

Synopsis of Exhibit

Washington and Franklin Coils

Rotary Press Issues 1914-1922

Production & Usages

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit will show the first two perforated 10 rotary press coil issues and coil waste 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 is organized in the traditional format: It begins with showing the production methods used to produce the new rotary press coil issues. Both coil issues were produced in the same manner. It also includes production varieties and postal usages of the coil waste issues. The postal section is arranged by denomination so the focus is on the individual stamps and how they were used.

What Is Presented: The exhibit begins with the plate layouts for vertical and horizontal coils and then compares the differences 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, basic color shade varieties, joint lines, plate cracks, and preprinting paper folds are included. Examples of leader and trailer strips are shown to illustrate how the coils were started and finished during production. Lastly, examples of coil waste issues are presented to show marginal markings and perforation varieties. The remaining three sections are postal usages arranged by issue and denomination. They are the watermarked, unwatermarked, and coil waste issues. The coil waste issues have been included since they were a direct byproduct of the coil stamps.

Challenge Factor: The production section contains some very scarce mint varieties of the 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 next 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. Since there is a larger amount of material available from this issue I was selective and chose the more unusual usages and destinations for this part of the exhibit.

The last section covers postal usages of the coil waste issues. All but one issue, Scott 539, is represented on cover. There is only one example known of the 2 cent perf 11 x 10, type II on cover. The other remaining issues are represented and include the next two most difficult coil waste issues on cover. The 1 cent perf. 11 x 11, and the 2 cent, perf. 11 x 11, type III. **The 1 cent perf., 11 x 11, is one of five known documented usages on cover** and is second when compared to difficulty in acquisition of the Scott 539.

Significant Changes and Additions: This exhibit has been shown six times at national level shows. Each time new material was added and rearranged. This version has had the biggest make over. The postal section has been reorganized in the traditional format along with coil waste issues being added to the production and postal sections. I have added some new production material which takes this section to a full frame, and have added some new material to the watermarked section. One of the **most significant additions** made to the exhibit is the **Type II unwatermarked horizontal coil** single on a window envelope. **The PF has certified 14 copies, PSE 1 copy, and the APS 1 copy**, which is why this is such a difficult usage to find on cover. **The second most significant item is the 1 cent perf., 11x 11 coil waste issue on cover. It is one of five known.** A few other significant items recently added are a triple UPU rate letter to China, a double weight territorial usage to the Canal Zone, a third class usage with a 4 cent horizontal coil pair, a fourth class usage with a 3 cent line strip of four on a 2 cent circular die, a third class registered usage to Australia forwarded to Papa New Guinea, and a **post card sent special delivery** at the inner city war rate with six 2 cent Type III unwatermarked coils.

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) Type II horizontal two cent used pair.
- 8) Type II horizontal single paying the first class letter rate.
- 9) A Special Delivery post card, inner city war rate, with six 2 cent type III coils.
- 10) A 1 cent vertical pair, perf. 11 x 11 coil waste issue on cover, one of five known.