Shermack Cont': Type III

1906-08 Wmk

1906 type I

The last four private perf issues
Even though the 2c Harding is cataloged later than the 1 1/2c Harding, the latter is the last private perf issue, dated 4/1925. Virtually all precancelled “Chicago”

INTERNATIONAL VENDING COMPANY

1906 Type I Dwmk
APS 163230
PRIVATE VENDING and AFFIXING MACHINE PERFORATIONS

In the earlier years of coil stamps a number of private companies bought non-perforated sheets from the Bureau and then applied various perforations to suit the particular needs of their machines.

There were five principle companies:

- Schermack Detroit: Type I, Type II, Type III
- U.S. Automatic Vending New York: Type I, Type II; Type III
- Brinkerhoff Vending Denver: Type I, Type IIa, Type IIb
- Mailometer (orig. Shermack): Type I, Type II, Type III, Type IV
- Farwell Chicago: Type A, Type B, and various Groups

Two other companies lasted for brief periods:

International Vending Baltimore and Attleboro Stamp Co.

SCHERMACK

Type I

1909 Lincoln Centenary
7 holes
2 mm spacing

Type I

8 holes 3 mm spacing
3 mm spacing
Certification PSE 10985

Type II

1906 type I
6 hole
FARWELL

Group 1, six holes
Type A spacing (3mm)

1910 Swmk

Group 2, two & three holes
Type B spacing (3mm)

1910 Swmk

Group 3, four & three holes
Type A spacing (3mm)

1910 Smwk

three & two holes
Type B spacing (2mm)
FARWELL CONT'

Group 4, four & four holes
Type A spacing (3mm)

1910-12 Swmk

1910-12 Swmk

Type B spacing (2mm)

1910-12 Swmk

1910-12 Swmk

1910-12 Swmk
U.S. AUTOMATIC VENDING

1910 Swmk
U.S. Automatic I

1909 Dwmk
U.S. Automatic I

1908-09 Dwmk
U.S. Automatic Vending I

1908 Dwmk
U.S. Automatic II

1908 Dwmk
U.S. Automatic III
KANSAS CITY ROULETTES

Private perforations applied by the postmaster at Kansas City. These perforated stamps were from imperforated sheets (usually used for vending machine coils) that were no longer in demand. 93,600 of the 1c and 69,000 of the 2c 1912 issue were perforated in this manner. Cheap roulette wheels from a local store were used. The type usually used for laying out dress patterns. As the wheels were not all alike and the process was done on various surfaces the perforations varied considerably.

Certification #91157
Certification #91158

Initials (ERW/WW)
Purchaser/Notary
Purchased 1/8/15

H.F. KOHR.
RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO
THE KANSAS CITY STAR.
KANSAS CITY, MO.

Charles King,
53 High St.,
Wincanton, Som.,
England.
PITTSBURGH Or WILSON ROULETTE

A customer of a Pittsburgh bank left some imperforated sheets of the 2c, Type Va, March 20, 1920 offset issue, Type I of the 1916 issue, and the Type IV 1916-18 offset issue as collateral for a loan at the bank. In 1929 the client defaulted on the loan, and Mr. J.H. Wilson, a bank employee, perforated the sheets with a roulette and sold them to recoup some of the loan loss.

Type Va Offset
Signed on back Herman Herst, Jr.

Type 1 1916 Offset

Type IV Offset

BLACK SHEEP
BYRD ISSUE/MOTHERS OF AMERICA
PRIVATE PERFORATIONS

These private perforations are somewhat different from the previous stamps as they were not produced from postage stamps but from the Farley issues of 1935, which were printed purely for collectors. Many collectors bought the entire sheets and cut them to obtain the center guide lines and marginal arrow markings. The remainder were purchased at a discount and privately perforated and used as postage.
AFFECTS OF WORLD WAR I ON STAMP PRODUCTION

Three major changes and one post war economy change

To assist with the cost of the war, postal rates were increased from 2c to 3c from November 2, 1917 through June 30, 1919. This created extra demands both during the war and shortly thereafter, when postal rates reverted back to the two cent rate.

1) Printing Dyes: During the war the postal service had difficulties obtaining printing dye. Of interest, the postal service had historically obtained a portion of dyes from Germany. The substitute dyes proved to be very corrosive to the plates and, as a result, the engraving process for the most common issues was abandoned for Offset Printing.

Color Variations:

2) Offset Printing: In the process a photograph is made of the original die and after it is enlarged, it could be touched up and cleaned. Then a normal sized negative is placed in a "Step and repeat" photographic machine containing a sensitized plate. From the glass positive plate a negative celluloid print or "mask" is made. Offset printing had been used for some time on revenue issues. The first regular issue was the 3c Washington, issued in March 1918, followed by the 1c in Dec. 1918

3) Abandoning the use of Watermarked Paper: As an economy measure, the use of the Single Line Watermark paper was abandoned.

4) Coil Waste: after the war, the postal service continued with economy measures and used short lengths of paper and other waste determined unsatisfactory for coil production
Type IV (1920) retouched negative
a) top line of the toga is thin to broken
b) the line in the left “2” is thin to broken

Type V (1920) retouched negative
a) the top line of the toga is bold
b) additional shading dots have been added to the nose and lip

Type Va (1920) retouched negative
a) same as type V except in the shading dots of the nose. Third row of dots from the bottom has four dots instead of six
b) overall height is 1/3 mm shorter than type V

Type VI (1920) retouched negative
a) the line in the left “2” is very strong

Type VII (1920) retouched negative
a) extra shading dots have been added to the hair at the top of the head
OFFSET TYPES

Type Differences from the use of two different dies.

Type III below used a negative of the 3c Die I, used in Flat Plate Printing. Type IV below used a negative from Die II, also used in Flat Plate Printing. This die was the one made during the War period, when substitute inks created plate corrosion problems.

Type III (1918-20 Unwmk)
- a) top line of the toga rope is strong but 5th shading line is missing
- b) center shading line of the toga button consists of two dashes with a central dot
- c) "P" and "O" of "POSTAGE" are separated by a line of color
- d) frame line at the bottom of vignette is complete

Type IV (1918-20 Unwmk)
- a) shading lines of the toga rope are complete
- b) 2nd and 4th shading lines in toga button are broken in the middle & 3rd line is continuous with dot
- c) "P" and "O" of "POSTAGE" are joined
- d) frame line at the bottom of vignette is broken
Die Type created due to corrosive inks during the War:

The corrosion of plates because of inferior inks produced another Die Type of the 3c Washington (Jan. 1918)

Type I Used on both Flat Plate & Rotary Plate
a) the top line of the toga rope is weak and the shading lines thin
b) 5th line from the toga crosshatching is missing
c) line between the lips is thin

Type II Used on both Flat Plate & Rotary Plate
a) top line of the toga rope is strong
b) line between the lips is heavy

PINK BACKS

The use of an aniline ink during the War created stamps that appeared pink on the reserve side even though the stamps were violet or claret. 2c, 3c, & 12c 1913-15 perf 10 Swmk, as well as a Limited number of the 1917 Special Delivery Issue.

2c 1913/15
Perf 10

Pink Backs

Regular
Pink Backs Cont'

3c 1913/15
Perf 10

- Pink Back
- Regular
- Block of Pink Backs

12c 1913/15
Perf 10

- Pink Back

1917 10c Special Delivery
Unwmk; Perf 11

- Both Pink Backs

- Regular
COIL WASTE

In 1919 the post office attempted to save money by taking the short lengths (sheets of 70, 100, 170) left over at the end of a run of sidewise rotary coil stamps and making them into regular postage by perforating the stamps horizontally as well. Stamps from these short lengths are referred to as “coil waste”. These blocks will show the “S” markings as described under “Die Differences caused by change over from Flat Plate to Rotary Plate”.

Catalogs will list the following numbers as “coil waste” issues:

Washington Franklin Series:

There were four issues of 1919: the 1c, 2c type II & III, and 3c type III. These were perforated 11 x 10.

![Type III](image1)

![Type III](image2)

In 1921 a 1c and 2c were printed with perforations of 10 x10. There was also a 1c sheet waste issue of 1922.

1923-24 Series:

There was a 1c 1924 issue and 2c 1923 issue perforated 11 x 10. Then there was a 1923 issue perforated 11 x 11.

Imperforated coil sheets not used for coils create a broader definition of “coil waste”, as the sheets were turned into regular stamps.

1) “Coil Stamps” Plates (Swmk issues of 1914, 1c & 2c)
2) Kansas City Roulettes (Swmk issues of 1914, 1c & 2c)
3) Wilson or Pittsburgh Roulettes
4) Byrd Issue Perforations (Air Post Souvenir sheet)
COIL WASTE

(World War I Affects
Continuing until 1924)

In 1919 the post office attempted to save money by taking the short
lengths (sheets of 70, 100, 170) left over at the end of a run of
sidewise rotary coil stamps and making them into regular postage by
perforating the stamps horizontally as well. Stamps from these short
lengths are referred to as “coil waste”. These blocks will show the “S”
markings as described under “Die Differences caused by change
over from Flat Plate to Rotary Plate”.

Catalogs will list the following numbers as “coil waste” issues:

Washington Franklin Series:

There were four issues of 1919: the 1c, 2c type II & III, and 3c type II.
Stamps below were perforated 11 x 10.

In 1921 a 1c and 2c were printed with perforations of 11 x11. There
was also a 1c sheet waste issue of 1922.

1923-24 Series:

There was a 1c 1924 issue and 2c 1923 issue perforated 11 x 10.
Then there was a 1923 issue perforated 11 x 11.

Imperforated coil sheets not used for coils create a broader definition
of “coil waste”, as the sheets were turned into regular stamps.

1) “Coil Stamps” Plates (Swmk issues of 1914, 1c & 2c)
2) Kansas City Roulettes (Swmk issues of 1914, 1c & 2c)
3) Wilson or Pittsburgh Roulettes
4) Byrd Issue Perforations (Air Post Souvenir sheet)
In the case of these issues the “waste sheets” had originally been perforated 10 vertically. When the Bureau attempted to perforate the Rotary sheets with a Rotary Press 10 perforation machine, it proved unsuccessful, so the stamps were perforated 11 horizontally with a Flat Plate perforator.

Another trivial characteristic of this group is shown below:

There were perforations of three types:

a) with perforations just going to the edge of the stamp
b) with perforations going partially to the margin’s edge
c) with perforations going to the margin’s edge
Contract Mail
In 1925 Congress decided to contract air postal service. In 1926 the rates were set at 10c per ounce up to 1000 miles; 15c up to 1500 miles & 20c over 1500. The first routes for contract air mail (C.A.M.) were Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, & return. Ford Motor Company was the first carrier. The first flights were on Feb. 15, 1926 on these routes. This envelop is a first day cover on Chicago to New York service, Sept 27, 1926. Official seal on back.
The above "coil waste" issues were perforated from sheets that had not been previously perforated, such as the preceding coil waste issues, which had been originally perforated 10. Therefore, these stamps were perforated 11 both ways, using the same Flat Plate perforating machines.
ROTARY PRESS
Coil Waste
Series 1923-24
Perforated 11x11

Mar. 1923

As stated earlier most coil waste was converted into regular postage by being perforated in both directions. However, there are cases where the stamps appeared in coil form. The bureau decided to add a plating number to the coil waste for the 2c series. The upper plate number, with “star”, being placed above the first stamp to the right of the center line. The lower number was at the left of the center line.

Below are examples of “off center” coils showing the plate numbers. The first strip just showing the upper number and “star”. The other showing the upper and lower numbers matched.

The use of “coil waste” was discontinued in 1924
CHRISTMAS ISSUE OF 1975
Perforation Differences

This issue has the distinction of being perforated by three different perforation machines. In 1975 the USPS was using the in-line perforators. However, if those machines broke down during a run, the remaining stamps were perforated on either the “L” or “EE” perforators. The Christmas issue of 1975 was perforated on all three.

These differences can be picked up easily as follows:

In-Line: Perforations do not go through the sheet margin
“L”: Perforations go through all sheet margins
“EE”: Perforations go through the sheet margin containing plate numbers and other marginal markings but not the others.
OTHER SELVEDGE MARKINGS RELATED TO PRINTING TECHNIQUES

"F" Marking:

The "F" indicates the plate is ready for hardening. Used only on Flat Plates. This item on the 1926/7 series is unusual in that the "F" is inverted. Only Plates #s 18890 and 18892 have the inverted number feature.

"EI" Marking:

The "EI" indicates that the Electrolytic Iron process was used to produce the stamps. Here it is demonstrated on the 6c 1938 airmail issue.
“CS” indicates that the stamps were produced on plates that were Chromium Plated. 1933 3c Edward Oglethorpe

“C” Marking
“C” indicates the same thing as the “CS”, as the stamps were produced on Chromium Plates. 1938 6c airmail
PHANTOM PLATE NUMBER

Some of the Offset Print issues of the Washington/Franklin issues produced what are referred to as "Phantom Plate Numbers". The inked zinc plate transferred the image to a roller, which in turn placed the image on the paper. A second smaller guide roller was sometimes placed too close to the paper and picked up ink from the plate number and guide line. This created the "ghost" markings on subsequent rotations. This strip shows 10 full ghost numbers and 4 ghost prints of the guide line arrow.

Erroneous Plate Applied

On this 1972 6c Wolf Trap Farm issue the original plate number applied was 33626. Then, it was corrected to 33618. The 33626 was never used on of the plates produced.
SIDEROGRAPHERS AND PLATE FINISHERS
INITIALS ON STAMP SHEET MARGINS

From May 1906 to December 1928 Siderographers entered their initials with a transfer roll. From April 1909 to December 1928 Plate Finishers entered their initials with a die punch.

Siderographers are technicians operating the transfer presses used to transfer the design of the single hardened die onto a transfer roll. The roll is then used to transfer the stamp designs onto the actual printing plate.

The Plate Finishers clean or erase any transfer marks or other irregularities found on the plate after the Siderographer finished.

Siderographers' initials normally appear on the bottom left sheet margin of panes. Plate Finishers' initials normally appear on the bottom right sheet margin of panes. Occasionally, two people worked on a plate, as shown in one of the following examples. In the case of multi colored stamps, one siderographer may have worked on the frame, while another one worked on the vignette. In that case, the initials were printed in the color of the frame or vignette. (perhaps of interest, the initials, AB-Andrew Black, are on the last issues that included initials, the 1928 Aeronautics Conference Issues). Also an exception of placement.

Norse American Issue
Clyde Volacker DeBinder/Andrew Black
Siderographers

Ralph F. Wurtz
Plate Finisher
Printers' Initials on Offset Issues
As described earlier, the Offset process produces a zinc plate that is then transferred to another surface and then offset onto the paper. The zinc plate can be easily scratched, and it was on this surface that the printers scratched their initials. Below are examples of initials on various Offsets: Type Va, Type VI, and Type V.

Type Va

Initials OAM
O. A. Myer

Initials RSW & OAM
RS Wirshing & O.A. Myer

Type VI

Initials WB
Walter Bodecker

Type V

Initial A
OTHER ITEMS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST

Color Variations

Use of Bi-Sect Postage

Example of Counterfeiting

Odd Cancellation for Newspaper bundle delivery
COLOR VARIATIONS

There are many cases where color variations occur. Variations can occur because of dye differences or the wetness of the paper or pressure applied during the printing process. Most are not listed under separate catalog numbers, as were the Jefferson issues of 1851.

1895 Dwmk type III

Brown
reddish brown
purple brown
yellow brown
1898 Series Dwmk

1912-14 Swmk
1917-19 Unwmk
COLOR VARIATIONS CONT'

1898 15c Clay Dwmk

One sheet of this issue was found with a faint impression in this yellowish green shade

1922-25 Fourth Bureau Issue
15c perf 11
Interesting color variations in this issue
USE OF BI-SECT POSTAGE

In relatively early years of postal delivery, the splitting of a stamp to produce the correct amount of postage required was condoned by the postal service.

Example on this 1869 Pictorial 2c “Post Horse & Rider”. The bi-sect was probably used for local delivery which, at that time, required postage of only 1c.

This envelope is quite unusual, as the bi-sect is covered by a 3c stamp. The best explanation is that the letter was first locally delivered, to be read or added to by a second source, before being addressed and then sent on the intended recipient.
A modern day example of color variation can be seen on the John Hopkins $1.00 issue, of 1989. These differences are generally created by different methods of prephosphored tagging.

- **Intense Deep Blue**
  - Large block tagging

- **Deep Blue**
  - Overall tagging

- **Deep Blue**
  - Tagging omitted

- **Dark Blue**
  - Prephosphored coated paper

- **Blue**
  - Prephosphored uncoated paper (mottled tagging)

- **Blue**
  - Prephosphored coated paper (grainy solid tagging)
Quite a late bi-sect. On this 1936/37 Stephen Decatur and Thomas MacDonough. The postage rate was 3c at the time. Sent from Fort Lee, N.J. April 27, 1937

1913 1c Parcel Post Issue: Very unusual usage. The drop letter rate was 1c. The only explanation that can be given is that the postmaster had previously used a bi-sect and therefore continued to use the remainder on the following postage.
Bi-Sects Cont’

1908-09, perf. 12, Dwmk 1c Franklin and bi-sict attached along with 1902 Issue 1c, Dwmk.

1932 1c Washington Bicentennial Issue
COUNTERFEITS (Why? greed)

Chicago or Carl Street Counterfeit

Francis Leech tells the story that the stamps were noticed in April 1895 by a Chicago stamp dealer, Edward Lowry. He contacted the postal inspector. The stamps were being advertised by a Canadian company in the Chicago Tribune for less than face value. Further investigation led agents to a location on Carl Street in Chicago. It was found that the Chicago and Canadian entities were working together. All were eventually arrested.

Counterfeit 1897/03 Issue

Boston Counterfeit

These stamps began to appear in 1935 in New York, not Boston, and were produced on lithography equipment. It is believed that the stamps were printed in New York, but the printers were never found, although a number of people were convicted for possessing or selling them. Mr. Hoffman, a small time stamp dealer on Nassau Street, was convicted of possession and sale of counterfeit stamps. He paid a fine, but did not serve time. In the fall of 1936 the counterfeits showed up in Boston, being sold to Mr. Donovan, a neighborhood store owner. Charles Quinn of Roxbury and William Leo Ling were later convicted and served time for the possession and sale of counterfeit stamps. The first stamps were perforated approximately 14, while later copies were perforated 12.

Genuine Stamp Counterfeit Perf 14 Counterfeit Perf 12
(Puzzlements continue)

NEWSPAPER CANCELLATION

The punched-hole cancellation of this 50c Columbian Issue is interesting. It was used to pay for delivery of newspaper bundles.

IN CONCLUSION:

History evolves. The history of stamp production continues to evolve. It is very important to realize that one can become just as involved in the continuing evolution today, as those who discovered the changes in the earlier stages of stamp printing development. One does not have to go back to the “classics” to participate.

Earlier it was observed that there were four main reasons for the many catalog numbers.

- Perforation differences
- Paper differences
- Die and transfer differences
- Printing methods

Perforations such as the John Paul Jones issue, hole size differences in the Liberty Series, and more recently in rouletting, etc. should continue to be of interest.

Paper differences and Watermarks: today those equivalents could be associated with prephosphored tagging, a subject not discussed. It is true that the tagging is not used for the same security purposes of the earlier watermarks. Florescent tagging was, in fact, developed for automatic processing of stamps at speeds much greater than previous handling capabilities.

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