

**Synopsis of Exhibit
Washington and Franklin Coils
Rotary Press Issues 1914-1922**

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit will show the first two perforated 10 rotary press coil issues produced by the Bureau. It does not include the first rotary press coil, the 2 cent horizontal imperforate coil, Scott #459. It features production examples of both issues with domestic and foreign usages on cover. The purpose of the exhibit is to show the new and improved techniques of producing rotary press coils and their usages on domestic and foreign mail.

Organization: The exhibit begins with the production of the rotary press coils. Plate layout, paper types, design types, plate markings, construction of the coil, and printing varieties to illustrate production. The remainder of the exhibit is divided up into three sections. The watermarked issue, war rate, and unwatermarked issue. Within the watermarked and unwatermarked sections the stamps are shown along with domestic and foreign usages on cover. The postal history is divided into first class post cards, letters and special services, third class mail, and treaty/UPU rate mail.

What Is Presented: The exhibit first presents the production methods of the 3rd Bureau rotary press coils. It begins with the plate layouts for vertical and horizontal coils and then shows difference in design size between flat plate and rotary press coils. Major differences between design types of the 2 and 3 cent coils are illustrated. Printing varieties such as plate numbers, joint lines, plate cracks, and preprinting paper folds are included. The production section concludes with how the paper rolls were attached with splices and the coil rolls were started and finished with trailer and leader strips. The remaining sections are divided into the watermarked issues, war rate period, and unwatermarked issues.

Significant Changes and Additions: This exhibit has been shown three times at national level shows. Each time it has been tweaked a bit by taking out and adding new pieces and rewriting descriptions. The **most recent addition** made to the exhibit is the **Type II unwatermarked horizontal coil** single on a window envelope. The PF has only certified **14 copies**, which is why this is such a difficult usage to find on cover. A few other significant items that have been added are a quadruple rate cover with four Type II watermarked horizontal coil singles, a double weight cover to the Canal Zone with a Type III watermarked horizontal coil, and a Type III unwatermarked coil pair on a cover to France sent to the American Embassy at the end of the war with an APO 975 backstamp used as a receiving mark.

Challenge Factor: The production section contains some very scarce varieties of the mint coils. The "Rosette Crack", is one of the most difficult production varieties to collect. Preprinting paper folds, splices, plate cracks, and leader/trailer strips are fairly tough to acquire as well.

A few of the regular mint issues are scarce, but can be purchased easily if one can afford the cost of four to seven thousand dollars a pair depending on the condition and centering of the coil. Acquiring them in used condition is another matter. Used pairs and multiples of the rotary press coils are tough to come by in the scarcer types and higher values. This is why I show used examples for these two sections in the exhibit. The **2 cent watermarked type I vertical** coil is the scarcest of all rotary press coils in used format. This certain type was in use for about 60 days and collectors were totally unaware of it because the post office did not report or announce it as a new issue. The used pair in the exhibit is one of about 12 certified copies known to exist. Pairs are very scarce because the postal rate for first class mail was only 2 cents per ounce and required a single stamp. Pairs could only occur on multi weight, registered, or special delivery covers. The single on cover to Canada is one of two known usages to a foreign destination. It is the only single usage known paying the treaty rate between the United States and Canada. Line pairs and large multiples are a real challenge on cover. The first postal

history section contains a few of each. The higher denominations in the single line watermark issue are the most difficult to find as single usages on cover. There are **less than 12** of the **5 cent horizontal coil** known used to foreign destinations paying the UPU rate for first class letters. The one example in the exhibit to Egypt is a terrific usage to a tough destination.

The war rate section contains some challenging postal history. A first day of use on post card and letter are included. An illegal bisect, inner & outer city rates, forwarded mail, returned and remailed, along with United States stamps used on mail sent from Canada are among a few of the interesting usages in this section.

The last section on the unwatermarked issue presented a different challenge. This area was easier to find more examples of usages and rates than the watermarked section. My goal with this section was to find unusual uses for each of the denominations. I was able to locate a number of large multiples, multi-weight frankings, along with different rates used to domestic and foreign destinations. One of the more interesting foreign usages are two covers to Peru. The first example is a UPU rate while the second example shows a treaty rate usage after Peru became a member of the Convention of Madrid in 1921.

Material Highlights: The following list identifies a few of the better items in the exhibit. Some of them have been highlighted in deep red.

- 1) "Rosette Crack", 1 cent mint strip of three.
- 2) One cent splice pair on post card.
- 3) Five cent coil pair with "small holes" perforations.
- 4) Type I vertical two cent used pair.
- 5) Type I single paying the treaty rate to Canada.
- 6) A 5 cent horizontal single paying the UPU rate to Egypt.
- 7) The EDU for the Type I 3 cent horizontal coil.
- 8) Type II horizontal two cent used pair.
- 9) Type II horizontal single paying the first class letter rate.**
- 10) A fourth class usage with the largest known franking of the 1 cent horizontal unwatermarked coil.