

# Washington and Franklin Coils

## Rotary Press Issues

### 1914-1922

An essay with Hamilton's likeness was used in the 1910 coil stamp experiments. The "Essay Proof Journal"



Essay for 1910 Coil Stamp  
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"It is not generally known that Baldwin was the engraver of the Hamilton portrait used for the 1910 Rotary Coil stamp experiments conducted under the direction of J. E. Ralph and B. F. Stickney, mechanical expert, both of the Bureau (of Engraving and Printing). The experimental stamp die was engraved for surface printing, requiring both the portrait and other parts of the design to be cut similar in manner to work performed for postal card dies. The Hamilton portrait was a meticulous piece of engraving and shows great skill on the part of the engraver in bringing it to its finished state. The engraving was completed on April 27, 1910."

Mention may also be made of an interesting philatelic curiosity: in 1949 a series of Indonesian stamps, artistically printed in Vienna, was issued. One of these stamps bears the likeness of Hamilton alongside that of Dr. Maramis, Indonesian Finance Minister from 1945-1950, whose duties were similar to those of Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury under George Washington. Neither Gibbons, Scott, Minkus, nor any of the leading Dutch catalogues recognize these stamps as having been issued for legitimate postal service.

**Weekly Philatelic Gossip**

The intent of this exhibit is to show the production methods of the rotary press coils and postal usages of the stamps on domestic and foreign mail.

The first Bureau issued coils were "hand assembled" and took 17 workers to complete the task. Looking to make production more efficient the Bureau made some changes in the production of coils and reduced the number of workers to two people. By 1914 the demand for coils increased to the point that the Bureau had to develop a more efficient method of producing coils. The Rotary Press was designed by Mr. Benjamin Stickney who worked at the Bureau. His new machine was designed to print coils from a continuous roll of paper and eliminate the time consuming paste-up stage. This would save a great deal of time and money. The Rotary Press was a success and increased coil production from 1,000,000 to 6,000,000 stamps per day. The new process only needed one paste-up, or splice, to connect one roll of paper to another. This occurred once every 6,000 sheets which makes these paste-ups quite scarce.

**Important items are matted in deep red**

#### Exhibit Plan

- I. Production
- II. Watermarked Issue
  - A. Post Card Rate
  - B. First Class Letters
  - C. Third Class
  - D. Foreign Destinations
- III. War Rate Period
- VI. Unwatermarked Issue
  - A. Post Card Rate
  - B. First Class Letters
  - C. Third & Fourth Class
  - D. Foreign Destinations

#### Experimental Rotary Press Test Coil Stamp

This was one of the first test stamps used by the Bureau to develop rotary press printing methods as a less costly method of stamp production compared to the flat plate printing techniques. This particular test stamp was printed using the offset lithography method of printing. This test stamp was printed in 1910 and later affixed to this article about them at a later time.