

## **Synopses of Exhibit Washington and Franklin Coils 1912 Issue Perf.-8.5**

**Purpose of Exhibit:** This exhibit will show one step in the development of Bureau issued government coils. It is a postal exhibit that shows examples of coils on and off cover. It also includes coil examples from the previous perf-8.5 for comparison of designs. The exhibit shows two major design changes made with this issue from 1912. The first change involved replacing Franklin's bust with Washington's on the 1 cent stamp. The second was adding the numbers 1 and 2 along with the word "cents" for the denominations. The reason for these changes was to eliminate confusion between denominations and to conform to the Universal Postal Union regulations.

**Challenge Factor:** Collecting mint and used pairs is not too difficult since many of these coils were saved and are easy to find. Used line pairs and large multiples are a bit more difficult task to complete. Plate numbers for the vertical coils are very difficult since they changed the plates to create better spaced coils. Examples with the imprint and letter "A" are very scarce because they were made from the earlier "A" plates when the imprint consisted of the letter and number. Plate numbers on the horizontal coils are not too hard but still a challenge. The hardest items to find are solo uses on cover to foreign destinations along with line pairs and unusual rate examples.

**What is Presented:** The exhibit shows a comparison of the old design and new design for the perf-8.5 coils. It displays a variety of production examples such as guide line pairs, guide line and arrow, plate numbers, and leader/trailer strips. It also shows examples of the major production change in the vertical coils. Plate blocks with the imprint, "COIL STAMPS", illustrate the imprint used to identify the new plates for production of the vertical coils. The exhibit also shows a nice variety of solo usages to domestic and foreign destinations.

**Organization:** The exhibit begins with production examples and various mint and used examples off cover. It continues with examples from the major production change of the vertical coils and proceeds to various contemporary uses of perf-8.5 coils on cover to domestic and foreign destinations. Items of significant importance are matted with a contrasting color.

**Material Highlights:** The items listed below are found in the same order as in the exhibit.

- 1) A cover to Holland with a single 1 cent horizontal coil from 1910 and a single 2 cent horizontal coil from the 1912 issue.
- 2) Three unique discovery copies of plate numbers on paste-up coils. One paste-up pair on cover and two examples off cover.
- 3) A 1 cent vertical coil used on a postcard mailed on a RFD route.
- 4) A 1 cent horizontal coil used to pay the third class printed matter rate on a postcard.
- 5) Wrapper with a 1 cent horizontal coil to Sweden paying the third class printed matter rate to a foreign destination.

- 6) Postcard with a 1 cent horizontal coil to England, short paid, assessed a penalty of 10 centimes, with a first issue English postage due affixed.
- 7) Letter short paid with a 2 cent vertical coil and assessed a 30 centimes penalty on the maiden voyage of the SS Stockholm to Goteburg, Sweden.
- 8) A **Territorial usage** of a 2 cent horizontal pair to Guam that was forwarded.
- 9) A 1 cent line pair paying the first class domestic letter rate on a government penalty envelope.
- 10) Two 1 cent pre-canceled vertical coil singles on a wrapper paying the third class rate.

**New Additions & Changes:** Since the last APS show in Philadelphia, I have made some improvement in the treatment and organization of the exhibit. I rewrote and organized the production pages and added some more production material to strengthen this section. I have added a cover with a 1 cent horizontal paste-up pair showing the dark and light shades of green. There are examples of either a leader strip or trailer from each issue in the set. I have also added a few covers to the exhibit. The most significant items are a double weight usage from a United States Territory, 413 pair from Guam, a third class wrapper with two 1 cent vertical pre-canceled singles, and a 1 cent horizontal line pair on a return envelope for an insurance payment. A few other covers include a two cent vertical and horizontal coil paying the treaty rates to Canada and England. A double weight third class usage paid with a 2 cent horizontal coil on a clasp envelope. A single and double rate usage of the 1 cent horizontal coil sent from the United States Postal Agency in Vera Cruz, Mexico, and a 2 cent vertical coil mailed from the postal agency in Shanghi, China.