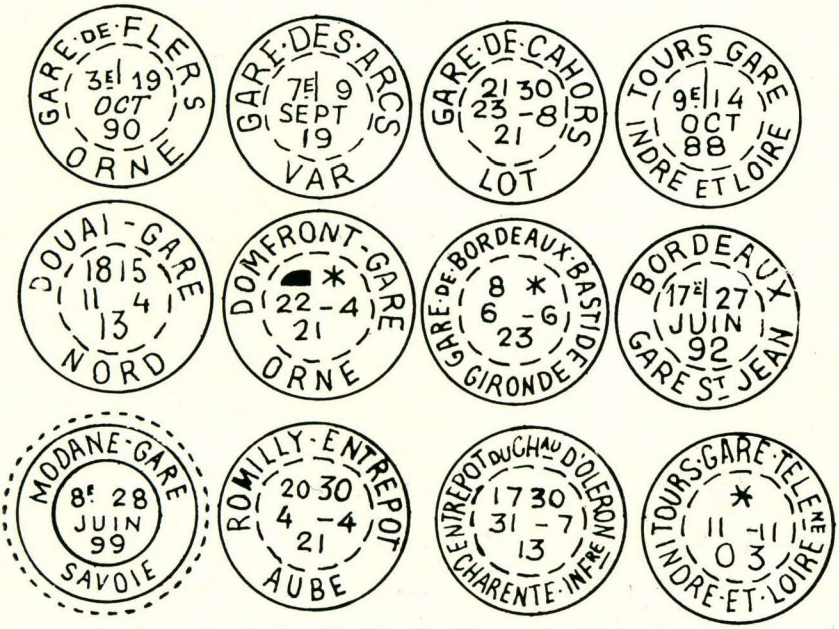


Fig. No. 71.

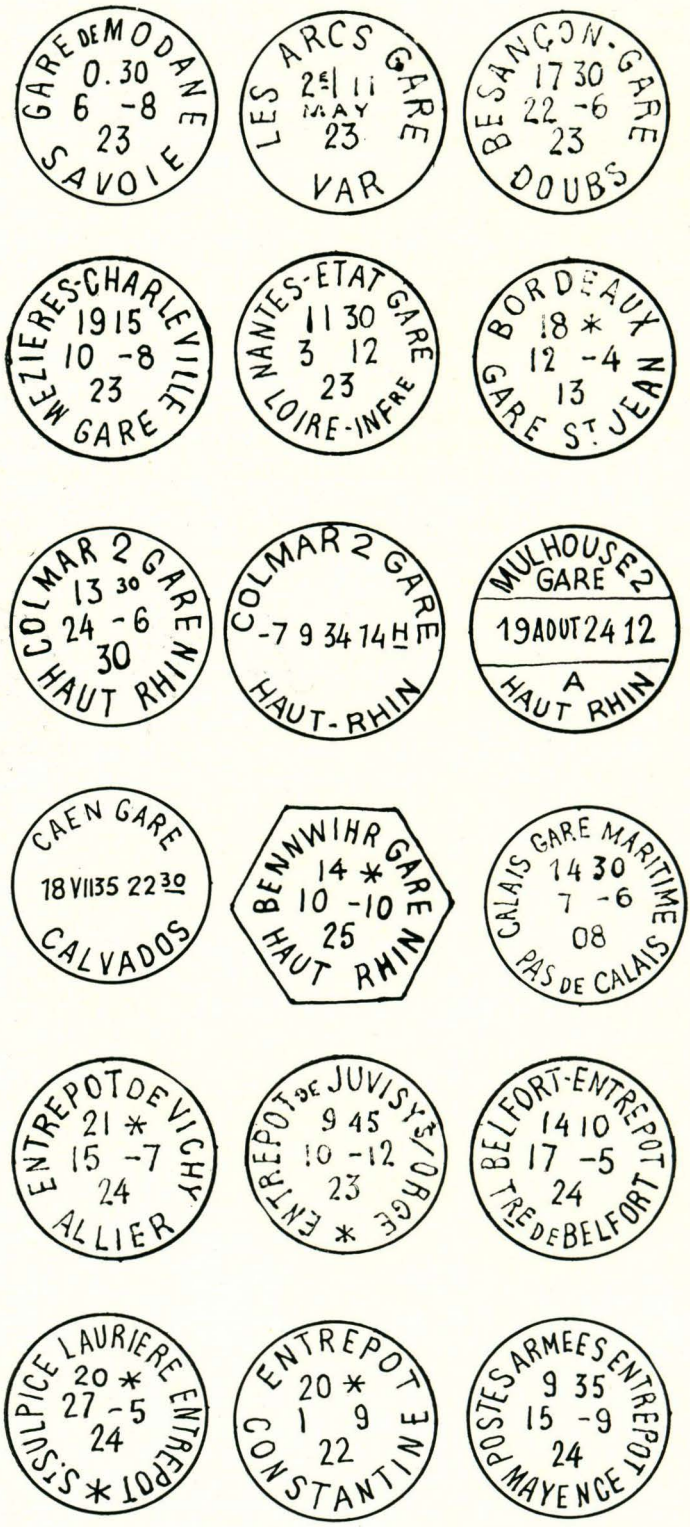

GARE DE MODANE
0.30
6 -8
23
SAVOIE
LES ARCS GARE
21 11
MAY
23
VAR
BESANCON-GARE
17 30
22 -6
23
DOUBS
MEZIERES-CHARLEVILLE
1915
10 -8
23
GARE
NANTES-ETAT GARE
11 30
3 12
23
LOIRE-INFRE
BORDEAUX
18 *
12 -4
13
GARE ST JEAN
COLMAR 2 GARE
13 30
24 -6
30
HAUT RHIN
COLMAR 2 GARE
-7 9 34 14 H
HAUT-RHIN
MULHOUSE 2
GARE
19 AOUT 24 12
A
HAUT RHIN
CAEN GARE
18 VIII 35 22 30
CALVADOS
BENNWIHR GARE
14 *
10 -10
25
HAUT RHIN
CALAIS GARE MARITIME
14 30
7 -6
08
PAS DE CALAIS
ENTREPOT DE VICHY
21 *
15 -7
24
ALLIER
ENTREPOT DE JUVISY/ORGE
9 45
10 -12
23
*
BELFORT-ENTREPOT
14 10
17 -5
24
TRE DE BELFORT
ST SULPICE LAURIERE ENTREPOT
20 *
27 -5
24
*
CONSTANTINE ENTREPOT
20 *
1 9
22
POSTES ARMEES ENTREPOT
9 35
15 -9
24
MAYENCE

Fig No. 73.

speak largely for themselves. As may be seen these markings, with but one exception, show an outer solid circle and an inner circle made up of curved dashes. The exception is the very rare Modane postmark, probably made by error, showing two solid circles with a third dotted one at the outside. Most of the months are in block letters but a few early ones show slanting letters, as with certain ambulants. The earlier examples of these postmarks show a number indicating the "levée" or collection from the letter box with, at its right, the day of the month. Later this was replaced by the hour of the collection, the hours running from 1 to 23 (1 A. M. to 11 P. M.) with the minutes by quarter hours. The name of the department almost always is shown though very occasionally it was replaced by the name of the station in cities having more than one. The "Tours Gare Tele^{ne}" (Téléphone) is decidedly odd. I have not seen it but it is listed in the Catalogue des Estampilles. It is probably an administrative marking. The Type II postmarks date from 1886 and a few are still in use.

Figure No. 72 shows two rare station postmarks, one Type II and one Type III, with an ondulated frame exactly as is found normally on the markings of the courriers convoyeurs. The probable explanation is that they were made by error.

In Figure No. 73 will be found an assortment of the regular Type III postmarks. The one from Les Arcs is the only one seen with the month in letters, and, at the same time the only railroad station postmark I have seen in violet. The hexagonal postmark from Bennwihr is the only one encountered except a similar marking from Metz. These probably have no special signification. The "Poste Armées Entrepôt Mayence" was used during the French occupation after 1918. The two postmarks from Colmar and the one from Mulhouse, all showing a "2", are probably essays. What the "2" stands for I don't know. The Caen Gare with the date all in one line is a recent type which may be adopted for all such markings. The Nantes-Etat-Gare indicates the station on the Etat (State) line. The others I think speak for themselves.

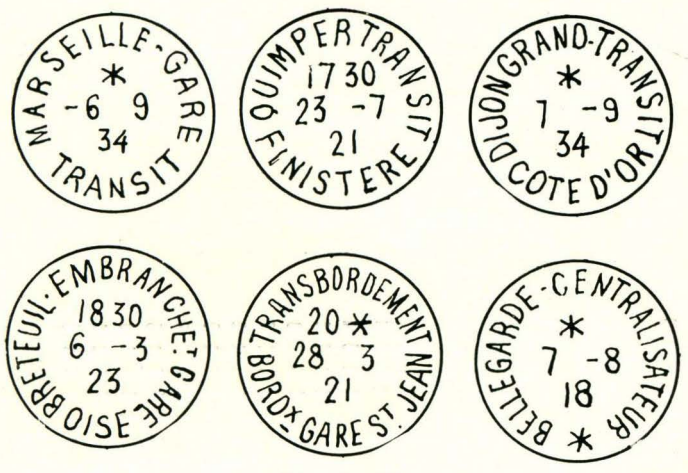


Fig. No. 74.

Figure No. 74 shows some of the more unusual Type III postmarks. The "Transit" and "Grand Transit" were used by sorting divisions in very important station on mail addressed further on. The "Transbordement" was evidently used on mail carried from one of the Bordeaux railroad stations to another for forwarding. The "Breteuil Embranchement" is that of a station at a junction. The "Centralizateur" was used during the world war to indicate a station where much mail for and from the troops was centralized. These special markings are all uncommon.

A few of the modern machine cancellations are shown in Figure No. 75. The oval "Rennes" is unusual. It was possible to change the inscription in most of these postmarks, or to use bars or wavy lines without "slogans." The Amiens marking is a rare essay used in a very few stations. It is very odd because the postmark itself is sideways.

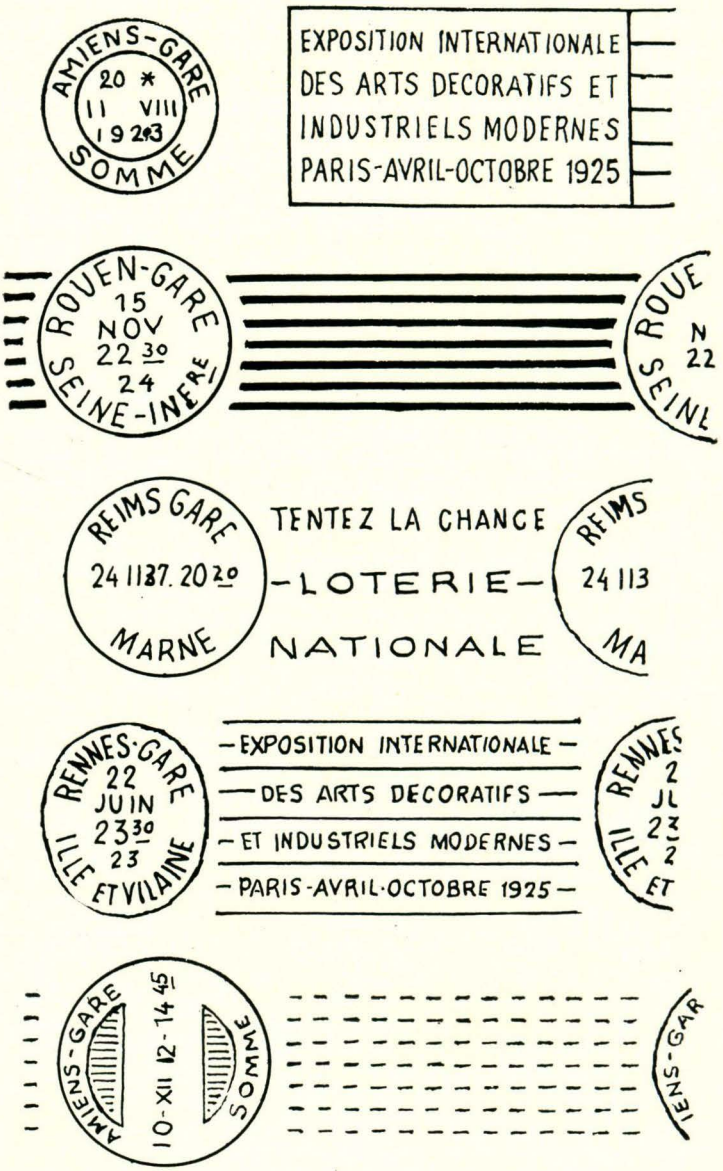


Fig. No. 75.

Figure No. 76 shows a few "griffes," that of the Gare de Dijon dating back to 1864. These were meant for administrative use and not for cancelling purposes, but a few are occasionally found on stamps. The "Alger Gare Secion Avion" is very odd. There was evidently a special service there for airmail.

Four very unusual station postmarks are found in Figure 77. These three stations—Les Verrières de Joux (Doubs), Les Hôpitaux Jougne (Doubs) and

Mijoux (Doubs)—were on Swiss railroad lines, the first mentioned station being on the line running from Neufchâtel (Switzerland) to Pontarlier (Doubs) and the other two on the line from Lausanne (Switzerland) to Pontarlier. These three are the only stations on the French side of the frontier and they were served only by the Swiss Ambulants. So as not to have the Swiss cancel French stamps, the stamps on the letters given to the Swiss postal cars were pre-

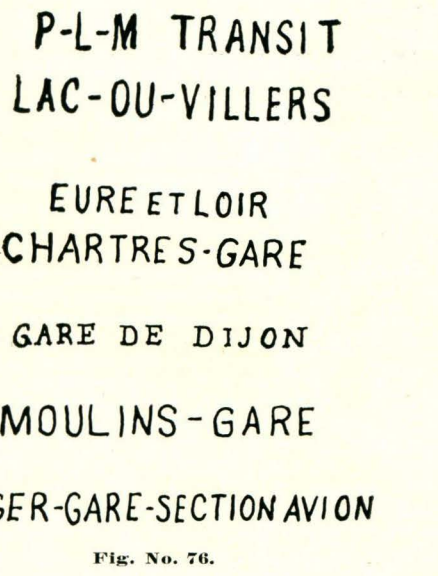


Fig. No. 76.

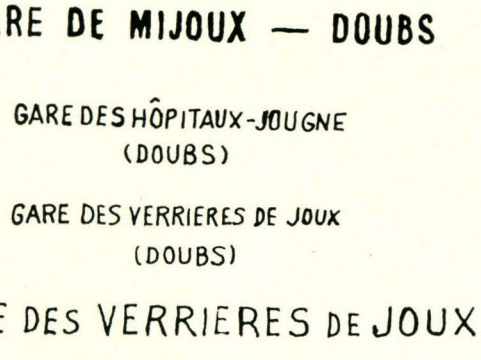


Fig. No. 77.

viously obliterated in the station, though the Swiss ambulant postmark was put on the envelope near the stamp. One of these stations had two postmarks and the other two one each as shown. They were in use early in this century—1904 and 1923, being the extreme dates seen, though they may still exist. They are fairly rare.

(To be continued.)

Private Die Proprietary Stamp Notes

D. RANSOM & CO.

By Henry W. Holcombe

"Forc'd from their homes, a melancholy train,
To traverse climes beyond the western main;
Where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around,
And Niagara stuns with thundering sound."

thus wrote Oliver Goldsmith in *The Traveller* almost two centuries ago. Then, today, forever—the interminable roar, as half the fresh water in the world is hurled over the precipice, is audible for miles around. There isn't a doubt that Niagara Falls is the most famous of all.

To many, Niagara Falls is synonymous with the bustling city of Buffalo, New York, situated at the eastern end of Lake Erie near where the rushing waters enter the short Niagara River. Here it was that Dr. David Ransom established his practice in 1846.

His thoro training, together with the experience gained in the medical profession, within a few years gave him the opportunity of aiding the many who were unable to consult him in person. This he did by acquiring proprietaries from others and originating several of his own, which were prepared and sold to the general public.

One of the first preparations was *Dr. D. Ransom's King of the Blood,* familiarly known as 'K. B.'—"By its use CANCERS are cured, and CANCEROUS TUMORS are dispersed without the surgeon's knife. SCROFULA conquered, and CONSUMPTION prevented and cured . . . A cure is warranted in all cases where the medicine is taken a reasonable length of time—more important diseases requiring a longer time to cure . . . If all afflicted persons should use five, or even ten bottles, the expense would be light in comparison to the benefit he would derive from its use . . . Price, $1 per bottle or six bottles for $5."

"The Greatest Discovery of the Age"—*Dr. A. Trask's Magnetic Ointment* was originated about 1845. "In Croup, Sore Throat, Diphtheria, Rheumatism, and scores of minor ailments, it is a ready and sovereign remedy . . . An indispensable household article to every family once using it . . . 25c and 50c per bottle." Within three decades the average yearly sales amounted to six thousand gross.

"THE MIDNIGHT HORROR—CROUP!

Croup! That vulture of the night which swoops down upon our little ones sleeeping so quietly by our side, and, almost without a moment's warning, bears them from our reach forever—what father, what mother, does not tremble at its name? It chooses the darkness for its ravages, and, stealing insidiously upon its victims, suffocates them in our arms almost before their first faint cries for help are heard. We awake—we find our darling vainly struggling for breath; the harsh, rasping cough strikes terror to our quivering nerves—we are confused, we hesitate, we can think of nothing to do, our reason forsakes us, no physician is near, the deadly membrane is fast cutting off the little one's breath; there is a wheezing, sucking sound as he gasps for life, his strength fails—one feeble word, one pleading look—and our darling is dead—within a few minutes from the first dread signal. Parents, we KNOW you need never have this experience if you have a bottle of RANSOM'S HIVE SYRUP AND TOLU in the house . . ."

"A certain cure for Croup, Asthma, Hooping-Cough, Measles, and all diseases involving the chest and breathing organs" . . . *Dr. Ransom's Hive Syrup and Tolu* "in addition to ingredients for ordinary Hive Syrup, contains Balsam of Tolu, Decoction of Skunk Cabbage Root, Lobelia, and Hops

. . . small bottles contain four, and large bottles eight ounces by weight. Price 35 and 50 cents'' . . . First compounded by D. Ransom, M. D. in 1859.

Prof. H. Anderson's Dermador—''There is no such word as ''FAIL''. For man or beast no other Liniment can approach it . . . far superior in its effects to any and all others . . . one of the greatest triumphs of chemical science . . . a Liniment for Wounds, Sores, Bruises, Sprains, Burns, Rheumatic Pain, Muscular Lameness, Chilblains, External Inflammation, &c. . . . No Blistering—No Grease—No Wood Alcohol . . . Its Medicinal Ingredients are Spirits of Turpentine, Sulphuric Acid, Nitric Acid, Lime, and 60% Alcohol . . . Price 25 and 50 cents.'' This preparation was put up in an oval, clear glass, hand-blown bottle 49 by 25 by 108 mm., with a rubber stopper. A label containing directions was affixed. In embossed letters on the front reading down, ''ANDERSON'S—DERMADOR''. The wrapper, printed in black, was 153 mm. square. Dermador was a liquid which looked like whiskey, but smelled far differently.

''This celebrated Medicine was discovered by Homer Anderson, A. M. Of this unsurpassed remedial agent he discourses as follows:

''The above named article was discovered by me, during my connection with the Clinton Liberal Institute, at Clinton, Oneida County, N. Y., as Professor of Chemistry and Mathematics, in attempting to form Prussic Acid by a quicker process than the ordinary way by uniting the independent gaseous bodies of which it is composed.

''This truly wonderful agent was used a long time by the students of said Institute, for a wash after shaving, &c., before its superior excellence became known—said it made their faces smooth—cured their chapped hands, &c. I must here relate a little incident that took place at the institution, which caused me to introduce it to the public as a remedy for Wounds, Inflammation, &c.

''One of the students had his arm very severely bruised and lacerated by being accidentally caught on the machinery of the Observatory, and was brought to my room in a fainting condition. His arm was dressed and the DERMADOR freely applied. The next morning the soreness was all gone and the arm had not pained him any through the night. We were all greatly surprised at the happy result. I submitted the DERMADOR to various scientific physicians for trial, who all pronounced it the best remedy they had ever used. I was, therefore, induced to introduce it to the public'' . . . probably in 1848.

Dr. Miller was a practicing physician in Syracuse, N. Y. when he compounded *Dr. J. R. Miller's Universal Magnetic Balm*, subsequently acquired by Dr. Ransom. ''This medicine may with propriety be called a ''Universal Remedy'' . . . An instantaneous specific for Cholera, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhoea, Colic, and all pains in the region of the stomach or bowels'' . . . Said to have contained Camphor, Red Pepper, Cloves, Cinnamon; Oils of Origanum (compound), Spearmint, Eucalyptus, Cajuput, Sassafras, Pennyroyal, Cinnamon, Alcohol 56% and q. s. water . . . ''The great value and usefulness of this medicine has caused it to suffer more from base imitations and counterfeits, than any other medicine. The genuine has D. Ransom & Co.'s private Revenue Stamp on the outside, DR. J. R. MILLER'S ''MAGNETIC BALM,'' blown in the bottle. Price 25 cents per bottle.''

In the early 1860's D. Ransom & Co. became the owner of several other proprietaries and among them was *Dr. J. C. Tilton's Indian Balm Pills*—''Good in all diseases where a cathartic is required. Always Safe and Efficient.'' The boxboard container was folded to 60 by 31 by 9 mm. and enclosed in a wrapper printed in light blue. Price 25 cents.

Shortly after the passage of the Revenue Act of 1862, D. Ransom & Co. requested the firm of Butler & Carpenter, who had been awarded the government printing contract, to engrave two private dies. They were identical except for the values—1c and 2c—each with the three-quarter portrait of Dr. David Ransom. Proofs from these dies were approved in the office of the Hon. Joseph J. Lewis, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on March 25, 1865. Both were first issued in July 1865, four months later.

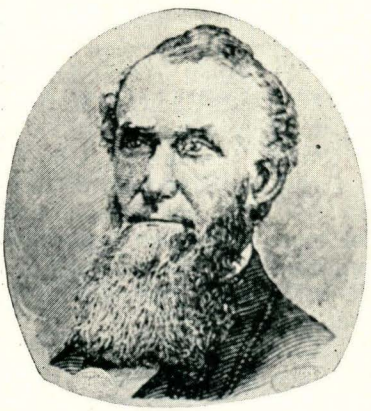
To the 1c blue stamp the *United States Stamp Catalogue* assigns the number RS 194 (former No. 5469). Measuring 19 by 23 mm., the stamps were printed in sheets of 210 laid down 14 by 15. There are two distinct shades—'dull blue' on thin old paper; 'blue' on thin and thick old paper and silk paper. The *Boston Revenue Book* notes this stamp on experimental silk paper but it is not so catalogued today. The silk paper has a shifted transfer noticeable in the upper left lettering—first listed (RS 194t) in the 1941 catalogue.

The 2c black stamp is given the number RS 195 (former No. 5470) in the current Catalogue. It was printed on thin old, experimental silk and full silk papers.

The final issue of both stamps was shipped from Philadelphia in August 1875. Neither is at all scarce, the old paper being less often seen. The stamps evidently were not canceled and no multiples have been reported.

'The Magnetic Almanac' issued annually by D. Ransom & Co. for the delectation of their customers was different! Besides their own proprietaries, the firm acted as general agents for the many nostrums of Demas S. Barnes & Co. and B. L. Judson Company, patent medicine firms in New York City. These were described in detail and, of course, were accompanied by the ubiquitous testimonials. Each edition had a subtitle, for example: "The Rescue of Tula" —this venturesome siren evidently supplied the love interest—and the "Story of Ometa or Hawk Eye's Escape." These tales were written in the most exciting dime-novel style. In the latter "a celebrated hunter and trapper of the Western prairies called Ometa, or Hawk Eye" related his hair-raising experiences to an "old Doctor" as to how he obtained his marvelous remedy 'Manochan' from the Atzec Indians. There is also quite an account of Dr. Judson's Dead Shot Worm Candy in which the learned doctor—a Scotsman from Glasgow—discovers that the "one universal cause of disease" is worms! However, after 'Ometa' this makes comparatively dull reading.

In the meanwhile a son, Frank H. Ransom, had joined his father in the business and together with one Sullivan A. Meredith seem to have been the "Co." So when Dr. David Ransom passed away at his home on Main Street, near Forest Lawn entrance in the early 1870's—they carried on.



1. Oval portrait of Dr. Ransom.



2. Mother treating boy's arm with Dermador.

D. RANSOM, SON & CO.

At least in 1873 Warren, Johnson & Co.'s Buffalo City Directory had the listing, "RANSOM, D., SON & CO. wholesale patent medicines, 147 Main"—probably on the northeast corner of Main and Lloyd Streets. Evidently the streets were renumbered because the following year the address is given as 135 and 137 Main Street. There is a similar mention each year until 1880 when

Frank H. Ransom is the 'Manager' and the firm dealing in 'wholesale proprietary medicines' is situated at 12, 14, 16 and 18 Quay Street—one block south and a few doors east of the former location. In 1881 a second son, David Louis Ransom, became a member of the firm.

Obviously the final issues of the D. Ransom & Co. private die stamps were ordered by the succeeding firm. But in the spring of 1876, D. Ransom, Son & Co. directed the National Bank Note Co. of New York to alter the firm name and prepare two new dies. National die No. 4371 of the 1c value and No. 4372 of the 2c value were approved in the office of the Hon. Daniel D. Pratt, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on June 5, 1876. Both stamps were probably first issued a few weeks afterward.

The *United States Stamp Catalogue* accords the number RS 196 (former No. 5471) to the 1c blue stamp. There are two shades—'bright blue' on silk, pink and watermarked papers; 'dark blue' on silk and watermarked only. This silk paper, like its predecessor, has a shifted transfer noticeable in the upper left lettering (RS 196t) which was first catalogued in 1941. Very likely the National Bank Note Co. made a second plate from which the pink and some of the watermarked stamps were printed. It is known that the Bureau of Engraving & Printing made a plate, probably in the spring of 1881.

To the 2c black stamp is given the number RS 197 (former No. 5472). It too, was printed on silk, pink and watermarked papers. A specimen without perforations is listed by *Sterling* in the Fifth Edition of his *Revenue Catalogue 1888* as an 'oddity'.

The final issue of both stamps was the work of the Bureau, shipped from Washington on March 2, 1883. Neither are at all scarce. Being affixed in such a manner they would be broken when the container was opened, it is unlikely the stamps were ever canceled. It is believed both values were used in pairs at least, as they exist both vertical and horizontal.

Over a period of about 18 years, the Ransom firms affixed nearly ten million private die stamps to their proprietaries. This indicates a gross volume of a little less than three and a quarter million dollars, or an average in excess of $178,500 annually.

In 1876 Frank H. Ransom wrote:—

"We are the manufacturers and sole proprietors of the five STANDARD PREPARATIONS mentioned—Dr. D. Ransom's King of the Blood, Dr. A. Trask's Magnetic Ointment, Dr. Ransom's Hive Syrup and Tolu, Prof. H. Anderson's Dermador, Dr. J. R. Miller's Magnetic Balm. THESE POPULAR Remedies have been sold at all drug and General Stores in the Eastern, Middle and Western States for more than a quarter of a century, and are considered staple articles, commanding ready sale. Be Sure You Have DR. RANSOM'S.

"We have two Laboratories operated by two practical chemists and their assistants, who, for the last 15 years have been exclusively engaged in their preparation, under the immediate supervision of our senior partner, a regular physician and surgeon of high standing . . .

"Our medicines are unfailing remedies; pronounced so by scores of eminent physicians, who not only use them in their private practice, but urge their employment in Public Hospitals and Alms Houses in various parts of the country, where their wonderful beneficient results have beeen repeatedly tested.

"To prove our confidence in the qualities of our medicines, we are willing, upon a proper request, to furnish a correct list showing the names and quantities—an offer never heretofore made by the proprietor of any Family Medicine in the World."

Now—Trask's Ointment Iodized, Trask's Ointment Tube with Pile Pipe, Dermador Eye Lotion and Cooper's Balm have been added to the line. Under the guidance of direct descendants of the founder, D. Ransom Son & Co., also known as the 'Western Medicine Warehouse', continue their thriving business at 137 Main Street, Buffalo in 1941.

Finis

TRANSLATIONS FROM KOHL'S HANDBOOK

By Dr. Herbert Munk

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Irish Free State*

Translated by H. G. ZERVAS

(Continued from Vol. XX, No. 2, page 153.)

Of the first coils of the definite issue, No. 64 Z1, a total of 30 coils of 960 stamps each were issued experimentally in Dublin and Cork only. Accordingly the total issue amounted to 28,800 stamps.

New endless 1d. coils were issued in July 1934 which also contained 960 stamps each, and as developed a few months later, were also only an experimental issue. This likewise was probably a comparatively small issue. These coils of July 1934, No. 64 Z2, differ from the coils No. 64 Z1 in that they are completely imperforate on both sides, lacking the extra single perforation on each side. The width of the stamps measures 21mm. making it quite impossible to make this coil variety by trimming stamps of the regular issue. From the late Fall of 1934 on, after using up the supply of the No. 64 Z2 coils, paste up coils of the 1d. are again in use.

Later, about November 1934, endless coils of 960 stamps each of the 2d. and ½d., sides completely imperforate, were issued, see No. 63 Z1 and No. 66 Z1.

STAMP BOOKLETS

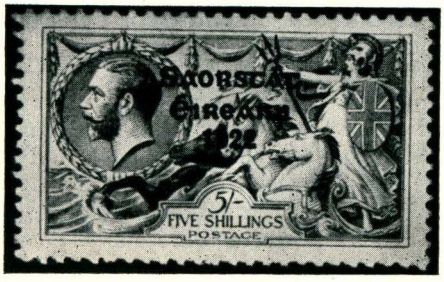
On Aug. 20, 1931 the values ½, 1 and 2d. were issued for the first time in booklet form, the booklets containing 6 stamps of the 2d., 9 stamps of the 1d. and 6 stamps of the ½d., which were sold for 2sh. Each booklet pane contained 6 stamps, arranged 3x2, of one of the three values, the second pane of the 1d. however, contained only three stamps across the top row, and governmental slogans in the three lower spaces. Between each of the 4 panes, printed from plates especially laid out for booklet purposes, were inserted sheets containing advertisements printed in black. The booklets were bound in red paste boards top and bottom, bearing advertisements printed in black on both sides, and in addition, on the outside of the top cover, contents and sales price. The booklets were bound together with black thread. The booklet panes have a special binding margin printed with block figures (Trans. similar to the gutter between panes in the regular sheets). So far we have seen four different 2sh. booklets numbered, on the outside of top cover, at left above the middle line, 31-1, 31-2, 32-2 and 33-4. However, they differ only as to the advertising on the covers and separating sheets, and are only issue varieties.

Supposedly, because of a lack of 2d. stamps in Dublin, Feb. 23, 1924, the 4d. stamps were temporarily used bisected diagonally. One letter front, showing such use in Dublin (Baile Atha Cliath) on Feb. 23, 1924, was contained in the Agnew Collection, see Ill. 287 of Harmer's Catalogue of same. However, precisely the scarcity of such bisects, and the fact that the Agnew bisect was only on a cover front, are warnings for caution.

The Agnew Collection contained a block of the 2d. showing a color spot extending over seven stamps. Various values are found with the watermark inverted, or inverted and reversed, for example;— 1d., 2d., 2½d and 3d.

NEW OVERPRINTS ISSUE OF THE HIGH VALUES
August 1925—latter part of 1927

Engraved British stamps (Nos. 172-174), printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. as before. At first, August 1925, with changed three line Gaelic overprint "Irish Free State 1922" type A9 (with 1922 narrow instead of wide spaced as before), group I; later (May-June 1927) with overprinting plates showing combination of type A9 (1922 narrow) and type A7 (1922 wide) mixed, group II; finally (from about end of 1927 on) only with the original wide 1922, group III. Overprints at first, and perhaps throughout, produced by the Irish Government Printing Plant Dublin Castle, although the combination plates supposedly made up with old type A7 material of Alex. Thom. Color of overprint grey to deep black.



I. Overprint A9 (narrow 1922, about Aug. 1925)

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
75 I	77	2sh.6d. brown (shades)	2.00	2.00
76 I	78	5sh. rose	3.75	3.75
77 I	79	10sh. gray blue	7.50	7.50

II. Overprint A9+A7 (narrow 1922+wide 1922, May-June 1927)
Prices are for pairs showing both types.

75 II	77a	2sh.6d. brown (End of June 1927)	7.50	7.50
76 II	78a	5sh. rose (Beginning of June 1927)	9.00	9.00
77 II	79a	10sh. grey blue (Middle of May 1927)	17.00	17.00

III. Overprint A7 (wide 1922, about end of 1927)

75 III	—	2sh.6d. brown (shades, End of 1927)	1.75	1.75
76 III	—	5sh. rose (End of 1927)	3.75	3.75
77 III	—	10sh. gray blue	7.50	7.50

Inasmuch as in the ensuing years the 1922 plan of producing engraved stamps of special design (Trans. for the three high values) had still not been carried out, the Irish Postal Authorities also transferred the contract for overprinting the engraved British stamps to the Government Printing Plant in Dublin Castle, who, in June 1922, made a new overprinting plate A9 for this purpose. This plate differed from the overprinting plate A7 used by Thom for the high values solely in that the line "1922" was much more closely spaced

than in A7 (I). The high values were issued with this new overprint during August 1922.

In March 1927 Irish newspapers reported that in a few months a definite issue for the high values would finally be issued, and, in fact, in the previously accepted designs for these values. However, from May 1927 on, and in rapid succession, there were suddenly issued, and shortly thereafter appeared in the trade, sheets of all three values on which the overprints were part A9, narrow 1922, and part A7, wide 1922, (II). The 10sh. was the first to appear with the mixed overprint A9+A7, a few sheets appearing as early as the middle of May 1927. The 5sh. followed in the first part of June, and toward the end of June the 2sh.6d. also appeared with the mixed overprint.

The use of subjects of distinctly different setting in the same overprinting plate, together with the poor makeup and poor condition of its subjects, many of which showed broken or defective letters, as well as the noticeably poor printing of the "mixed" overprints, led to the immediate supposition that its makeup was either makeshift or provisional. As a matter of fact, towards the end of 1927 sheets of the 2sh.6d. and 5sh. again appeared showing the old wide 1922 setting throughout, setting A7.

The reason why the overprinting plate A9, which was still in excellent condition, was suddenly replaced by an inferior "mixed" plate in the Spring of 1927 has never been made known. It is not even certain whether the mixed overprints were produced in the Government Printing Plant or in some other Irish printing plant. In any case, it appears that some of the older printing material of Thom was actually included in the making up of the "mixed" plate, inasmuch as in some of its subjects definite type defects of the old Thom overprints Nos. 56-58 are said to recur.

As it is hardly possible to distinguish single overprints A9 of this mixed plate II from those of plate I, and whereas single overprints A7, disregarding certain differences in the shade of the overprinting ink, may readily be mistaken for Nos. 56-58, Nos. 75II-77II are generally collected in pairs, A7+A9, or vice versa, for which the above prices obtain.

Toward the end of 1927, with the return to the old overprinting type A7, with the wide set date, a definite overprint issue III came into use, being reissued as required up to the present time (Trans. time of writing probably 1934/35). Inasmuch as these overprints again have the same setting as the former Thom A7 overprints, they are distinguishable from these generally only by means of the ink of the overprint or their impression. The color of the overprints III, from the end of 1927 on is a deep black, whereas the Thom overprints Nos. 56-58 are either blue-black or dull black. Their impression also is much heavier and more sharply outlined than Nos. 56-58 so that the overprints actually appear relief-like on the reverse side of the stamps.

According to newspaper reports the Irish Post Office Department has now definitely decided to abandon the issue of the high values in the 1922 accepted designs and proposes instead, in cooperation with its Art Committee, to obtain new designs.

Nos. 75I - 77I

The overprinting plate A9 of the Government Printing Plant contained no actual errors, but did show, during the course of its use, in different values, definite recurring irregularities in certain of its subjects. In certain positions, mostly marginal or sheet corner stamps, the accents, particularly, printed so weakly, or so small, that they seemed to be missing completely. Broken letters are also found, for example; the o in (Sa)o(rstat) broken at right, the e in (Eir)e(ann) broken, appearing like a c.

Among the sheets of the 2sh.6d. used for No. 75I some showed the outer frame lines slightly doubled in subject 7, similar traces of doubling apparently occur in other sheet positions of this value.

Nos. 75II - 77II

The "mixed" plate for the 5 and 10sh. values was made up in a different arrangement than that for the 2sh.6d. value. The following diagrams show the location in the sheets of 40 stamps of the overprints A7 and A9 in the 5 and 10sh. plate, and in the 2sh.6d. plate (7=A7, 9=A9);—

7	7	9	9
7	7	9	9
7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7
9	7	9	7
9	7	9	7
7	7	9	9
7	7	9	9
7	7	9	7
7	7	9	7

2½ SH.

9	9	9	9
9	9	9	9
7	7	7	9
7	7	7	9
9	7	9	9
9	7	9	9
7	7	9	9
7	7	9	9
9	9	9	9
9	9	9	9

5+10 SH.

Accordingly sheets of No. 75II, 2sh.6d., contained 26 overprints A7 and only 14 overprints A9; whereas sheets of Nos. 76II and 77II, 5 and 10sh., contained only 12 overprints A7 and 28 overprints A9. The number of pairs of A7+A9 was greater in the sheets of the 2sh.6d. than in the sheets of the 5 and 10sh.

As a result of their poor condition, and in spite of the short time of their use, the "mixed" plates showed numerous recurring subject irregularities, among which the stamps with scarcely visible accents have the greatest desirability among collectors. In subject 22 of the 2sh.6d. sheets the S of Saorstat printed so weakly at times (scarcely visible) that in some sheets it was retraced manually with ink before distribution. In other subjects the date line almost appears as (1)0(99). Traces of light doubling of the frame lines also seem to occur in the 2sh.6d. No. 75II.

Nos. 75III - 77III

In the new plate or plates, from the end of 1927 on, showing the old A7 setting, various irregularities occur also, which in part repeat in the same positions in all of the three values, and again chiefly concern the accents, which in certain positions are hardly visible. Sheets of all three values have been preserved showing the accent on subject 34 as a "circumflex", the result of a mutilation.

CENTENARY OF THE CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION IN IRELAND



1929 June 22, bust of Daniel O'Connell, the pioneer of the Irish Catholics, with the inscription "Catholic Emancipation." Commemorative issue in connection with the Centennial of Apr. 1829, on which date the English Parliament enacted the law of Equal Rights for the Catholics. Designed by Leo Whelan of Dublin. Single color typography by the Stamping Department of the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin Castle. Watermark WI, Perf. 15 x 14.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
78	80	2d. grey green, dull dark. (FD 6/22/29)	.20	.05
78 FI	—	right value shield retouched, Pos. 180	7.50	7.50
79	81	3d. blue	.35	.35
80	82	9d. violet	.75	.75

The commemorative issue was issued on June 22, 1929 and became obsolete on Sept. 30, 1929. Sheet arrangement was the same as in the definite issue, namely 240 stamps in two panes of 120 (12x10), separated by a horizontal gutter, each pane surrounded by an interrupted Jubilee line and the gutter subjects containing the usual cross ruled bars.

No. 78 FI. The upper frame line of the lower right hand value shield of subject 180, right marginal stamp of the 15th row, shows a strong thickening running from a point above the number to the line surrounding the central oval. It is supposed to be due to a redrawing of this line which had become damaged from some cause or other. Stamps from this position 180 showing the damage have never shown up. The retouch is known used on first day of issue. In later printings the thickening of the line in position 180 does not seem to have continued.

A further variety, "Pen behind ear", was not found until two years after the stamps had been withdrawn. This variety consists of a white scratch running across four of the background lines beginning directly at the ear of O'Connell. Price about 7.50.

ISSUE COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE RIVER SHANNON HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT



1930 Oct. 15, commemorative issue in connection with the opening of the River Shannon hydro-electric development supplying the entire Free State with electricity. Design by E. L. Laurenson. Single color typography by the Stamping Department. Watermark W 1. Perf. 15 x 14.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
81	83	2d. black brown	.20	.05

Although, according to official notice the stamps were not to be put on sale until Oct. 16, it has been proven that several Dublin Post Offices sold them across the counter on Oct. 15. During the currency of these stamps, from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31, 1930, the issuing of the regular 2d. stamps was suspended. The sheets contained only 120 stamps (12x10).

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY



1931 June 10, Mower with scythe, and at bottom the inscription 1731-1931 Royal Dublin Society. Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Society on June 25, 1931. Design by G. Atkinson. Single color typography by the Stamping Department. Watermark W 1, Perf. 15 x 14.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
82	84	2d. light blue	.20	.05

The color was chosen with regard to the color of the banner of the Royal Society. The sheets contained 240 stamps, 20 rows of 12.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN DUBLIN



1932 May 12, center showing Chalice and Cross of Cong from the Irish National Museum in Dublin. Issued in commemoration of the opening of the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. Design by G. Atkinson. Typography, watermark and perforation as before.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
83	85	2d. grey green	.20	.05
84	86	3d. blue	.25	.25

This was the first Irish stamp design containing other than Gaelic inscriptions. The stamps lost their validity after two months, on July 12, 1932.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. HOLY YEAR CELEBRATION



1933 Sept. 18, design, Adoration of the Cross, by J. R. King. Typography, watermark and perforation as before.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
85	88	2d. grey green	.20	.10
86	89	3d. blue	.25	.25

During the currency of this issue the issuing of regular stamps of these values was suspended. Nos. 85 & 86 were to have lost their validity at the end of 1933, but they remained in use until Easter 1934.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE. GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



1934 June 27, Hurling player with stick. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Design by J. R. King. Typography, watermark and perforation as before.

Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
87	90	2d. green	—	—

Sheets of No. 87 contained 240 stamps, divided into two groups of 12x10 stamps, separated by a vertical gutter. Small constant plate varieties. Expected currency until the end of 1934 (Trans. time of writing).

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

British postage due stamps without overprint were used in the Irish Free State until February 1925, (see VOL. III page 809, etc.). After the looting of the southerly located Irish post offices by the I. R. A. on Jan. 6, 1923, several of the post offices in Cork and surrounding territory are supposed to have used the British postage due stamps provisionally for regular postage stamps. To date the only known example, showing Jan. 8, 1923 usage, is that contained in the Agnew Collection, which brought £5 at the sale of this collection. According to catalogue description it was on a piece of cover, and for this reason offers very little proof. Also, up to now, the official authorization for such use has not become known.

Beginning Sept. 1, 1924 all parcel post packages arriving from abroad, including those from Great Britain, were subject to a socalled 6d. "Delivery Fee", collected from the addressee upon delivery of the package by means of postage due stamps. There was no 6d. value in the British postage due series, package wrappers from abroad, therefore, generally show pairs of the 3d. with Irish cancellations together with foreign stamps franking the package. Customs duties levied on the contents of such packages were also collected, on delivery by the P. O. D., by means of postage due stamps. For this purpose special Customs Offices were, or are, established in close proximity to each main post office.

The collection of fiscal fees by means of postage due stamps continued for a time also after the issuing of Irish postage due stamps in February 1925, and no

doubt the 6d. value was originally issued primarily for the purpose of collecting the above mentioned "Delivery Fee" for parcel post. From Nov. 1, 1925 on the use of postage due stamps for fiscal purposes was officially ordered discontinued. Since this time the duties levied by the Customs Department on parcel post packages are recorded by means of the higher values of the regular postage stamps, and the packages themselves simply have a label attached showing the amount of duty due. The 6d. "Delivery Fee", covering all incoming foreign parcel post, including that coming in from Great Britain and Northern Ireland, continues to be collected up to the present time, see P. O. Guide 1935 page 34, etc., also page 83, etc.

1925 Feb. 20, top inscription in Gaelic and English. Single color typography, supposedly produced by the Stamping Department in Dublin Castle. Multiple watermark W 1, normally upright, exceptionally sidewise, perf. 14 x 15.



Munk	Scott		Unused	Used
1	301	½d. green	.05	.12
2	302	1d. rose carmine	.10	.12
3	303	2d. grey green	.15	.12
4	304	6d. lilac purple	.45	.30

According to regulations postage due stamps may not or could not be sold to the public in unused condition.

Sheet Arrangement and Marginal Imprint.

Counter sheets contain 60 stamps, 10x6, completely surrounded by an interrupted Jubilee line. On the other hand, the complete press sheets consist either of 3 or even of 6 such panes of 60 stamps, which conclusion Vesey reached (Lond. Phil. 1929 pages 236/7) by means of the following circumstances;—the panes of 60 show either on the right, left or both cut margins a marginal imprint of short horizontal lines about 1.5mm apart. The panes showing the imprint on both sides are evidently the center counter sheets of entire press sheets, whose left, respectively right, panes show the imprint either on the right or left cut margins only.

Aside from sheets showing the upright watermark, others are occasionally found with the watermark sidewise, 2d. and 6d. values. According to Vesey this could be due to the fact that the entire press sheets are approximately square and that, as a result of this, sheets were inadvertently inserted in the press with the watermark in the wrong direction. This explanation is probably correct. It is also possible that the sidewise watermark was not caused accidentally, but was due to the desire to use up socalled part sheets, or similar, sheets of paper (see Vol. I page 998).

The panes seem to have been made from one masterplate of 60 subjects, 10x6, because the most collected plate variety of the postage due stamps, the 1d. with socalled inverted Q in (P)o(stage) is found in all counter panes in the lower left hand corner stamp irrespective of the marginal imprints. A further constant variety of the 1d., subject 30 in the sheet, consists of a white dot in the background below the right corner of the band bearing the value inscription.

Besides sidewise watermarks some of these stamps are also found with the watermark inverted.

FINIS

Book Reviews

by

MALCOLM JOHNSON

Send all books to be reviewed to the Editor Collectors Club Philatelist, 22 E. 35th St., New York City.

Please mention sale price. It is of interest to our Readers.

LOCAL POST OF CHINA. By Dr. W. Rosenberg. Cloth, 142 pages, map, 6 color plates, 200 halftones. Price $2.00. Shanghai: published by the author, 934 Bubbling Well Road.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century stamp collectors became aware of a flood of new locals coming out of the treaty ports of China. They were interesting in design and inexpensive in price, and some of the ports were agreeable to supplying surcharges inverted, double, in two colors, or otherwise to order. For a few years the stamps were issued in large quantities, and since a certain percentage were actually used for the payment of postage, the great catalogues listed them, and collectors acquired large supplies. Some of the issues were more suspect than others; the Tientsin set, imitating the design of the classic first Chinese issue, was soon blacklisted, although as late as 1911 Dr. Rommel considered it legitimate at least in its inception; and the operations of one Arthur Gregson at Wuhu caused a good deal of acid comment. From the point of view of the ports themselves the authorised issues were highly successful; one Municipal Council was able to build a new park with the proceeds. The local posts continued until 1897, when the Imperial Government began to take complete control of the post-office, and the locals of the treaty ports, of Shanghai, and the issues of the Customs postal administration were all done away with.

A few years later an organization with the formidable name of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps began to question the status of all the treaty port locals, cataloguers ceased to list them, and they fell into disrepute. There, except for a few great collections, for the most part they remained until the last few years. Beyond Oldfield, Rommel and Mencarini, who wrote a brochure on Amoy, the literature is not extensive. Recently the ports have come more into favor, and such China catalogues as those of Roman and Stephens have properly listed them. But Dr. Rosenberg's work, for all its occasional defects, is the first thoroughgoing book for the specialist. It has the merit of careful printing, particularly in its magnificent color plates, of a realistic appraisal of values, and a minute examination of many platings. There are some peculiar omissions, such as that of the Ichang 1 candarin, type II, and there is nothing on postal stationery, but on the whole these are minor points, in view of the pioneering done along many lines. Almost every known variety of plating, paper and perforation is listed, and in addition to the prices of standard items, there is given the price paid by the author for unusual pieces, an idea that might be followed more often in similar specialised guides.

Dr. Rosenberg makes an excellent case for treaty port collecting as did Oldfield before him, and for proper catalogue listing. The line troubled cataloguers must draw when they omit these issues as speculative, but include miniature sheets and the Worlds Fair issues of the Portuguese colonies, is not one to discuss here, but Dr. Rosenberg's arguments make interesting reading.

POSTAGE CENTENNIAL—PAN AMERICAN JUBILEE ISSUES. 54 pages. Price 10c. New York: The Sun.

This is another of the booklets compiled from Franklin R. Bruns' articles in the Sun, together with contributions from such experts as Philip H. Ward, Jr. It deals with the centenary of postage, describing in simple fashion both the earliest postage stamps and the various issues which last year commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the penny black, together with the fiftieth anniversary of the Pan American Union and the issues produced in connection with it. Well illustrated and non-technical.

GUNESCH CATALOG OF CITY-TYPE COIL PRECANCELS. Second Edition 1941. 90 pages, illustrated. Price $1.00. Chicago: Gunesch Precancel House.

This highly specialised catalogue of one branch of precancel collecting is distinguished not only by its format and arrangement, but by W. G. Bateman's long study of the whole subject of city-type coil precancels; a model of writing about a complicated philatelic field. Beginning with the earliest privately-made coils he gives the simplest possible guide to the coil varieties, as well as to the kinds of precancelling to which they have been subjected, supplying not only the technical data but the background of the various changes in both stamps and precancels. The body of the catalogue is classified by states and cities, and the prices are a close approximation of market, having been determined by an analysis of the Gunesch stock plus information from a wide group of specialists. When the first edition was published in 1928, these coils were at the height of their popularity, and while there has been a decline—not in their collecting but in their use—in recent years, they are still found in many postal areas. The new edition lists nearly three times as many varieties as the first, and thoroughly overhauls the early material. Since many precancels of this type are known to exist in a handful or less of copies, the cooperation of collectors is bespoken in turning up now unrecorded items.

The format, for a specialised working catalogue, is well-planned, with a 6″ x 9″ page, and spiral, flat-opening binding.

WHO'S WHO ON THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRAZIL. By Rogelio E. Alfaro. 19 pages, 1 plate. Price 10c. Washington, D. C.; Pan American Union.

This is the third in Mr. Alfaro's series of pamphlets on the men whose portraits appear on the stamps of Latin America. It forms a thumbnail biographical dictionary to Brazil's great figures, and includes a compact sketch of Brazilian history in the foreword by Carlos Martins, the country's ambassador at Washington.

Brazil is a popular country among collectors, for its stamps predate our own and some of them are among philately's classics, but this pamphlet, as did its predecessors, points up the almost complete ignorance existing here about the men who made Latin America. Of all the portraits Brazil has used only those of three of our own statesmen, Washington, Cleveland and Roosevelt, are identifiable by most collectors.

Other booklets in this series will appear in the course of the year, all uniform in price and format.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF TIBET. By H. R. Holmes. 24 pages, illustrated. Price 5/. Leominster, England: Sefi, Pemberton & Co.

The late Theodore M. Newman's articles on Tibet, appearing in the Philatelist last year, coincided closely with the original publication of this monograph in the pages of the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain. The immense amount of research and of correspondence with Tibet that Mr. Newman carried on gave him material for a thorough study of a hitherto hardly known postal system, a study that is ably supplemented by the present work.

The postal history of Tibet includes that of Indian, Chinese and Tibetan post-offices, and of the stamps and postmarks of all three countries. The first purely Tibetan issue appeared in 1913, and altogether there have been only two, both confined to low values, both produced locally by native workmen, and both difficult to obtain. Unlike so many other postal administrations, the Tibetan has issued stamps for use only, and has so far ignored the supplying of collectors with stamps, let alone first day covers, cachets and commemoratives, that a brisk business has been done from time to time by Indian forgers.

A poor, sparsely populated and aloof country, using an obscure language, and shut off geographically and by tradition from the rest of the world, it offers a hard, but fascinating field of study, from the period of the first Indian Field Post offices through the present time. This is a definitive guide to the whole subject, although it is to be regretted that the Newman articles are not also available in bound form.

TASCO EDUCATIONAL BOOKLETS ON UNITED STATES STAMPS. Springfield: Tatham Stamp & Coin Co. Volume T1, The One and Two Cent Issues of 1890 to 1898. Price $1.50; Volume T2, The One Cent Issues of 1870 to 1888. Price 40c; Volume T3, The Three Cent Issues of 1870 to 1887. Price 30c; Volume T4, The Two Cent Issues of 1908 to 1920. Price 50c.

The best way to distinguish between certain difficult United States issues is to use the stamps themselves for illustrations. These card-fold guides do exactly that, pointing out minor variations through mounted copies of the stamps, and using an enlarged line-cut for the finer points. Recommended for beginners in the field of United States issues, and for the general collector who has trouble with the many variants that cannot be easily separated by the use of a catalogue alone.

STAMPS OF THE PRIVATE BYPOSTS OF NORWAY. By Stian Sanness and H. R. Holmes. 30 pages, illustrated, attached photograph. New Malden, England: Printed for private circulation.

Between 1856 and 1889 the Norwegian postoffice permitted a series of local delivery systems to be set up in various towns, the postoffice itself making, with few exceptions, no town deliveries during that period. These systems were called byposts, and in most instances issued adhesives. Some of them were legitimate throughout, and served a real postal need; others, as with the treaty ports, have a standing somewhat open to question, and the stamps, whether speculative or not, have never been widely collected.

Probably all existing information on them has been brought together in this learned and highly specialised brochure, reprinted from The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain. It is at once a catalogue and check-list, an historical survey, and a study of the firms and individuals who operated the byposts. For the specialist in Norway it surveys a comparatively unknown field, although one not likely to attract many new adherents.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE IN STAMPS OF THE AMERICAS. By Dr. Aristides A. Moll. 8 pages, 5 plates. Washington, D. C.: Publication No. 158 of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Brief but thorough sketches of all stamps issued by the American republics relating to medicine or public health, together with illustrations of each issue mentioned. Interesting chiefly as an outline for a small special collection.

JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS. By Yokiti Yamamoto. 148 pages, 1 color plate, 160 halftones. Tokyo: Japanese Government Railways.

The Tourist Library, a series of government subsidized booklets dealing with various aspects of Japanese life, now includes a handsome, gravure-printed descriptive catalogue of Japanese postage stamps. No attempt is made to explore minor varieties, but every regular issue is pictured, described in detail, and supplied with dates of issue and surrounding historical material. The result is a compact and readable guide to Japanese postal history which, if it contains now and then some propaganda, nevertheless is an attractive and useful piece of work of a type none too common in philatelic literature.

Additions to Our Library

We Knapps Thought It Was Nice. By Edward Spring Knapp. Gift of "The Knapp Family."

Straight Edge (Roosevelt Philatelic Society, Chicago) Complete file of Vols. I to VI. Gift of Mr. William C. Richards, Chicago.

Newspaper Tax Stamps of Great Britain. The First Issue 1712-1757. By Sydney R. Turner.

Photostat of poster dated 1775 issued by Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General showing rates of postage. Gift of Mr. Sterling T. Dow, Portland, Me.

Muller Katalog, Schweiz/Liechtenstein. 1941 Edition. Gift of Ernst Muller.

Stamps Magazine. Bound copy of Vol. XXXIV. Gift of H. L. Lindquist.

Donation of large number of separate issues of magazines needed in our files. Gift of Stephen G. Rich.

Regent Stamp Catalogue, March, 1941 section (Vol. II Jan. 1931-March, 1941) 11th edition. Gift of Mr. Robson Lowe.

The Postage Stamps of Tibet. By H. R. Holmes. Gift of Author.

The Stamps of the Private Byposts of Norway by Stian Sanness and H. R. Holmes. Gift of H. R. Holmes.

Ofilma Catalogo General de Sellos de Espana. Edicion 1940. Gift of publishers.

Boletin de Informacion Filatelica "Ofilma". Complete file to date. (28 issues) Gift of publishers "Ofilma" Malaga, Spain.

Catalogo AFHA de los Sellos Mundiales 1939-40. Gift of publishers, Agencia Filatelica Hispanoamericana, Barcelona, Spain.

Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Canada & British North America. 7th Edition. Published by and gift of A. H. Vincent, Montreal, P. Q.

Schedule of Mail Routes (No. 451, 534 and 592) Railway Mail Service. Gift of C. J. Frost.

Hinton's Hints on Stamp Collecting. 3rd Edition 1908.

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Published Quarterly by THE COLLECTORS CLUB,
W. R. M'COY, Editor
Office of Publication, 104 Academy Ave., Federalsburg, Md.
Editorial and Executive Offices, 22 East 35th Street, New York City.

Subscription Rates $3.00 per Year *Advertising Rates*
Single Copies $1.00 *Upon Request*

Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1927, at the Post Office at Federalsburg, Maryland, under Act of March 3, 1879.

Treaty Port Postmarks on Hong Kong Stamps. By G. T. Bishop and C. S. Morton. Gift of publisher H. E. Johnson (CC) London.

Travelling Post Office. Great Britain G. P. O.

The Travelling Post Office—Green Paper No. 24a. G. B. PO Dept.

Night Mail. Great Britain G. P. O.

List of Travelling Post Offices, Sorting Carriages and Bag Tenders. Great Britain G. P. O.

Irish T. P. O.'s, Their History and Postmarks. By C. W. Ward. Gift of H. G. Zervas.

Tasco Educational Booklets on United States Stamps. 4 books. Issued by and gift of Tatham Stamp & Coin Co., Springfield, Mass.

Catalogo AFHA de los Sellos de Espana (Jan., 1850-Dec., 1940) Issued by and gift of Agencia Filatelica Hispanoamericana, Barcelona.

Postage Stamps of the United States 1847-1869. 14th Edition.

Postage Stamps of the United States 1870-1893. 13th Edition.

Postage Stamps of the United States 1894-1900. 11th Edition.

Postage Stamps of the United States 1901-1937. 16th Edition.
The above four books issued by Stanley Gibbons, Inc. and gift of Capt. G. W. N. Usticke of that company.

Bound volume containing Vol. I-II of A. F. F. (Philippine Is.) Gift of J. W. Longnecker.

Postage Centennial—Pan American Jubilee Issues. Published by New York "SUN" Gift of Franklin R. Bruns, Jr.

Catalogue and History of Mexican Postal Aviation. By Paul F. Berdanier, Jr.

United States Grilled Stamps. Edited by and gift of Harry E. Murphy.

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Word has recently reached this country of the destruction of the famous Vallancey library in London.

Mr. F. Hugh Vallancey has long been one of the prominent dealers and publishers in the English philatelic literature field, as well as being the author of a number of articles and books on philatelic subjects, and a collector of prominence. His "Guide to Philatelic Literature" has been a standard work for many years.

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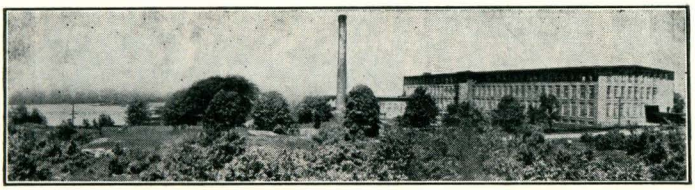
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290	10c Gray Violet	2.00	3.00	27.00		.40	.70
SET	1c to 10c (6 Var.)	6.00	9.85	68.00		2.40	3.75
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294	1c Green & Black	.17	.25	1.00	1.50	.05	.07
295	2c Carmine & black	.20	.28	1.50	2.00	.02	.03
296	4c Brown & Black	1.00	1.60	9.00	11.50	.27	.35
297	5c Blue & Black	1.00	1.60	9.50	12.00	.50	.80
298	8c Violet & Black	1.70	2.60	13.00	16.00	1.40	1.90
299	10c Brown & Black	2.00	3.00	16.00	21.00	.60	.90
SET	1c to 10c (6 var.)	5.50	8.65	45.00	59.00	2.60	3.75
	1904 LOUISIANA PURCHASE						
323	1c Green	.28	.50	1.85	2.80	.12	.18
324	2c Carmine	.30	.55	3.00	5.00	.04	.05
325	3c Violet	1.35	2.00	8.00	11.50	1.20	1.60
326	5c Blue	2.00	3.00	15.00	23.00	.70	1.15
327	10c Brown	5.00	7.00			1.00	1.35
SET	1c to 10c (5 var.)	8.00	12.00			2.75	4.00
	1907 JAMESTOWN						
328	1c Green	.22	.40	1.50	2.00	.10	.13
329	2c Carmine	.30	.55	1.60	2.50	.05	.07
330	5c Blue	1.45	3.00	13.75	25.00	.80	1.35
SET	1c to 5c (3 var.)	1.80	3.65	15.25	27.50	.85	1.45

	POSITION BLOCKS		
287	4c orange, Left arrow (4)	—	20.00
288	5c blue, Right arrow (4)	22.50	—
288	5c blue, Top Plate (4)	18.00	—
288	5c blue, Top Cor. Plate (8)	32.00	—
288	5c blue, Bottom Cor. Plate (8)	32.00	—
323	1c green, Bottom Plate (4)	—	4.50
324	2c Carmine, Bottom Plate (4)	—	6.00
325	3c purple, Left Arrow (4)	—	22.00
325	3c purple, Bottom Plate (4)	15.00	—
325	3c purple, Right Arrow (4)	17.50	—
326	5c blue, Right Arrow (4)	30.00	—
330	5c blue, Top Plate (6)	35.00	—

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