

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 frankings, 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.

Organization: The exhibit is arranged in the typical Traditional format. The one area that is not shown are plate proofs or essays because there were none made specifically for flat plate coils. The exhibit starts with showing the steps in production beginning with printing varieties and plates used for the perf-8.5 coils along with the construction process of the coil roll. The covers are organized by denomination with the one cent issues first through the five cent issues last. The covers are arranged by domestic first class usages followed by territorial, treaty rate, and UPU rate usages.

Challenge Factor: Mint pairs and line pairs are reasonably easy to locate in extra fine condition. Line pairs of the 3 and 4 cent values printed from the "A" plates are very difficult. These are identified by the larger spacing between stamp designs, star plates have a 2 mm spacing while "A" plates have a 2.75 mm spacing. Singles or pairs with paste-up tab and plate number or imprint are much more difficult because they are found only twice every 400 stamps in a coil roll. Leader and trailer strips are almost nonexistent and very tough to find due to much of this material being discarded when the coil was opened or used up. Four new pieces have been added to this part of the production section due to a major collection coming to auction this past year.

The most difficult items to locate on cover are examples of the 3, 4, and 5 cent solo usages and large multiples. The 3 cent value was mainly 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 4 cent value is scarce and was intended for a double weight first class letter. It is more common on a registered usage as a large multiple. 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. There are four values, 1, 2, 3, and 4 cent issues, represented by fourth class usages. 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 nearly all mint and one used example to illustrate production varieties. 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 show production examples of plate markings, paste-ups, and leader/trailer strips. These markings include the "Bureau of Printing and Engraving" imprint found in the margin of the original full sheet of stamps. The letter, "A", and open star, which indicates the type of plate used to print the issue, and plate numbers. The only varieties of plate markings not shown are plate numbers for the 3 and 4 cent values from the "A" plates. There is one example of the 4 cent value known and three of the 3 cent value. Each value of the issue is represented by a guide line pair which shows where the original 400 subject sheets were to be separated after printing. Coil examples on cover show all basic solo uses for each denomination along with some scarce solo rates, largest known multiples, and foreign destinations. Every issue is represented by at least one usage to a nondomestic destination; treaty rate, UPU rate, or territory.

Material Highlights: Major items of importance are matted in deep red.

- 1) Fourth class usage of the 1 cent vertical coil, Title page.
- 2) A 4 cent horizontal pair with a splice repair.
- 3) A used strip of 20 of the 1 cent vertical coil, **largest known used multiple.**
- 4) Four largest known multiples on cover, 1 cent vertical coil, 2 cent vertical coil, 2 cent horizontal coil, and 5 cent horizontal coil.
- 5) A combination treaty rate and UPU cover sent to England and forwarded to France.
- 6) Fourth class usage of 2 cent horizontal coil.
- 7) Fourth class usage of 3 cent horizontal coil, returned and re-mailed.
- 8) The only known usage on cover of the 4 cent horizontal coil from the "A" plates.
- 9) Fourth class usage with a line pair of the 4 cent horizontal coil.
- 10) Triple UPU weight of 5 cent horizontal coil, earliest known use to a foreign destination.

New Additions & Changes:

Overall the exhibit has been reorganized in a traditional format. The main changes have been to replace the used examples with mint in the production section of the exhibit, and reorganize the covers so the focus is on each individual stamp and not the usage like a postal history exhibit. There have been a few new items added to the exhibit as well as a number of items removed to make it less cluttered and more focused.

- 1) Mint strip of 4 with plate number for the 2 cent horizontal coil.
- 2) Plate number pair with partial star of 3 cent horizontal coil.
- 3) Leader strip of the 2 cent vertical coil
- 4) Leader strip of the 1 cent horizontal coil.
- 5) Trailer strip with part Bureau imprint of the 3 cent horizontal coil
- 6) Leader strip of the 5 cent horizontal coil.
- 7) Territorial usage of 1 cent vertical coil to the Canal Zone.
- 8) Returned and re-mailed fourth class usage of the 3 cent horizontal coil.