

Synopsis of Exhibit

Washington and Franklin Coils

Rotary Press Issues 1914-1922

Production & Uses

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit will show the two rotary press coil issues and coil waste produced by the Bureau. It features production examples of the coil issues, coil waste, and domestic and foreign usages on cover. **The purpose of the exhibit is to show examples of the new techniques used to produce the rotary press coils along with uses on domestic and foreign mail.**

Organization: The exhibit is organized in the traditional format. The exhibit is arranged by using section headings at the beginning of each major part of the exhibit. It begins with showing the production methods used to produce the new rotary press coils and coil waste issues. The remaining sections show each individual set of stamps and their postal uses. The covers are organized by denomination to feature each individual issue by showing their primary use along with secondary uses of the coil stamp. For example, a primary use of the 1 cent coil is for first class post cards and third class mail. A secondary use could be a first class registered or special services cover with a large multiple, or a single use paying a 4th class rate.

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 the coil waste issues are presented to show marginal markings and perforation varieties. The remaining three sections are of postal uses 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 number of examples of the single line watermark on cover are difficult to acquire. The Type I, Scott #449, single on cover to Canada is one of two documented usages to a foreign destination. It is the only single usage known paying the treaty rate between the United States and Canada. The Type I vertical coil on post card is a very unusual use. It pays the proper 2 cent first class rate due to an attachment, a felt pennant flag, on the reverse. Line pairs and large multiples are also 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 simple 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 Type II, 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, Scott 545, and the 2 cent, perf. 11 x 11, type III, Scott 546. **The 1 cent perf. 11 x 11, on post card and third class envelope account for two of seven known documented uses on cover** and is second when compared to difficulty in acquisition of the Scott 539.

Significant Changes and Additions: In the production section I have acquired a complete pane of 170 of the 1 cent 538 coil waste issue. The importance of this piece is that it shows a complete pane of the stamp with marginal markings as well as showing what one half the rotary press cylinder printed during the production of the regular coils. It is most likely a unique piece and was once part of a comprehensive exhibit on the 1 cent Third Bureau Issues. One of the **most significant additions** made to the unwatermarked postal history section is the addition of the **Type II unwatermarked horizontal coil** single on a window envelope and an example on post card paying the war rate. **The PF has certified 14 copies, PSE 1 copy, and the APS 2 copies**, which is why this is such a difficult usage to find on cover. **The next most significant item is the 1 cent perf., 11x 11 coil waste issue on cover. I have added a third class use, the only documented third class example, and a post card with Christmas seals. These two account for 2 of the 7 documented examples.** A few other significant items recently added are the rare 449, Type I watermarked vertical coil used on a post card. It pays the correct rate for having an attachment, a felt pennant flag, on the reverse. Two other difficult uses have been added, a post card and cover both recovered from plane crashes. These examples are a result of a PMG order allowing first class mail to be taken on airmail planes if there was available room on the plane. Also, a mint example of the Type II rotary press coil waste, 539 Type II has been added to the

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) A complete pane of 170 of the 1 cent 538 coil waste issue, perforated 11 x 10.
- 2) "Rosette Crack", 1 cent mint strip of three.
- 3) Five cent coil pair with "small holes" perforations.
- 4) Type I two cent, 449, vertical coil on post card paying the correct rate for an attachment.
- 5) Type I two cent, 449, vertical coil paying the treaty rate to Canada.
- 6) A 5 cent, 458, watermarked horizontal single paying the UPU rate to Egypt.
- 7) A 1 cent unwatermarked horizontal coil on a post card recovered from an airmail crash.
- 8) Type II two cent horizontal single paying the **first class letter** rate.
- 9) Type II two cent horizontal single paying the **post card war** rate.
- 10) A mint 2 cent Type II coil waste issue, 539.
- 11) A 1 cent, 545, 11 x 11 coil waste issue paying the 3rd class use.
- 12) A 1 cent, 545, 11 x 11 coil waste issue paying the post card rate.