

# UNITED STATES STAMPS

1847-1929

POSTAGE

# 1847 ISSUE

Printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson

Imperforate



5c Red Brown  
Scott 1



10c Black  
Scott 2



*Portraits by Duplessis and Gilbert Stuart,  
used as the basis for the 1847 Issue*

# POSTAGE

## 1847 ISSUE

Printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson

Imperforate

Shades of the 1847 Issue



5c Red Brown  
Scott 1



5c Brown  
Scott 1 var



5c Pale Brown  
Scott 1 var



5c Brown  
Scott 1 var



5c Brown  
Scott 1 var



5c Walnut  
Brown  
Scott 1a var



5c Dark Brown  
Scott 1a



5c Dark Brown  
Scott 1a



5c Grayish Brown  
Scott 1a var



5c Blackish Brown  
Scott 1a var



5c Orange Brown  
Scott 1b



5c Deep Orange Brown  
Scott 1b var



5c Red Orange  
Scott 1c



5c Brown Orange  
Scott 1d

# POSTAGE

## 1851-56 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilier & Co.

Imperforate

Three new stamps — One, Three and Twelve-cent denominations — were deemed necessary after postage rates were revised by Congress during the Fillmore administration. Effective July 1, 1851, the basic rates became 1¢ for newspapers and circulars (with a distance escalation until 1852), 1¢ for drop letters, 3¢ for domestic letters sent up to 3,000 miles, and 6¢ for letters sent over 3,000 miles. Prepayment by stamps or stamped envelopes was not compulsory until 1856, but the convenience of stamps and reduction in rates led to

a rapid increase in stamp use and popularity.

Under Postmaster General Nathan K. Hall, the contract to print the 1851 Issue was awarded to one of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson's competitors, the Philadelphia firm of Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. (Casilear retired in October 1854; his name was included in plate imprints as late as 1857). The firm's original six-year contract was extended to 1861, during which time stamps of eight different denominations were issued.



1c Blue, Type I  
Scott 5



1c Blue, Type Ib  
Scott 5A



1c Blue, Type Ia  
Scott 6



1c Blue, Type Ic  
Scott 6b



Design complete at  
both top and bottom



Design complete at  
top, almost complete  
at bottom



Design incomplete at  
top, complete at bottom



Design incomplete at  
top, almost complete  
at bottom



1c Blue, Type II  
Scott 7



1c Blue, Type III  
Scott 8



1c Blue, Type IIIA  
Scott 8A



1c Blue, Type IV  
Scott 9



Design complete at  
top, incomplete  
scrolls at bottom



Outside curved lines  
broken at both top  
and bottom



Outside curved lines  
broken at either top  
or bottom (not both)



Outer lines recut at  
top or bottom or both





# POSTAGE

## 1851-56 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilier & Co.

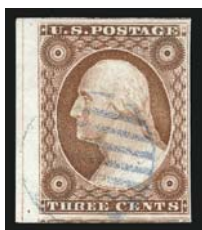
Imperforate



1c Blue, Type III  
Position 99R2  
Scott 8



1c Blue, Type IV  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 9a



3c Orange Brown, Ty. I  
Scott 10



Outer frames recut  
Inner frames normal



3c Orange Brown, Ty. II  
Scott 10A



Outer frames recut  
Inner frames recut



3c Dull Red, Ty. I  
Scott 11



Outer frames recut  
Inner frames normal



3c Dull Red, Ty. II  
Scott 11A



Outer frames recut  
Inner frames recut



3c Orange Brown  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 10a



3c Orange Brown, Ty. I  
Part India Paper  
Scott 10var



3c Orange Brown, Ty. II  
Part India Paper  
Scott 10Avar



3c Dull Red  
Double Impression  
Scott 11e

# POSTAGE

## 1851-56 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilier & Co.

Imperforate



5c Red Brown  
Scott 12



10c Green, Type I  
Scott 13



10c Green, Type II  
Scott 14



10c Green, Type III  
Scott 15



10c Green, Type IV  
Scott 16



Design incomplete  
at top, complete  
at bottom



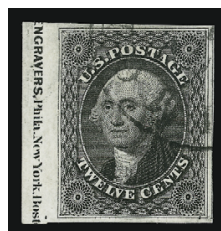
Design complete  
at top, incomplete  
at bottom



Design incomplete  
at top, incomplete  
at bottom



Design recut at top  
or bottom  
or both



12c Black  
Scott 17



12c Black  
Part India Paper  
Scott 17var



12c Black  
Very Thin Paper  
Scott 17var



12c Black  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 17c

# POSTAGE

## 1857-60 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

Perforated 15½

Three major developments in postage stamps occurred between 1857 and 1861: the introduction of perforations in 1857, the addition of three new high-value denominations in 1860, and the Federal demonetization order in 1861, which brought the era of Toppan, Carpenter postage stamps to a close.

In 1857 there were five current stamps: 1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 10¢ and 12¢ denominations. These remained the only stamps in circulation until the summer months of 1860, when the department under PMG Joseph Holt deemed it necessary to issue large denominations for prepayment of high transoceanic postage rates established

under various postal treaties with foreign nations. The increased use of adhesive stamps on foreign-bound letters created the need. Toppan, Carpenter was asked for three new values: 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢.

As Toppan, Carpenter's contract was due to expire in June 1861, the Civil War broke out and postal relations between the North and South were severed.

Concerned that supplies of postage stamps in secessionist hands might be sold as contraband, the Federal government demonetized all circulating stamps and issued new stamps printed by the National Bank Note Company.

One-cent types as imperforate, with addition of Type V which is incomplete at sides



1c Blue, Type I  
Scott 18



1c Blue, Type Ia  
Scott 19



1c Blue, Type Ic  
Scott 19b



1c Blue, Type II  
Scott 20



1c Blue, Type III  
Scott 21



1c Blue, Type III  
Position 99R2  
Scott 21



1c Blue, Type IIIA  
Scott 22



1c Blue, Type IV  
Scott 23



1c Blue, Type V  
Scott 24



1c Blue, Type Va  
Scott 24var



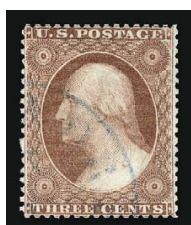
1c Blue, Type V  
Laid Paper  
Scott 24b



# POSTAGE 1857-60 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

Perforated 15½



3c Rose, Ty. I  
Scott 25



3c Rose, Ty. II  
Scott 25A



3c Dull Red, Ty. III  
Scott 26



3c Dull Red, Ty. IV  
Scott 26A



Outer lines end  
Inner frames normal



Outer lines end  
Inner frames recut



Outer lines continuous



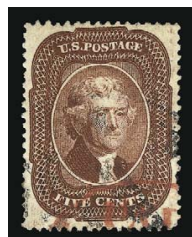
Outer frames extend  
only to top and  
bottom of stamp



3c Dull Red, Ty. III  
Double Impression  
Scott 26e



5c Brick Red  
Scott 27



5c Red Brown  
Scott 28



5c Bright Red Brown  
Scott 28b



5c Indian Red  
Scott 28A



5c Brown  
Scott 29



Type I  
Projections top and  
bottom intact



5c Orange Brown  
Type II — Scott 30



5c Brown, Type II  
Scott 30A



5c Brown, Type II  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 30Ab



Type II  
Projections top and  
bottom cut away



# POSTAGE 1857-60 ISSUE

Printed by Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

Perforated 15½

Ten-cent types as imperforate, with addition of Type V which is incomplete at sides



10c Green, Type I  
Scott 31



10c Green, Type II  
Scott 32



10c Green, Type III  
Scott 33



10c Green, Type IV  
Scott 34



10c Green, Type V  
Scott 35



Plate 1  
Outer lines complete



12c Black, Plate 1  
Scott 36



12c Black, Plate 3  
Scott 36B



Plate 3  
Outer lines weak  
or broken



24c Gray Lilac  
Scott 37



24c Gray  
Scott 37a



30c Orange  
Scott 38



90c Blue  
Scott 39

## POSTAGE

# 1875 REPRINT OF 1857-60 ISSUE

Printed by Continental Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Without Gum

The United States Post Office Department authorized Continental Bank Note Co. to reprint the stamps issued from 1851 through 1861, which had been demonetized in their final year of use. Four of the old Toppan, Carpenter plates were used for the reprints (5c, 24c, 30c and 90c). The 1c, 3c, 10c and 12c plates presumably could not be located, so Continental made new plates of

100 subjects.

The 1851-57 Reprints were issued with 12-gauge perforations, instead of the original 15½ gauge, and the shades and paper were brighter than the originals. The stamps were sold without gum and were invalid for postage, though used copies of the 1, 10c and 24c are known with contemporary cancels.



10c Blue Green  
Scott 43  
516 sold  
*Unique Used*



24c Blackish Violet  
Scott 45  
479 sold  
*Unique Used*

# POSTAGE

## 1861-66 ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

### FIRST DESIGNS AND COLORS

Company records show that the eight plates for the 1861 stamps were completed between June 15 and 19, and that these plates — numbered 1 through 8 and containing 200 subjects each — were made from the first dies engraved for each value. The 1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 12¢ and 90¢ plates used to produce the “perfectly gummed and perforated” sheets submitted to the Post Office Department were never used again. Modifications to the designs of these five stamps were made before regular production commenced. The stamps printed from the first plates are known as First Designs. The reason for the subtle design changes was never recorded, nor have collectors ever been able to establish why National would go to expense of recreating dies and plates. One theory holds that the plate layouts for cer-

tain values did not accommodate the wider perforation holes (12 gauge versus 15 gauge).

The 24¢ and 30¢ plates (Plates 6 and 7) were used to print stamps when regular production began, but the colors of the earlier trial printing can be distinguished from all subsequent printings. These two are called First Colors. Regular production of the 10¢ involved a new plate (Plate 15) made from a modified die, but the old Plate 4 was also used for the regular issue. For this reason the 10¢ exists as a First Design (or Type I) trial printing (Scott 55) and as a regularly-issued stamp (Scott 62B). Cancelled 10¢ First Design stamps are regular issues, but there is no means to differentiate between the trial printing and regular issue for unused 10¢ First Design stamps.



5c Brown  
Scott 57  
*Unique*



10c Dark Green  
Scott 58/62B



30c Red Orange  
Scott 61  
*Unique*

# POSTAGE

## 1861-66 ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



1c Blue  
Scott 63



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 63a



1c Dark Blue  
Scott 63b



1c Bright Blue  
Scott 63var



1c Blue  
Vertically Laid Paper  
Scott 63c



1c Blue  
Horiz. Laid Paper  
Scott 63c



1c Blue  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 63e



3c Pink  
Scott 64



3c Pigeon Blood Pink  
Scott 64a



3c Rose Pink  
Scott 64b



3c Rose  
Scott 65



3c Indian Red  
Scott 65var



3c Rose  
Vertically Laid Paper  
Scott 65b



3c Rose  
Horiz. Laid Paper  
Scott 65b



3c Lake  
Scott 66



3c Rose  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 65e



3c Rose  
Double Impression  
Scott 65f



POSTAGE

# 1861-66 ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



5c Buff  
Scott 67



5c Brown Yellow  
Scott 67a



5c Olive Yellow  
Scott 67b



10c Green  
Scott 68



10c Dark Green  
Scott 68a



12c Black  
Scott 69



24c Red Lilac  
Scott 70



24c Brown Lilac  
Scott 70a



24c Steel Blue  
Scott 70b



24c Violet, thin paper  
Scott 70c



24c Pale Gray Violet,  
thin paper—Scott 70d



30c Orange  
Scott 71



90c Blue  
Scott 72



90c Pale Blue  
Scott 72a



90c Dark Blue  
Scott 72b

# POSTAGE

## 1861-66 ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



2c Black  
Scott 73



2c Black  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 73f



2c Black  
Laid Paper  
Scott 73g



3c Scarlet  
Scott 74



5c Red Brown  
Scott 75



5c Brown  
Scott 76



5c Black Brown  
Scott 76a



15c Black  
Scott 77



24c Lilac  
Scott 78



24c Grayish Lilac  
Scott 78a



24c Gray  
Scott 78b



24c Blackish Violet  
Scott 78c



24c Gray Violet  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 78d

# POSTAGE

## 1867 GRILLED ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

During the life of the 1861–66 issue, postal officials became somewhat obsessed with their fear that significant revenue was being lost due to the cleaning and re-use of cancelled stamps. The concern inspired efforts to devise a means to thwart the reuse of postage stamps.

The concept that was eventually integrated into stamps at the production level was the grill, an embossed waffle-like pattern in the paper of a stamp that was intended to increase absorption of cancelling ink and improve the adhesive quality of the gum. The grill's creator was Charles F. Steel, a National Bank

Note Co. supervisor who had much to gain if the government could be convinced to adopt his invention.

The first modification, from the all-over A Grill to the smaller C Grill, was a quick remedy to the problems caused when the grill weakened the paper, making perforation and separation almost impossible without damaging the stamps. In anticipation of regular grill production, Steel experimented with many different variations to improve the product and, we may also presume, to speed production. This resulted in the various grill types we recognize today, all of which were valid and used for postage.

### GRILL WITH POINTS UP

A Grill  
covering entire stamp



3c Rose  
Scott 79



5c Dark Brown  
Scott 80a  
(4 known)



30c Orange  
Scott 81  
(6 known)

B Grill  
about 18 x 15mm  
(22 x 18 points)

C Grill  
about 13 x 16mm  
(16 to 17 x 18 to 21 points)

3c Rose  
Scott 82  
(4 known)



3c Rose  
Scott 83

POSTAGE

# 1867 GRILLED ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

GRILL WITH POINTS DOWN

D Grill  
about 12 x 14mm  
(15 x 17 to 18 points)



2c Black  
Scott 84



3c Rose  
Scott 85

Z Grill  
about 11 x 14mm  
(13 to 14 x 18 points)



2c Black  
Scott 85B



3c Rose  
Scott 85C

1c Blue  
Scott 85A  
(2 known)



10c Green  
Scott 85D  
(5 known)



12c Intense Black  
Scott 85E

15c Black  
Scott 85F  
(2 known)



POSTAGE

# 1868 GRILLED ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

E Grill  
about 11 x 13mm  
(14 x 15 to 17 points)



1c Blue  
Scott 86



1c Dull Blue  
Scott 86a



2c Black  
Scott 87



3c Rose  
Scott 88



3c Lake Red  
Scott 88a



10c Green  
Scott 89



12c Black  
Scott 90



15c Black  
Scott 91

POSTAGE

# 1868 GRILLED ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

F Grill,  
about 9 x 13mm  
(11 to 12 x 15 to 17 points)



1c Blue  
Scott 92



1c Pale Blue  
Scott 92a



2c Black  
Scott 93



3c Red  
Scott 94



3c Rose  
Scott 94a



5c Brown  
Scott 95



5c Brown  
Kiss Print  
Scott 95var



5c Black Brown  
Scott 95a



10c Yellow Green  
Scott 96



10c Dark Green  
Scott 96a



12c Black  
Scott 97



15c Black  
Scott 98



24c Gray Lilac  
Scott 99



30c Orange  
Scott 100



90c Blue  
Scott 101

## POSTAGE

# 1875 RE-ISSUE OF 1861 ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

The United States Post Office Department authorized the National Bank Note Co. to reprint the 1861-66 Issue. The stamps were sold by the Third Asst. Postmaster General's Department, and a record of quantities sold provides figures for each value.

The stamps were valid for postage and used primarily by philatelists or stamp dealers on registered mail during the 1880's. The Re-issues are extremely rare in used condition—far rarer, in fact, than unused examples.



1c Blue  
Scott 102  
(3,195 sold)



2c Black  
Scott 103  
(979 sold)



3c Brown Red  
Scott 104  
(465 sold)



5c Brown  
Scott 105  
(672 sold)



10c Green  
Scott 106  
(451 sold)



12c Black  
Scott 107  
(389 sold)



15c Black  
Scott 108  
(397 sold)



24c Deep Violet  
Scott 109  
(346 sold)



30c Brownish Orange  
Scott 110  
(346 sold)



90c Blue  
Scott 111  
(317 sold)



# POSTAGE

## 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Grilled

While preceding issues had been current for seven to ten years and the 1870 portrait issue lasted eighteen years, not even a year was given to the 1869 Pictorial Issue. It was sandwiched in between the 1861–68 and 1870–88 issues with the shortest life of any regular issue.

The stamps were poorly regarded by the public at the time, who were not used to the unusual size and themes portrayed.

The 15¢, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ values were printed in normal-size sheets of 200, but each stamp was bicolored, requiring separate plates and printing for the frame and vignette colors. This resulted in the first set of invert errors.



1c Buff  
Scott 112



2c Brown  
Scott 113



3c Ultramarine  
Scott 114



3c Ultramarine  
Double Impression  
Scott 114d



3c Ultramarine  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 114e



6c Ultramarine  
Scott 115



10c Yellow  
Scott 116



12c Green  
Scott 117



Type I  
No diamond marker



15c Brown & Blue  
Type I — Scott 118



15c Brown & Blue  
Type II — Scott 119



Type II  
With diamond marker



24c Green & Violet  
Scott 120



30c Ultra & Carmine  
Scott 121



90c Carmine & Black  
Scott 122



POSTAGE

# 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



3c Ultramarine  
Without Grill, Gray Paper  
Scott 114a

# POSTAGE

## 1869 PICTORIAL ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Grilled

### INVERTS

The Post Office Department issued its first major postage error sometime shortly after the March release of the 1869 Pictorial issue. The error stamps—15c, 24c and 30c 1869 Inverts—were created by the inadvertent turning of the sheets to the wrong direction before the second stage of the bicolor flat plate printing process. This misprinting had a remarkable effect: the framed portion of the 15c and 24c designs was upside-down relative to the central vignette; and, in the design of the 30c, the draped flags surrounding the Eagle and Shield emblem were hanging up instead of down.

Other printing and manufacturing errors had been issued prior to 1869—missing perforations, sheets printed on both sides, and other philatelic varieties—but these could hardly have drawn serious concern from postal officials. On the hand, the Inverts must have been embarrassment to postal officials, who already faced public ridicule over the irregular 1869 designs, alleged gum problems and criticism of the contract terms.

More than 30 years would pass before another bicolored issue. Ironically, the second effort—the 1901 Pan-American issue—was marred by the same problem.



15c Brown & Blue  
Type II — Scott 119b



15c Brown & Blue, Ty. II  
Center Double,  
One Inverted  
Scott 119c



24c Green & Violet  
Scott 120b



30c Ultra & Carmine  
Scott 121b

# POSTAGE

## 1875 RE-ISSUE OF 1869 PICTORIAL

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Ungrilled



1c Buff  
Scott 123



2c Brown  
Scott 124



3c Blue  
Scott 125



6c Blue  
Scott 126



10c Yellow  
Scott 127



12c Green  
Scott 128



15c Brown & Blue  
Type II — Scott 129



15c Brown & Blue  
Type III, Imperf horiz.  
Scott 129a



24c Green & Violet  
Scott 130



30c Ultra & Carmine  
Scott 131



90c Carmine & Black  
Scott 132

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

1880-82



1c Buff  
Scott 133



1c Brown Orange  
Without Gum  
Scott 133a

# POSTAGE

## 1870-71 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

The National Bank Note Co. 1870 portrait series was a direct consequence of changing presidential administrations and the unpopularity of the 1869 Pictorial stamps. In his 1870 report PMG Creswell states that "The adhesive stamp adopted by my predecessor in 1869, having failed to give satisfaction to the public, on account of their small size, their unshapely form [required the P.O. Dept.] to issue new stamps of larger size, superior quality of gum and new sizes... and to adopt for designs the heads, in profile, of distinguished

deceased Americans..."

National's contract ran until February 1873. Despite protests from other security printers, the contract for the 1870 stamps was not re-opened to competition. In common with the preceding two issues, the new stamps were grilled to prevent re-use, and this may have helped National to keep the contract.

Two grill types are known, designated H and I Grills. The H Grills are known on all denominations. The I Grills are only known on some.

### H GRILL

About 10 x 12mm (11 to 13 x 14 to 16 points)



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 134



2c Red Brown  
Scott 135



3c Green  
Scott 136



6c Carmine  
Scott 137



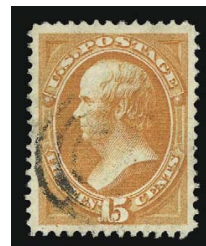
7c Vermilion  
Scott 138



10c Brown  
Scott 139



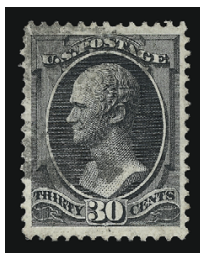
12c Dull Violet  
Scott 140



15c Orange  
Scott 141



24c Purple  
Scott 142



30c Black  
Scott 143



90c Carmine  
Scott 144



POSTAGE

# 1870-71 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

I GRILL

About 8.5 x 10mm (10 to 11 x 10 to 13 points)



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 1341



2c Red Brown  
Scott 1351



3c Green  
Scott 1361



6c Carmine  
Scott 1371



7c Vermilion  
Scott 1381



10c Brown  
Scott 1391

12c Dull Violet  
Scott 1401



15c Orange  
Scott 1411

30c Black  
Scott 1431

90c Carmine  
Scott 1441

POSTAGE

# 1870-71 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by National Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

UNGRILLED



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 145



2c Red Brown  
Scott 146



3c Green  
Scott 147



3c Green  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 147a



3c Green  
Double Impression  
Scott 147b



6c Carmine  
Scott 148



6c Carmine  
Double Impression  
Scott 148b



7c Vermilion  
Scott 149



10c Brown  
Scott 150



12c Dull Violet  
Scott 151



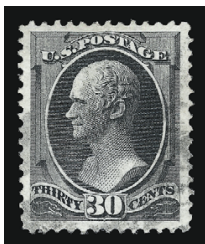
15c Orange  
Scott 152



15c Orange  
Double Impression  
Scott 152a



24c Purple  
Scott 153



30c Black  
Scott 154



90c Carmine  
Scott 155

# POSTAGE

## 1873 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by Continental Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

In 1873 the Continental Bank Note Co. was awarded the contract to print United States stamps. The National contract was extended until May 31, 1873, probably to allow time for Continental to find fire-proof quarters for printing the stamps. The National plates, dies and transfer rolls were turned over to Continental, who made new plates of the lower denominations.

The presence of minute marks in the designs of most values enable collectors to distinguish the Continental stamps from their National counterparts. These tiny modifications are known as secret marks. It is likely that the secret marks were added to the transfer rolls or dies by Continental before laying out the new plates, to distinguish their work from National printings. Many of the colors also different shades.



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 156



2c Brown  
Scott 157



2c Brown  
Double Impression  
Scott 157d



3c Green  
Scott 158



3c Green  
Double Impression  
Scott 158j



3c Green  
Printed Both Sides  
Scott 158k



6c Dull Pink  
Scott 159



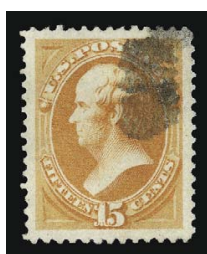
7c Orange Vermilion  
Scott 160



10c Brown  
Scott 161



12c Blackish Violet  
Scott 162



15c Yellow Orange  
Scott 163



30c Gray Black  
Scott 165



90c Rose Carmine  
Scott 166

POSTAGE

# 1875 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by Continental Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



2c Vermilion  
Scott 178



5c Blue  
Scott 179



## POSTAGE

# 1875 SPECIAL PRINTING

Printed by Continental Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Hard Paper, Without Gum

In 1875 a Special Printing program was established by the postal administration under President Grant. It was continued until the Arthur administration in 1884. This program created the 1847 Reproductions, 1857–60 Reprints, 1861–66 and 1869 Re-issues, and the Bank Note Special Printings of 1875 and 1880–83.

A small quantity of the Continental Bank Note Co. issues were prepared as a Special Printing in 1875. They were printed on hard white wove paper and were issued without gum. Most of the 1875 Continental Special Printing stamps were separated by scissors, and examples showing perforations all around are very rare.



24c Dull Purple  
Scott 175

# POSTAGE

## 1879 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

In 1877, during the Hayes Administration and while Continental was still printing postage stamps, an Act of Congress required that printing of all United States notes and securities be transferred to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This law left the three big printing companies, National, Continental and American, with no new contracts for what had been a large part of their business. Faced with a shrinkage market, in December 1878 the three firms were consoli-

dated into the American Bank Note Company. The stamp contract held by Continental was assumed by American in February 1879.

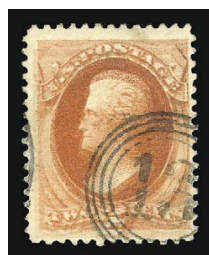
The same plates were used at the beginning of the American printings. The soft porous paper distinguishes the first American printing from earlier Bank Note stamps. The colors of the American printing are also different, and the impressions on the porous paper are less detailed.



1c Dark Ultramarine  
Scott 182



2c Vermilion  
Scott 183



2c Vermilion  
Double Impression  
Scott 183a



3c Green  
Scott 184



3c Green  
Double Impression  
Scott 184b



5c Blue  
Scott 185



6c Pink  
Scott 186



10c Brown, no mark  
Scott 187



10c Brown, with mark  
Scott 188



15c Red Orange  
Scott 189



30c Full Black  
Scott 190



90c Carmine  
Scott 191

## POSTAGE

# 1881-83 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

In 1881 American altered the dies on the 1c, 3c, 6c and 10c stamps and produced new plates. Scott numbers 206 to 209 are known as the Re-engraved Issue.

In 1882, less than a year after President Garfield's assassination, a new 5c stamp was designed with his

portrait. It is said that his widow selected the color of the stamp.

In 1883 the domestic letter rate was reduced to 2c per half ounce. In response the P.O. Dept. authorized two new issues, the 2c Washington and 4c Jackson.



5c Yellow Brown  
Scott 205



1c Gray Blue  
Scott 206



3c Blue Green  
Scott 207



6c Rose  
Scott 208



6c Deep Brown Red  
Scott 208a



4c Blue Green  
Double Impression  
Scott 207c



10c Brown  
Scott 209



10c Black Brown  
Scott 209b



2c Red Brown  
Scott 210



4c Blue Green  
Scott 211



POSTAGE

# 1882-85 SPECIAL PRINTING

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12, Soft Porous Paper, Ungummed



2c Pale Red Brown  
Scott 211B

Scott 211B was printed on a new steam-powered  
printing press, and was issued with gum

POSTAGE

# 1887-88 BANK NOTE ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

In 1887 a new 1c stamp was issued with a frame similar to the 2c and 4c. In 1887 and 1888 the colors of six current stamps were changed—these are the last of the so-called large Bank Note series.



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 212



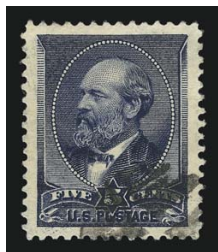
2c Green  
Scott 213



3c Vermilion  
Scott 214



4c Carmine  
Scott 215



5c Indigo  
Scott 216



30c Orange Brown  
Scott 217



90c Purple  
Scott 218

POSTAGE

# 1890-93 ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



1c Dull Blue  
Scott 219



2c Lake  
Scott 2219D



2c Carmine  
Scott 220



2c Carmine,  
cap on left "2"  
Scott 220a



2c Carmine,  
cap on both "2"'s  
Scott 220c



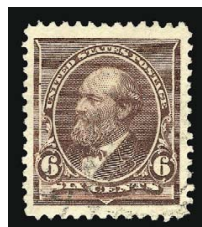
3c Purple  
Scott 221



4c Dark Brown  
Scott 222



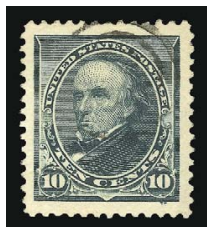
5c Chocolate  
Scott 223



6c Brown Red  
Scott 224



8c Lilac  
Scott 225



10c Green  
Scott 226



15c Indigo  
Scott 227



30c Black  
Scott 228



90c Orange  
Scott 229



# POSTAGE COLUMBIAN ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12

The 1893 Columbian Exposition Issue were prepared for the World Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago from May 1 until October 30, 1893 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the landing of Columbus. The series of sixteen denominations, with a total face value of \$16.34, were the last postage stamps of the 19th Century printed by a private bank note company.

Aesthetically, the stamps commemorating the 400th

anniversary (1492–1892) of Christopher Columbus's voyage to America were a significant departure from previous issues. These were the first commemorative stamps issued since the poorly-received 1869 Pictorial Issue. Although the lower values sold well and the high values were bought by speculators, high-value sales to the general public were a disappointment to the post office.



1c Deep Blue  
Scott 230



2c Brown Violet  
Scott 231



3c Green  
Scott 232



4c Ultramarine  
Scott 233



4c Blue, Error of Color  
Scott 233a



5c Chocolate  
Scott 234



6c Purple  
Scott 235



6c Red Violet  
Scott 235a



8c Magenta  
Scott 236



10c Black Brown  
Scott 237



15c Dark Green  
Scott 238

# POSTAGE COLUMBIAN ISSUE

Printed by American Bank Note Co.

Perforated 12



30c Orange Brown  
Scott 239



50c Slate Blue  
Scott 240



\$1.00 Salmon  
Scott 241



\$2.00 Brown Red  
Scott 242



\$3.00 Yellow Green  
Scott 243



\$3.00 Olive Green  
Scott 243a



\$4.00 Rose Carmine  
Scott 244a



\$4.00 Crimson Lake  
Scott 244



\$5.00 Black  
Scott 245

## POSTAGE

# 1894-98 BUREAU ISSUES

On June 30, 1894, American Bank Note Company's contract for printing United States postage stamps ended. As the expiration date approached the Post Office Department advertised for proposals for a new contract. During the course of bidding, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made an even lower bid for the contract. Given the lower bid price and the convenience of having the stamps printed in Washington D.C., the Post Office awarded the contract to the Bureau. The next time a private printing company would print U.S. postage stamps would be in 1943, when American pro-

duced the Overrun Nations series.

The original dies, transfer rolls and plates were turned over to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It was decided that the basic stamp design should remain the same, but triangles were added to the corners on the dies and new plates were made. For the 1894 Issue the 30¢ and 90¢ values were dropped and four new denominations were added — 50¢, \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$5.00. There are two types of the \$1.00, which occur on the same plate.

### 1894-98 Bureau Issue Types



2c Type I  
Horizontal lines in triangle  
are continuous



2c Type II  
Horizontal lines in triangle  
are thinner at middle



2c Type III  
Horizontal lines in  
triangle have breaks



2c Type IV  
Triangle as Type III  
Six changes listed in Scott



\$1.00 Type I  
Circle enclosing "\$1"  
is broken



\$1.00 Type II  
Circle enclosing "\$1"  
is complete



10c Type I  
Circle around "10"  
stops before white line



10c Type II  
Circle around "10"  
goes into white line



# POSTAGE

## 1894 BUREAU ISSUE

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Perforated 12, Unwatermarked



1c Ultramarine  
Scott 246



1c Blue  
Scott 247



2c Pink, Ty. I  
Scott 248



2c Carmine Lake, Ty. I  
Scott 249



2c Carmine Ty. I  
Scott 250



2c Rose, Ty. I  
Scott 250a



2c Scarlet, Ty. I  
Scott 250b



2c Carmine, Ty. II  
Scott 251



2c Scarlet, Ty. II  
Scott 251a



2c Carmine, Ty. III  
Scott 252



2c Scarlet, Ty. III  
Scott 252a



3c Purple  
Scott 253



4c Dark Brown  
Scott 254



5c Chocolate  
Scott 255



6c Dull Brown  
Scott 256



8c Violet Brown  
Scott 257



10c Dark Green  
Scott 258



15c Dark Blue  
Scott 259



50c Orange  
Scott 260



\$1.00 Black, Ty. I  
Scott 261



\$1.00 Black, Ty. II  
Scott 261A



\$2.00 Bright Blue  
Scott 262



\$5.00 Dark Green  
Scott 263



# POSTAGE

## 1895 BUREAU ISSUE

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Perforated 12, Double-Line Watermark



1c Blue  
Scott 264



2c Carmine, Ty. I  
Scott 265



2c Carmine, Ty. II  
Scott 266



2c Carmine, Ty. III  
Scott 267



2c Pink, Ty. III  
Scott 267a



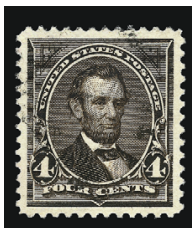
2c Vermilion, Ty. III  
Scott 267b



2c Rose Carmine, Ty. III  
Scott 267c



3c Purple  
Scott 268



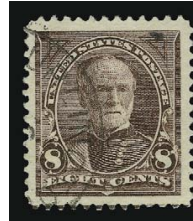
4c Dark Brown  
Scott 269



5c Chocolate  
Scott 270



6c Dull Brown  
Scott 271



8c Violet Brown  
Scott 272



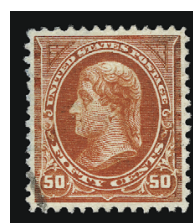
10c Dark Green  
Scott 273



15c Dark Blue  
Scott 274



50c Orange  
Scott 275



50c Red Orange  
Scott 275a



\$1.00 Black, Ty. I  
Scott 276



\$1.00 Black, Ty. II  
Scott 276A



\$2.00 Bright Blue  
Scott 277



\$2.00 Dark Blue  
Scott 277a



\$5.00 Dark Green  
Scott 278

POSTAGE

# 1895 BUREAU ISSUE

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Watermark Varieties



6c Dull Brown  
Wmk. "USIR"  
"I" of watermark  
Scott 271a



6c Dull Brown  
Wmk. "USIR"  
"R" of watermark  
Scott 271a



8c Violet Brown  
Wmk. "USIR"  
"I" of watermark  
Scott 272a



8c Violet Brown  
Wmk. "USIR"  
"R" of watermark  
Scott 272a

The "USIR" (United States Internal Revenue) watermark error occurred when a supply of paper reserved for revenue stamp production was used for printing the 6c and 8c postage stamps. The 6c "USIR" Watermark error is considerably rarer than the 8c. Only stamps showing the "I" or "R" of the watermark can be confirmed as examples of this variety.

# POSTAGE

## 1898 CHANGE OF COLORS

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Perforated 12, Double-Line Watermark

In 1898 the colors were changed on 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ denominations to conform to Universal Postal Union standards (Green, Red and Blue, respectively), and to avoid confusion, the colors of certain other values were also changed.



1c Deep Green  
Scott 279



2c Red, Ty. IV  
Scott 279B



2c Rose Carmine, Ty. IV  
Scott 279Bc



2c Orange Red, Ty. IV  
Horizontal wmk.  
Scott 279Bd



2c Orange Red, Ty. IV  
Vertical wmk.  
Scott 279Be



2c Carmine, Ty. IV  
Scott 279Bf



2c Pink, Ty. IV  
Scott 279Bg



2c Vermilion, Ty. IV  
Scott 279Bh



4c Rose Brown  
Scott 280



4c Lilac Brown  
Scott 280a



4c Orange Brown  
Scott 280b



5c Dark Blue  
Scott 281



6c Lake  
Scott 282



6c Purple Lake  
Scott 282a



10c Brown, Ty. I  
Scott 282C



10c Orange Brown, Ty. II  
Scott 283



10c Orange Brown, Ty. II  
Vertical wmk.  
Scott 283a



15c Olive Green  
Scott 284



POSTAGE

# 1898 CHANGE OF COLORS

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Perforated 12, Double-Line Watermark

BOOKLET



2c Red, Type IV  
Scott 279Bj

The first booklet issued by the United States  
*One of only two known used with intact tab*



# POSTAGE

## TRANS-MISSISSIPPI ISSUE

Printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Perforated 12, Double-Line Watermark

The Trans-Mississippi Issue was released in 1898 to coincide with the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition in Omaha. This was the second set of commemorative stamps released by the Post Office, following the 1893 Columbians.

The Trans-Mississippi set was originally intended to

be printed in two colors and exists as essays in this state. Johl notes that the bicolor printing scheme was abandoned due to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. The Bureau's postage stamp production was reduced to provide additional capacity for revenue stamps needed to finance the war effort.



1c Dark Yellow Green  
Scott 285



2c Copper Red  
Scott 286



4c Orange  
Scott 287



5c Dull Blue  
Scott 288



8c Violet Brown  
Scott 289



10c Gray Violet  
Scott 290



50c Sage Green  
Scott 291



\$1.00 Black  
Scott 292



\$2.00 Orange Brown  
Scott 293