



**The Washington-Franklin Head Issues
Special 100th Anniversary Tribute**

Washington Franklin Head Issues

By

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09 SEPTEMBER 2009

3rd Bureau Issue

- Start Date: 1908
- End Date: 1922
- Purpose of Definitives
- Numbers of Stamps Estimated
- Two (2) Vignette Designs
 - Washington
 - Franklin





435

- 35 ★★ #304, 5c Blue, an eye-catching jumbo-margined mint example of this always difficult value, possessing near perfect centering within uncharacteristically wide margins all around, deep rich color and a razor-sharp impression on fresh white paper, pristine original gum, Never Hinged, Extremely Fine; a large-margined gem and rare thus; 2007 P.S.E. certificate with the conservative grade of XF 90J. (Photo) S.M.Q. for normal 510.00



436



437

- 136 ★★ #305, 6c Claret, a well centered single, beautiful fiery rich color and sharp clear impression, original gum, Never Hinged, choice Very Fine; 2002 P.F. certificate. (Photo)170.00
- 137 ★★ #306, 8c Violet black, large margins, bright vivid shade, original gum, Never Hinged, Very Fine and desirable. (Photo)105.00



438



439

Five Scott Listings



A138
Only one value:
"ONE CENT"



A139
Only one value:
"TWO CENTS"



A140
Values from 1 cent
through 1 dollar



A148
Values from 8 cents
through 1 dollar



A149
2 dollars & 5 dollars

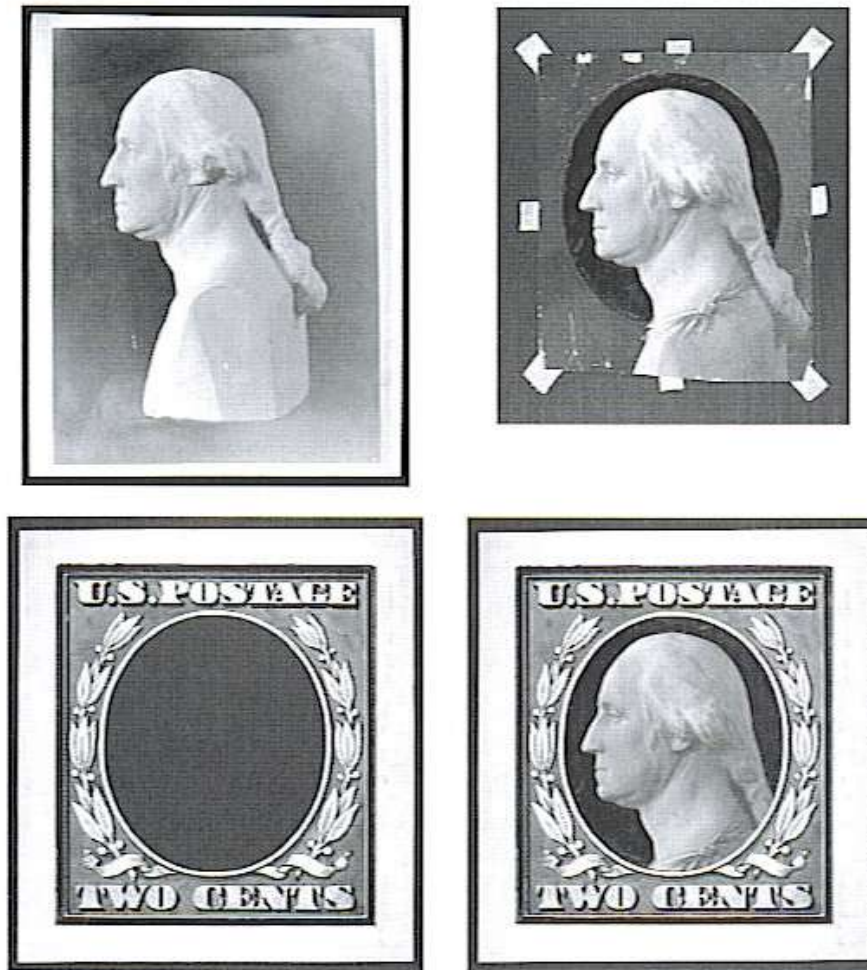


Figure 71. Essays, proofs, trial colors – Artwork – Large photo and frame mat. The unique original artwork used in the design and production of the entire Washington head series. The artwork began with an 8 x 10 inch photo of a Washington bust by Houdon. The photo was retouched with black and white wash. A matte was prepared for the frame design and overlaid on the retouched photo. The matte shows the “two cent” denomination. Artwork for other denominations was created by an overlay on the lower lettering before being photographed and reduced to stamp size.





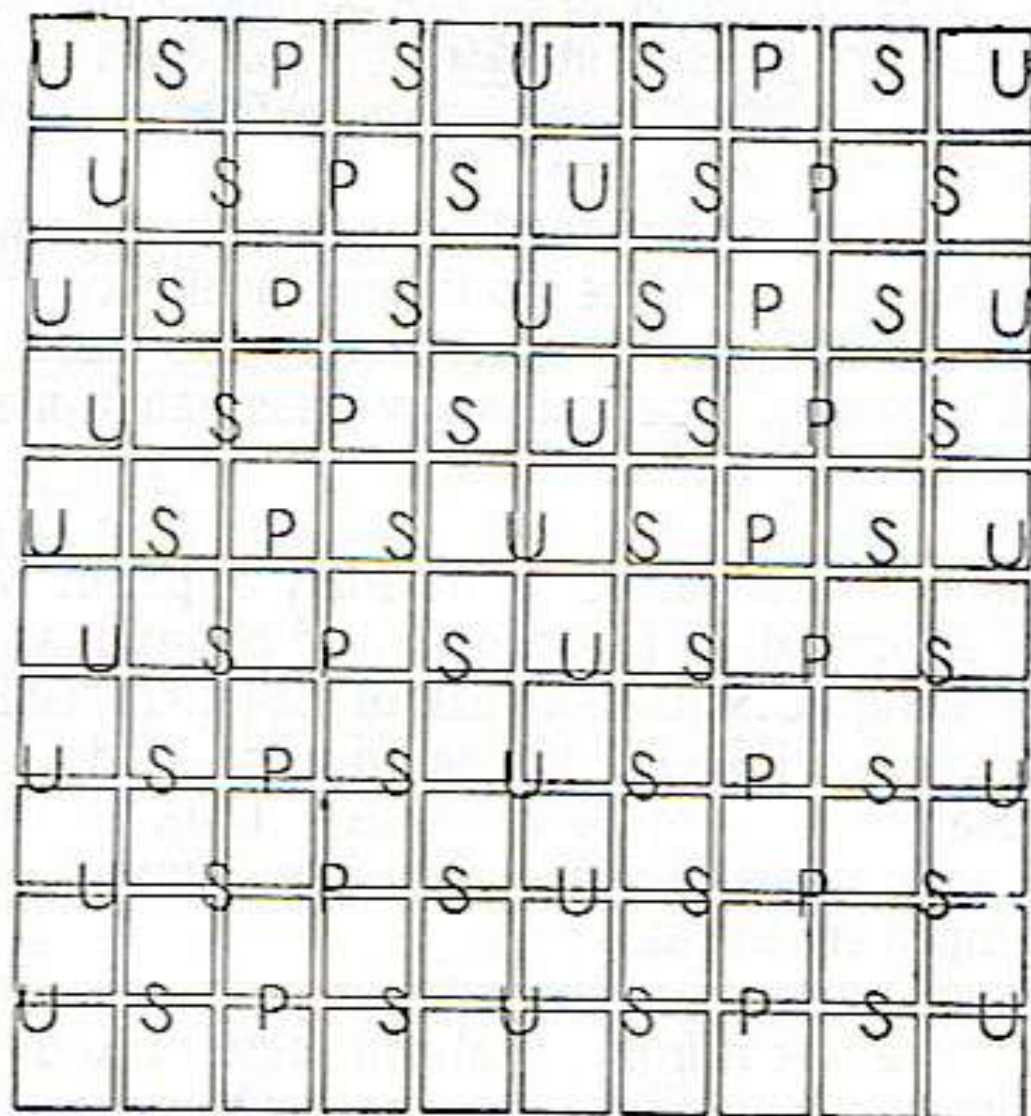


**Regular 100% wood pulp
paper**



**35% rag content "bluish"
paper**

U	S	P	S	U	S	P	S	U
S	P	S	U	S	P	S	U	S
P	S	U	S	P	S	U	S	P
S	U	S	P	S	U	S	P	S
U	S	P	S	U	S	P	S	U
S	P	S	U	S	P	S	U	S
P	S	U	S	P	S	U	S	P
S	U	S	P	S	U	S	P	S
U	S	P	S	U	S	P	S	U



Wmk. 190

PERIOD OF USE

Postage: 1910-1916

Revenue: 1914

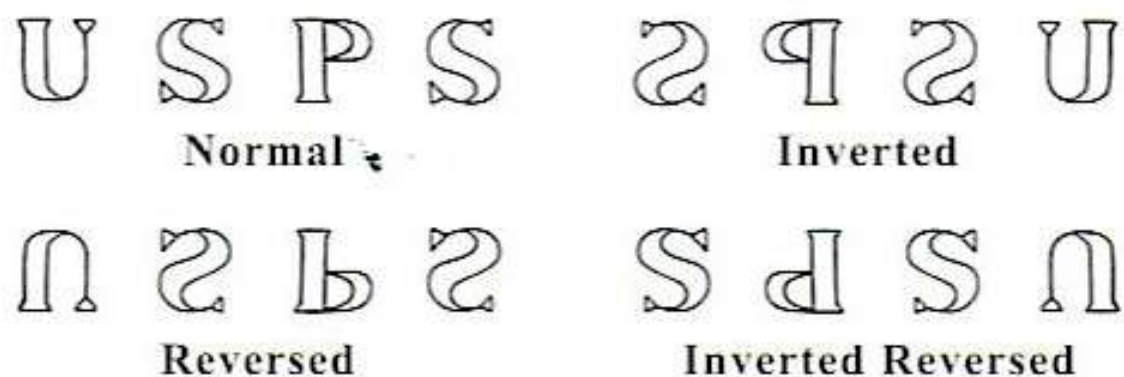


Figure 4. Four orientations of the double line watermark in its horizontal position, as seen from the back of the stamps with the stamp subjects upright. Some stamps, such as booklet panes and First Bureau Issues from 200-subject plates, have the watermark in a vertical position. The same four orientations can be found on those issues.

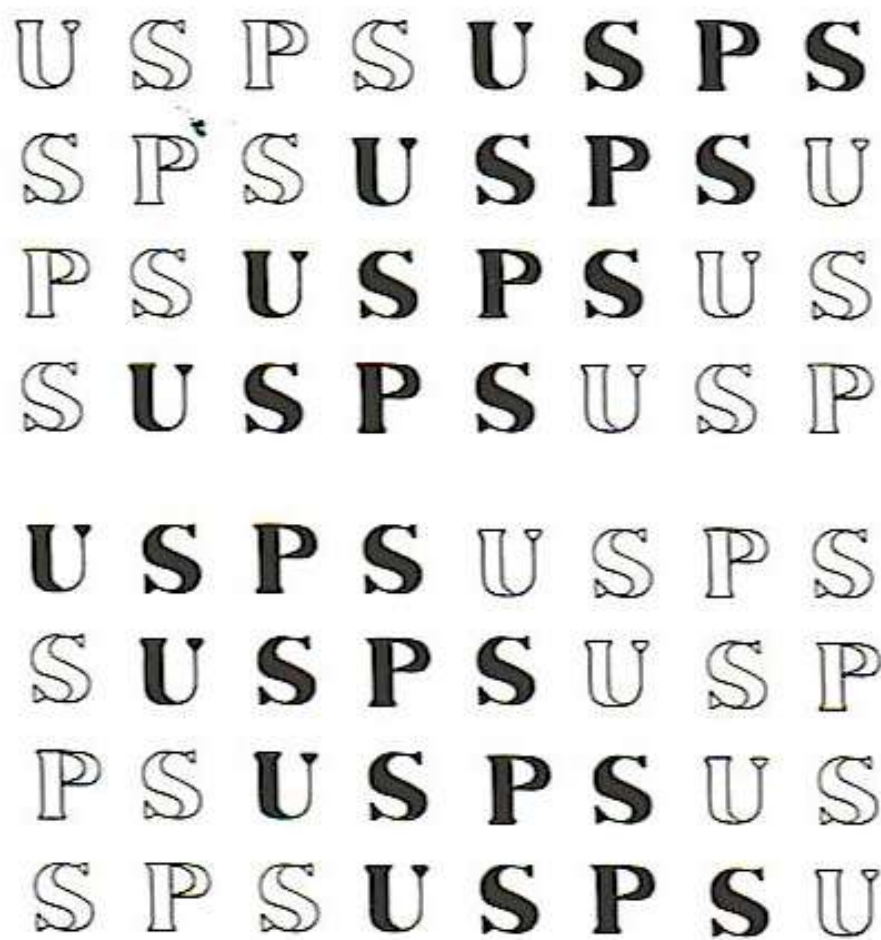


Figure 5. “Backward-stepping” USPS double line watermark pattern, the pattern now illustrated in Scott catalogs, at top of illustration. “Forward-stepping” watermark pattern, the newly recognized watermark pattern, at bottom.

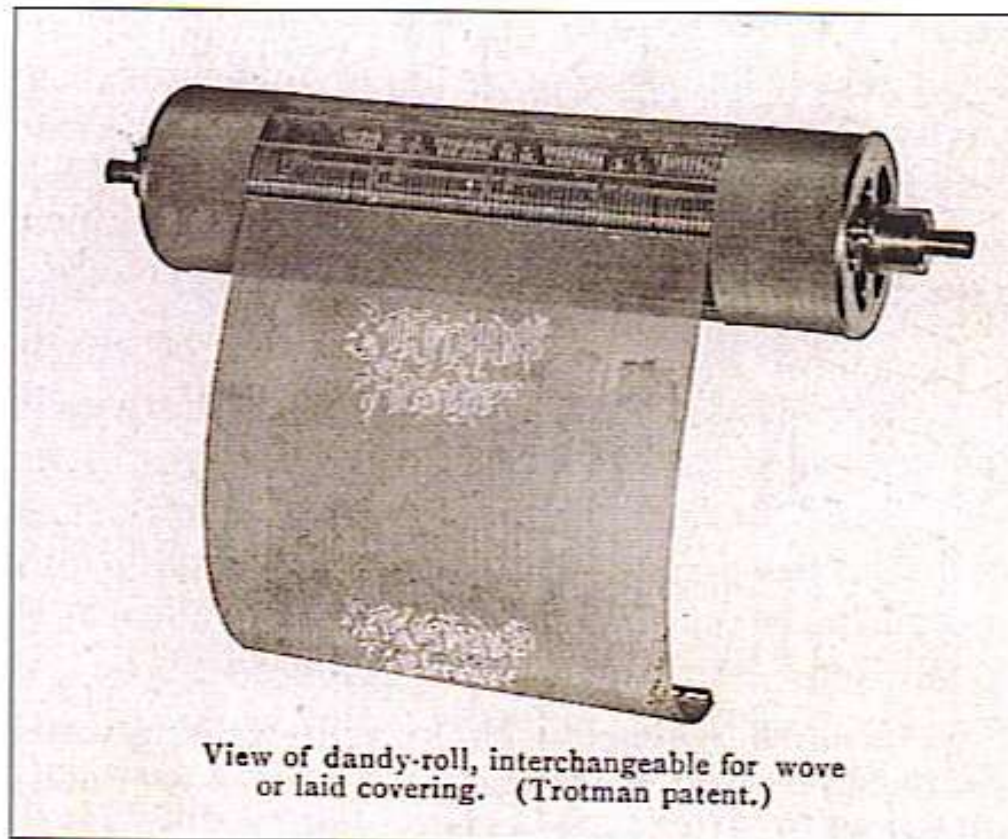
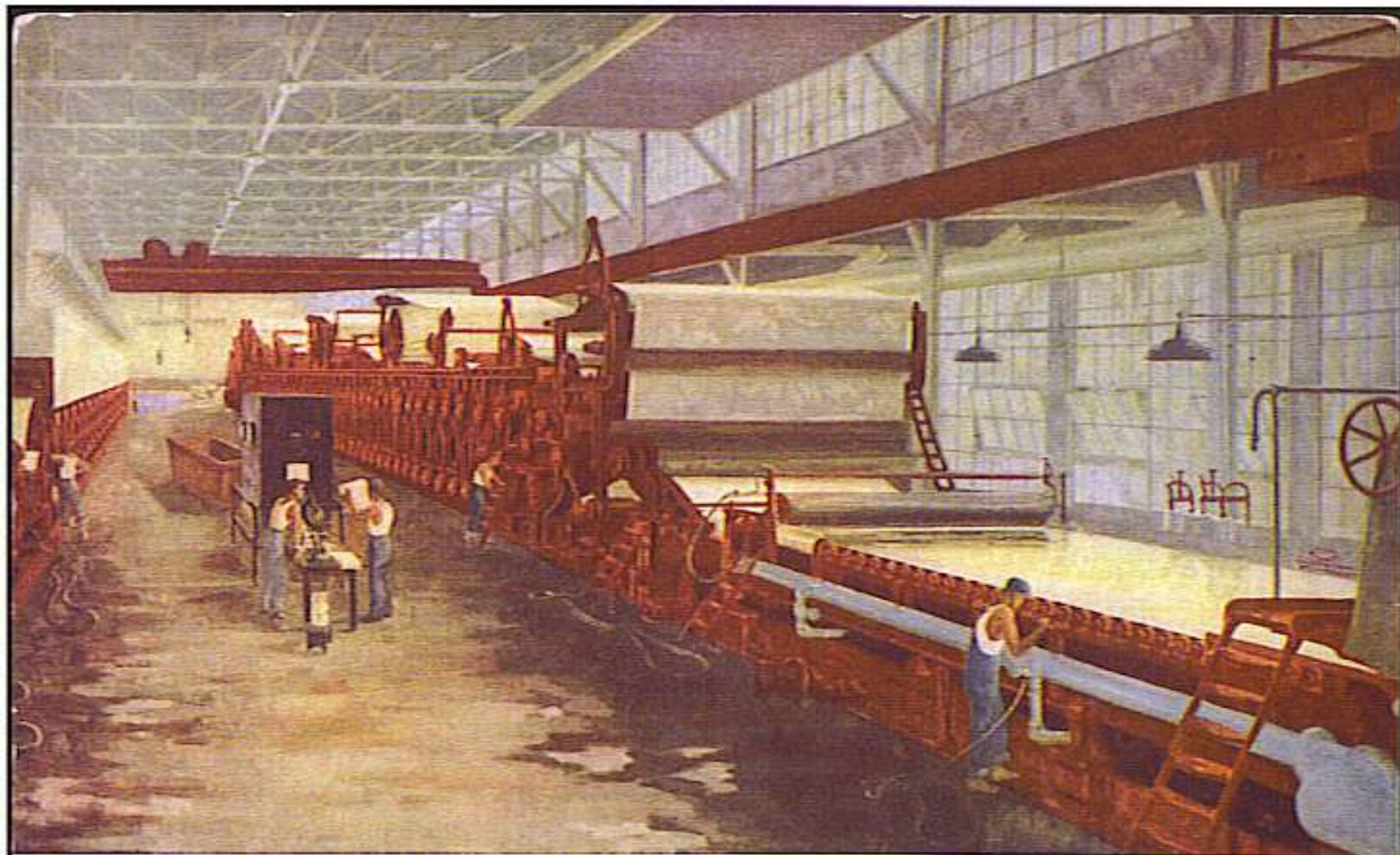


Figure 6. A dandy roll, the device with raised wires that imparts the watermark to the paper as it is formed. This example, showing the Trotman patent device, readily allows different watermarks to be produced without removing the entire dandy roll from the paper making machine.



Machine Room, Mill No. 2 of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company, Parchment, Michigan



Figure 17. Use of 3 printing presses. 1¢ stamps Scott #498, #545 and #525, examples of stamps printed by intaglio flat plate press, intaglio rotary press and offset lithographic press, respectively. Each type of press produced stamps of differing heights and widths, and differing ratios of these dimensions. In addition, slightly different perforations were applied to flat and offset press products than were used on rotary press issues.



Figure 13. Scott #498-499, #501-504, #506-518, perforated 11 issues on unwatermarked paper.



Figure 109. Overprints – Shanghai overprints. In 1912-13, Postmaster John Darrah at the U.S. Postal Agency in China, located in Shanghai, had stamps in stock at the time handstamped in black “S’HAI, CHINA.” in two lines. Shown here are Scott #405-406, #376-378, #336-337, #416, #418 and #421, so called Type I “Darrah overprints” that appear on Washington-Franklin head issues. These very scarce overprints were classified by the Post Office Department as precancels and so have not been listed in Scott catalogs.





Major Design Changes: Scott 523 & 524

The Evolution of the Washington-Franklin Series 1908-1922

Year:	Change:	Reason for Change:
<u>1908:</u>	-----	no change: Perf 12, Double-line Watermark, First Design, Flat Plate
1909:	<u>Blue Papers</u>	to strengthen the paper (higher rag content) and to reduce shrinkage
1910:	<u>Single-line Watermark</u>	to strengthen the paper (less paper removed in the watermarking process)
1910:	<u>Perf 8.5</u>	to lessen the separation of stamps in vending machines (a lesser number of holes per inch)
1912:	<u>New Designs</u>	to comply with International Postal Union guidelines and to make differentiate denominations easier

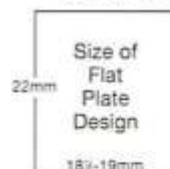
1914:	<u>Perf 10</u>	to lessen separation of the stamps in the sheets themselves and to make it easier to separate the coil stamps (the 8.5 gauge proved difficult)
1915:	<u>Rotary Press with watermark</u>	faster and more efficient printing technique than the flat plate printing method, quality nearly as good. Enabled the production of much longer sheets, a must for coil roll production
1916:	<u>No Watermark</u>	cheaper than watermarked paper; also, watermarks difficult to detect and therefore not an effective deterrent to counterfeiters
1916 Coils:	<u>Rotary Press no watermark</u>	see the previous two reasons; this is actually not a change per se
1917:	<u>Perf 11</u>	to ease the separation of stamps, the perf 10 stamps sometimes tore when separating the sheet stamps

1919:	<u>Offset</u>	to eliminate the abrasive effects of the inferior inks available during the World War I era, by not using engraved plates: wear was minimized and the plates lasted longer
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1919-1923: In addition, although not a change per se, several important Washington Franklin stamps were issued from **coil sheet waste** and as **experimental rotary press** printings - [more ...](#)

Also in 1919, the U.S. Post Office delivered to Shanghai, China the then current Washington Franklins, perforated 11 stamps on unwatermarked paper stock. These stamps were subsequently overprinted "Shanghai China" and surcharged at double the original denomination on all values (the 1c through \$1), creating a new set of stamps (the 2c through \$2) with the ["Shanghai" overprint](#).







FRANKLIN AND WASHINGTON ISSUES OF 1908-22



Stamps printed on a rotary press are always slightly wider or taller than issues before 1954. These measurements do not apply to booklet stamps.

IDENTIFICATION CHART IDENTIFIES YOUR VALUABLE STAMPS

Numbers used below are from the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog. To identify any stamp in this series, first check the design type, comparing it to the illustrations at the top of the chart. Then check the perforations, and whether the stamp is single line or double line watermarked or unwatermarked. Now you can easily find out the Scott Catalog Number by checking down and across the chart. For example, a 1c Franklin, perforated 12, with a single line watermark, must be #374.

								
Perforation	Watermark	Other Identifying Features					For three 3c	For three 5c
PERF. 12	USPS	White paper	331	332			333-42	422-23
		Bluish gray paper	357	358			359-66	
	USPS	White paper	374	375	405	406	376-82 407	414-21
COIL 12	USPS	Perf. Horizontal	348	349			350-51	
		Perf. Vertical	352	353			354-56	
	USPS	Perf. Horizontal	385	386				
		Perf. Vertical	387	388			389	
IMPERF.	USPS		343	344			345-47	
	USPS	Flat Plate	383	384	408	409		
		Rotary Press				459		
	Unwatermarked	Flat Plate			481	482-82A	483-84	
		Offset			531	532-34B	535	
COIL 8 1/2	USPS	Perf. Horizontal	390	391	410	411		
		Perf. Vertical	392	393	412	413	394-96	
PERF. 10	USPS							460
	USPS				424	425	426-30	431-40
	Unwatermarked	Flat Plate			462	463	464-69	470-78
		Rotary Press			543			
COIL 10	USPS	Perf. Horiz.			441	442		
		Rotary			448	449-50		
		Perf. Vert.			443	444	445-47	
		Rotary			452	453-55	456-58	
	Unwatermarked	Perf. Horizontal			486	487-88	489	
		Perf. Vertical			490	491-92	493-96	497
PERF. 11	USPS			519				
	USPS					461		
	Unwatermarked	Flat Plate			498	499-500	501-07	508-18
		Rotary Press			544-45	546		
		Offset			525	526-28B	529-30	
Perf. 12 1/2	Unwatermarked	Offset			536			
11 x 10	Unwatermarked	Rotary			538	539-40	541	
10 x 11	Unwatermarked	Rotary			542			

* Design of #544 is 19mm, wide x 22 1/2 mm, high, #545 is 19 1/2 to 20mm, wide x 22 mm, high



Figure 2

Unwatermarked
1¢ Washington
stamp (481) per-
forated privately
with gauge 14
perforations by the
Boy Scouts of
America executive
council in 1922.



Figure 76. Essays, proofs, trial colors – Trial colors. Five examples of the color trials for the “TWO CENTS” design in various ink and paper colors. Shown here, #332TC, in blue on yellow paper and on white paper, dark blue, light blue, olive and violet brown ink colors.

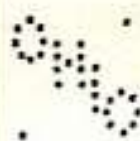


Figure 77. Essays, proofs, trial colors – Roosevelt proofs. Small die proofs, Scott #331P2-342P2, showing the first of the series in its issued colors. The illustration also shows an extra S1 in pink, the original color chosen but never issued (thus making this example a “trial color”). These proofs were pulled in late 1908 or early 1909 during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt.





COLOPHON DESIGN - E. HUBBARD



STANDARD OIL OF OHIO



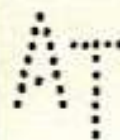
GIMBEL BROS.



M. J. WHITTEL CO.



SOUTHERN PACIFIC



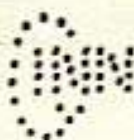
AMERICAN TRUST & SAVINGS



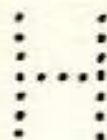
FRANKLIN NAT'L BANK



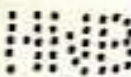
CUDAHY PACKING CO.



GINN CO.



CHASE, HARRIS, FORBES CO.



HANOVER NAT'L BANK



GENERAL ELECTRIC



9-HOLE SQUARE
PATTERN



U. T. HUNGERFORD CO.
NEW YORK, N.Y.



W. M. CRANE CO.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

AUSTIN NICHOLS CO.
NEW YORK, N.Y.

BABSON BROS.
CHICAGO, ILL.

Figure 178. Perfins. Schermack perfins. Schermack affixing machines could be supplied with the means to punch a perfin pattern on stamps as the stamps were dispensed. The pattern was usually a 9-hole square pattern, with different pins removed to allow a unique pattern to each user. The examples here are on Scott #343H and #344H.



Figure 185. Cancellations. Orangeburg coils. Comparing the cancellations that appear on rare stamps such as the Orangeburg coils (Scott #389) shown here provides useful information for expertising new examples that may be found. Note the great similarity of the cancel and its placement on each of these stamps.

Bibliography

- *The Washington-Franklin Heads: Simplified* by Larry Weiss
- *The Micarelli Identification Guide to US Stamps*
- *The Experts Book: Washington-Franklin Issues: 1908-1922* by Paul W. Schmid
- Happy 100th Birthday to George and Ben: The Washington-Franklin Centennial by Ken Lawrence in *SSM*, 12/2008