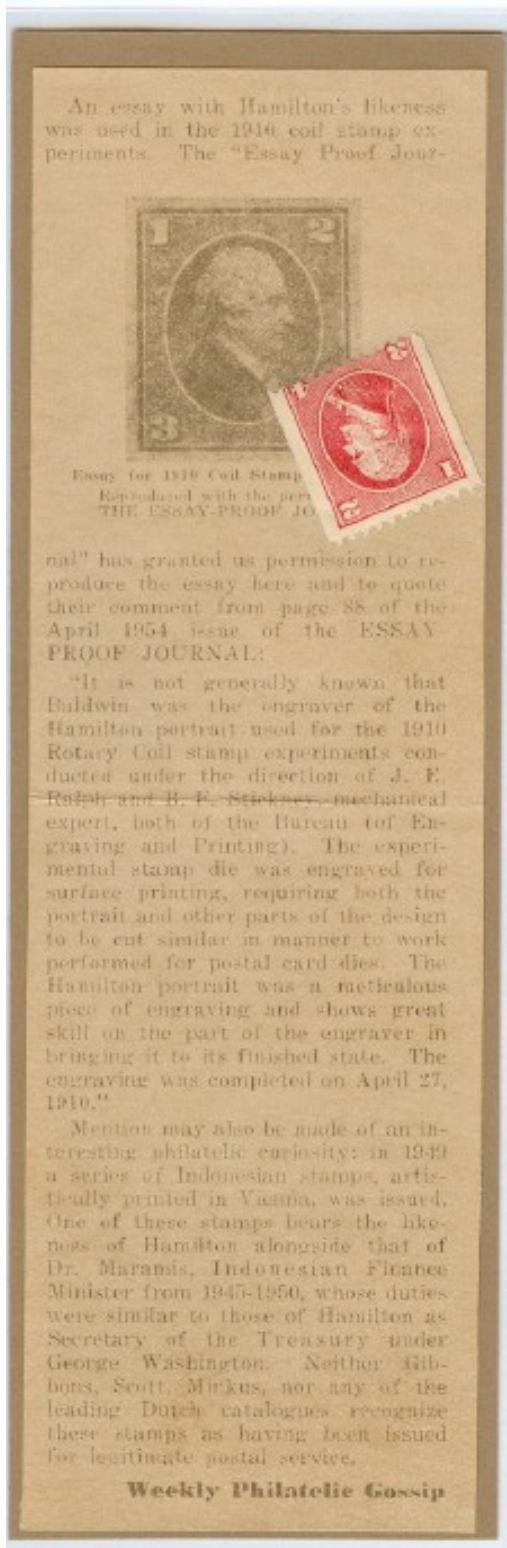


Washington and Franklin Rotary Press Coils

1914-1922 Perforated 10 Issues

Production & Uses



The intent of this exhibit is to show the production methods of the perforated 10 rotary press coils and their postal uses on domestic and foreign mail. Archival material is not present in the exhibit since there was none specifically made for coils. Plate proofs do exist, but are not available to the public due to all known examples being in the Smithsonian postal archives.

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
 - A. Rotary Press Coils
 - B. Coil Waste
- II. Watermarked Issue
 - A. Coil Stamps
 - B. Covers by Denomination
- III. Unwatermarked Issue
 - A. Coil Stamps
 - B. Covers by Denomination
- IV. Coil Waste
 - A. Coil Waste Stamps
 - B. Covers by Denomination/Perforation Gauge

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.