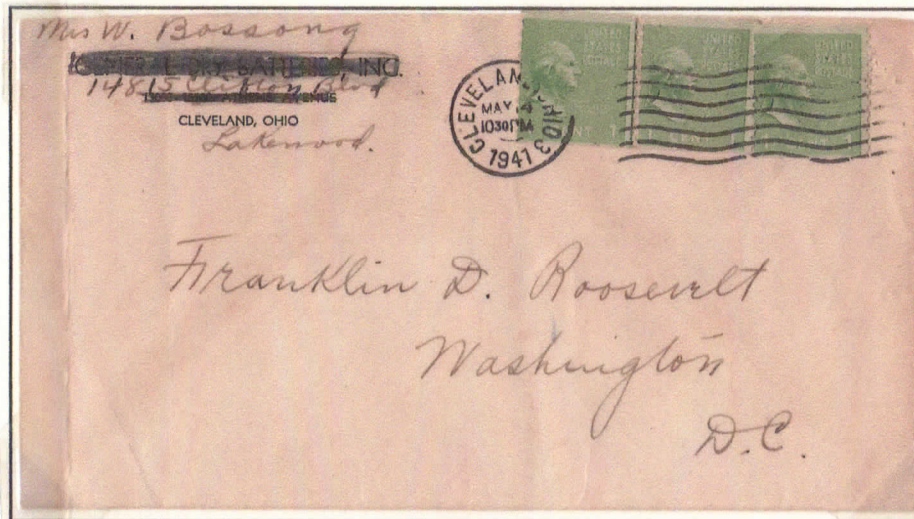


The Prexie Coils

The Fifth Bureau Issue is familiarly referred to as the "Prexies." For 15 years the Prexies paid postage on a predominant portion of U.S. mail until replaced in 1954 by the Liberty Series, though Prexie use continued into the 60s. A world war, rapid growth and development of air mail, the evolution of the modern post office during this period and length of service, give the Prexies critical significance in 20th century philately, and the issue is considered by many as the most important of the 20th century. The coils of the series consist of 9 denominations in two formats ranging from 1¢ to 10¢. Specialized studies of the coil stamps are not frequently seen. This is the only extant exhibit showing both the stamps and usages of the Presidential Series coils.

Among the stamps are *unique varieties and new discovery pieces*. Cover organization is by usage and demonstrates a wide variety of usages for stamps that were not particularly common. In its denominations, only 15% of stamps issued in the series were in the coil format. Of those, 69% were the 3¢ horizontal. *A red box surrounds unusual items. Text explaining new discoveries recorded by this exhibit is in red.*

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The idea of a new series picturing former Presidents was prompted by President Roosevelt and promoted as early as 1934. Early designs were submitted to Roosevelt and rejected. During his second term a design competition was announced for such a series. The final design was decided by the President.



A combination of two coil issues pays the 15¢ air mail rate to Kolsva, Sweden.

NEW ISSUE POSTAGE STAMPS IN COILS AND BOOKS

THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, November 29, 1938.

Postmasters and others interested are hereby advised that arrangements are being made for the issuance of coils and books containing stamps of the new design as heretofore placed on sale in sheet form only.

Sidewise Coils

The new coils in the sidewise perforated variety only will be first placed on sale in Washington, D. C., on January 20, 1939, in the following denominations: 1, 1½, 2, 3, 4, 4½, 5, 6, and 10 cents.

Collectors desiring first-day cancellations of the new coil stamps may send not more than 10 addressed covers for each of the above denominations to the Postmaster, Washington, D. C., with a cash or postal money order remittance covering the exact amount of postage required. It will be necessary to allow for three 1-cent, two 1½-cent, and two 2-cent stamps on each cover to meet the first-class postage rate for other than local delivery. Due to conditions of manufacture, assurance cannot be given that stamps of selected quality will be used on covers serviced in the Washington post office.

Mail order requests for first-day cover service of sidewise coil stamps must reach the Postmaster, Washington, D. C., not later than January 15, 1939.

Separate order and remittance must be made for first-day covers of the new sidewise coil stamps. All requests for covers must be plainly addressed as follows:

POSTMASTER,
(Sidewise coils) WASHINGTON, D. C.

Endwise Coils and Book Panes

The new coils in the endwise perforated variety, as well as books containing new design stamps in the same combinations as at present available, will be first placed on sale in Washington, D. C., on January 27, 1939, in the following denominations:

Endwise coils: 1, 1½, 2, and 3 cents.
Stamp books: 1, 2, and 3 cents.

Collectors desiring first-day covers of endwise coils and booklet panes may send not to exceed 10 addressed covers for each of the above denominations with a cash or postal money order remittance to cover the cost of the stamps required. It will be necessary to allow for three 1-cent, two 1½-cent, and two 2-cent stamps on each cover to meet the first-class postage rate for other than local delivery. Due to conditions of manufacture, assurance cannot be given that stamps of selected quality will be used on covers serviced in the Washington post office.

Covers will not, however, be serviced with less than full panes of six each of book stamps.

Separate order and remittance must be made for first-day cancellations available on January 27, and all requests for endwise coil and stamp book covers must reach the Postmaster, Washington, D. C., not later than January 22, 1939. All requests for these covers must be plainly addressed as follows:

POSTMASTER,
(Endwise coil and book panes) WASHINGTON, D. C.

Endwise coil and book panes will be affixed vertically at the right margin of the covers, requiring a space ¾ inches square for the stamps and postmark. Therefore, cover envelopes for endwise coils and book panes must not be less than 6½ by 3½ inches in dimensions. It will, therefore, be necessary to place the address in the lower left corner of endwise coil and book pane covers to allow free space at the right side for the stamps and postmark.

All covers bearing book panes will be hand canceled, but, so far as practicable, coil covers both endwise and sidewise will be machine canceled.

THE ATTENTION OF COLLECTORS IS ESPECIALLY DIRECTED TO THE FACT THAT FIRST-DAY COVER SERVICE IS AUTHORIZED ONLY ON MAIL MATTER PREPAID AT THE FIRST-CLASS POSTAGE RATE.

For the benefit of collectors, coil stamps of the new design will also be placed on sale the same date at the Philatelic Agency, but no provision will be made to have the new stamp books on sale in the agency.

So far as possible, requisitions from direct- and central-accounting post offices after January 27 will be filled in whole or in part with coils and books containing new design stamps. However, it will be necessary to dispose of remaining stocks of coils and books containing old issue stamps on hand in post offices and the Department before the new coils and books can be placed on sale exclusively.

In some cases, postmasters may receive shipments of new design coils and books before January 21 or January 23, respectively, in which case care must be exercised to prevent the placing of the same on sale before the second day of issue in each case.

RAMSEY S. BLACK,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

79114¢. (Ed. 40,000.)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1938

The Prexie coils replaced those of the Fourth Bureau Issue. Though the Prexies were issued in January 1939, the Fourth Bureaus continued to be widely used because of large inventories. Combinations of the two series are found well into the 1940's