

# Washington & Franklin Coils: Flat Plate and Coil Waste Issues 1908-1915

**Purpose of Exhibit:** is to highlight the numerous production changes and uses of the Third Bureau flat plate coil material produced from 1908 to 1915. It includes the perforated, imperforate, and coil waste issues produced along with their postal uses to domestic and foreign destinations. The exhibit does not include any archival material because coil stamps were a byproduct from sheet stamps that existed prior to the production and development of coil stamps. The focus is on the changes made by the Bureau to be more efficient in production and meet the demands of businesses and public due to the increased popularity of coils.

**Organization:** The exhibit is organized by the year the stamps were issued. Each major series includes production material of perforated and imperforate coils. The uses are organized by denomination, orientation, and format. The orientation is defined as vertical or horizontal and the format is determined by perforated and imperforate. The headings for imperforate uses have been done in *italics*. The flat plate coil waste follows each appropriate issue it was made from. The last flat plate coil was produced in 1914, but the **COIL STAMPS** coil waste was released by the Bureau for sale in the Washington D.C. post office on August 2, 1915. This is why the time period of the exhibit ends with the year 1915. The exhibit finishes with the transition to the rotary press issues of 1914.

**Importance:** The development of Bureau coils played a major role in business use and demand, as well as philatelic interest with the numerous new varieties. The production of Bureau coils had a specific purpose directed at business use and also provided the general public with the opportunity to purchase stamps outside of normal post office hours from vending machines. The United States was one of several countries that experimented with coil stamps around the turn of the century in 1900. New Zealand, the Netherlands, England, and Ireland also experimented with stamps used in vending machines. **The United States took the lead in developing coil stamp production by using imperforate sheets that were stripped and constructed into the first true coil stamps used in vending and affixing machines.** Other countries such as Canada, and Sweden followed close behind in the development of their own coil stamps by purchasing and using the Rotary Press developed by Benjamin Stickney. The demand and use of coil stamps by businesses increased dramatically. The Bureau continued to experiment with coil production which eventually led to the use of Stickney's Rotary Press machine in 1914. This new invention increased coil production from 1 million to 6 million coil stamps per day. The numerous issues of coils, and changes in production methods, created over 400 new issues to collect along with many different production varieties like paste-ups, trailer/leader strips, line pairs, shades, design spacing, and printing errors for collectors to pursue.

**Challenge Factor; Difficulty of Acquisition:** First of all, it's important to understand that coils were not readily available for sale at the post office. A special order had to be placed with the post master and the customer had to pay a small premium for the coil. Secondly, the exhibit is composed of 50 different issues as listed in the Scott's catalog.

There are 31 perforated issues, 15 imperforate coil issues, and 4 coil waste issues. Out of the 50 different issues, the 3c Scott 345H imperforate coil is the only one missing from the exhibit in some format. It is not known on cover, and just one mint pair exists certified by APEX. Out of the 50 different issues, 48 of them are documented on cover. The exhibit has 48 out of 48 examples known on cover in at least one format or another. The exhibit survey is for known documented examples in the exhibit with a population of 10 or less. In numerous cases there is more than one example in the exhibit. It is the most comprehensive exhibit of Washington and Franklin coil material ever assembled.

- 15 of 48 issues are represented by an EDU, Earliest Documented Use
- 21 Largest Known Multiples or Frankings on cover
- Population of Key Documented Uses on Cover and or Stamps From the Certificate Archives: APEX, PF, PSE, and PSAG.

## Exhibit Survey

Number Known	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	16	Orangeburg Coil
Covers in Exhibit	7	4	3	4	15	11	3	6	7	1	The Orangeburg coil is the most recognized rarity, but as this chart shows there are a
Stamp Material	12	3	3	x	x	x	x	x	1	x	number of other coil rarities more difficult to acquire on and off cover.

**Summary: Exhibit Survey** There are 19 items, covers/stamps, that are unique, 33 covers that have a population of 5 or less, and 60 covers that have a population of less than 10. There are 6 documented uses of Scott 356, a 10c horizontal coil. In the past 40 years they have each sold once. There are 2 of 3 documented uses of Scott 447, a 5c coil in the exhibit. There are 2 of 2 documented uses of Scott 343H present. There are 2 of 5 documented uses of Scott 350, a 4c vertical coil. There are 3 of 5 uses of Scott 384H, a 2c horizontal imperf coil. There are 4 of 6 uses, Scott 409H in the exhibit. There are 4 of 5 covers with the COIL STAMPS imprint found in the exhibit. Covers with multiple examples of the same Scott number are all different postal uses.

**Original Research:** This new variety was discovered by the exhibitor, it is a "Guide Pin" production mark, that has only been found on hand assembled paste-ups with the guide line and arrow. The "Guide Pin" marking is a pin hole found in the margin of the coil stamps by the paste-up of the guide line and arrow plate markings. They have only been found on the first two hand assembled issues of 1908 and 1910. It has been determined the pin holes were caused by something holding down the pane of 400 on the table of the machine that cut the pane into strips. The device may have held the sheet in place to keep it in alignment with the guideline so it didn't move while being cut. Further study and research is going on to validate this production variety along with an article to publish the new findings

**New Additions:** A 344V imperf coil applied by a Simplex affixing machine on a Drummond-Ludlow envelope in 1909. The company was the sole distributor for the Simplex machine and one of the first affixing machines sold to dispense and affix imperf coils. A 1c horizontal imperf pair on cover, Scott 343H, second documented use, new discovery. A 2c strip of five on cover, Scott 344H, earliest documented use. A mint pair, Scott 349, 2c vertical coil vended by the Parkhurst vending machine, unique item. This is very significant item because the Parkhurst Vending Machines were one of first four vending machines accepted by the USPS to sell and dispense coil stamps. A solo use of Scott 349, a 2c vertical coil vended by the Parkhurst vending machine, only 2c use known on cover. A mint paste-up strip of six, Scott 344H with reverse paste-up and plate number, unique item. A used strip of three, Scott 344V, with the 1c foreign entry. One of three documented used examples. A 4c solo use of the vertical imperf coil, Scott 346V, EDU. A First Day of Use, Scott 424, COIL STAMPS plate block on cover, 1 of 5 known covers with the COIL STAMPS imprint. Ex Sisken

### **Key Items are listed in the order they appear in the exhibit.**

- 1) A 2c mint pair, Scott 349, vended by the Parkhurst vending machine. Unique item.
- 2) The one cent foreign entry on a used strip of three, Scott 344V. One of 3 documented used examples.
- 3) A strip of 5 on a registered cover, Scott 344H, earliest documented use, only multiple on cover known.
- 4) One cent horizontal imperforate coil pair on cover, Scott 343H, second documented use, new discovery by exhibitor.
- 5) A 4c solo use of Scott 346V, Earliest Documented Use, one of four documented solo uses.
- 6) Solo use of the 5c vertical imperforate coil, Scott 347V, to Russia, one of two documented solo uses.
- 7) Only commercial use, non stamp dealer mail of the 10 cent, Scott 356. One of six documented uses.
- 8) EDU 1 cent, Scott 387, earliest documented use of any 1910 perf-12 issue.
- 9) One cent horizontal imperforate coil, Scott 383H, on third class printed matter post card to France, one of two documented examples.
- 10) Two cent horizontal imperforate coil, Scott 384H, one of four documented uses.
- 11) The "Orangeburg" coil, Scott 389 on cover. One of 16 documented uses.
- 12) One cent vertical pair, perf-8.5, Scott 410, with plate #6582 in the vertical margin, from the COIL STAMPS plates. This is one of two documented examples and illustrated in the Durland's plate number catalog.
- 13) The only commercial solo use of the 5 cent, Scott 447 to Brazil. One of three documented uses in period.
- 14) Full pane of 100 1c stamps, Scott 424, from the COIL STAMPS plates, flat plate coil waste, plate number only pane, #6581 one of three documented uses.
- 15) A First Day of Use, Scott 424 COIL STAMPS plate block on a registered cover,
- 16) Two cent plate block of 12, Scott 425, COIL STAMPS plates, to Germany, Earliest Documented Use (3/27/24)