

Synopses of Exhibit Washington and Franklin Coils 1910 Issue Perf-8.5

Purpose of Exhibit: The purpose of this exhibit is to show one phase in the development of Bureau issued government coils. It is a postal exhibit that incorporates examples of coil stamps showing the production process from printing to construction of the coil roll. It also displays examples of coils on contemporary covers with various rates from solo uses to multiples/mixed franking and special services. The importance of the exhibit is two fold. First, it shows examples of the change in production and construction of the coils. Secondly, the perf-8.5 coils can be credited with gaining the philatelic interest of collectors since there were no other stamps made in any format with this gauge perforation.

Challenge Factor: There are three formats that coils will be found in this exhibit. They are mint, used, and contemporary usages on cover. Unused pairs, line pairs, and multiples are reasonably easy to locate in extra fine condition. Singles or pairs with paste-up tab and plate number or imprint are a bit more difficult because they are found only twice every 400 stamps in a coil roll. Secondly, quality used pairs, line pairs, and multiples are a much, much more difficult task to acquire since many were not saved by collectors. Used paste-ups with plate number or imprint are very scarce in used condition. Lastly, the most difficult items to locate are examples of solo and multiple uses on cover. The single 3, 4, and 5 cent values are the hardest to acquire. The 3 cent value was used for fourth class mail. It had a very limited use because of the low demand for fourth class mailings. Most of the examples found were used by the Bell & Company on their mailings of pharmaceutical samples. The 5 cent value for the UPU rate is difficult because the majority of these covers didn't survive or make it back from their overseas destinations. In general, covers to foreign destinations and unusual rate usages are quite scarce and difficult to locate. Large multiples on cover are very, very hard to acquire. One underlying factor with this issue is that many of the coils were not saved since they were the every day domestic postage of the time period. Much of it sadly disappeared in the trash.

What is presented: The exhibit incorporates mint and used coils off cover to illustrate examples from the "Star" and "A" plates used to print this issue. There are five different values and seven issues. The 1 and 2 cent issues were the only denominations printed in vertical and horizontal format. The off cover coils also show production examples of plate markings, paste-ups, and leader/trailer strips. The only varieties of plate markings not shown are plate numbers on paste-ups for the 3 and 4 cent values from the "A" plates. Line pairs of the 3 and 4 cent values and the only documented use of the 4 cent value on cover from the "A" plates are found in the exhibit. Coil examples on cover show all basic solo uses for each denomination along with some scarce solo rates, largest known multiples, and foreign destinations. Each individual issue is represented by a foreign destination with the exception of the 1 cent vertical coil.

Organization: The exhibit starts with showing the steps in production beginning with the printing varieties and plates used for the perf-8.5 coils along with the construction process of the coil roll. It concludes with examples on cover showing solo uses for each denomination, multiples and mixed franking depicting different rates, and special delivery/registered mail. **Items with significant importance** are matted with a deep red color.