



Coil stamps

By Doug Files

Introduction

Several club members have mentioned to me that they wish they knew more about the basics of stamp collecting. So I am beginning a series on general philatelic topics. I hope to



351 line coil pair

provide an introduction to each topic for newer collectors while keeping the tone and amount of detail engaging for experienced collectors. As this series of articles continues feel free to offer suggestions or constructive criticism.

Coil Stamps

Coil stamps are postage stamps that are sold in strips one stamp wide. The name comes from the



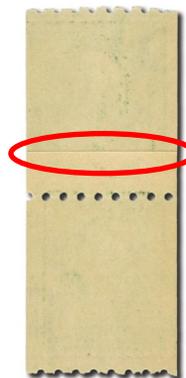
1954 — Two-cent Liberty series coil pair

fact that these strips are usually sold coiled up into rolls. This is so that businesses and nonprofits can dispense them like Scotch tape. If a person or a business uses large quantities of stamps, coils are an efficient way to use them. It is much quicker to tear 100 coil stamps out of a dispenser than to fold and tear 100 regular stamps out of a sheet.

Coils were first produced in the Netherlands in 1903. Other nations followed, and Sweden has

issued coils of most of its stamps for the past century. In the United States the first forays into coil stamps were so that stamps could be sold out of vending machines. This began around the dawn of the 20th century. Before coils existed, companies wanting to stock vending machines with stamps had employees tear sheets into strips and then stock the machines. However, uneven perforation tears led to the machines frequently jamming. Next vending machine companies arranged with the post office to issue imperforate sheets to eliminate the perforation abnormalities. When companies cut the imperforate sheets into strips it often created "private coils". This meant that the perforations were made by a private company, not by the government. Some types of U.S. private coils are scarce.

In 1895 the U.S. Post Office Department began issuing its own coils for the first bureau issue. These were produced by pasting together sheets, cutting one-stamp-wide strips out of the sheet and then perforating in between each coil stamp. The next stage of coil production did away with pasting sheets of stamps together. Instead a rotary press was used to print stamps onto a long roll of paper. The cylindrical plate used to print these stamps gathered ink in the seam



Back image of a paste-up pair. Notice where the tab from the lower stamp overlaps with the upper stamp

(Continued on page 4)

Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

2026

MARCH

Mar 2, 7:00 pm—Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell & Trade.

Mar 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Mar13-15, Garfield-Perry March Party 2026, Gardield-Perry Stamp Club , Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd. Strongsville. Email: MarchPartyChair@garfieldperry.org.

Mar 16, 7:00 pm -AUCTION #2—Regular Member Auction

APRIL

Apr 6, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20pm** Club What was Your Biggest Mistake in Stamp Collecting? Member Participation 4-6 minute.

Apr 13, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Apr 20, >>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<< Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom US and Worldwide Postal Stationary—Doug Files

MAY

May 4, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom AUCTION #3 - Club CASH Auction

May 8-9, Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) Spring Gathering, McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagle Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave. NW, Canton OH, HRS Fri:9am-9am and Sat: 9am-9pm, contact Bill Latchie or Marty Adams—martyprecancel@gmail.com.

May 11, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

May18, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Pre-1900 US Stamps DSC Member Speaker—Rick Clark

JUNE

Jun 1, AUCTION #4—Regular Member Auction

Jun 8, Board meeting

Jun 15, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person &

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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Scan code or visit www.garfieldperry.org

How to Negotiate with your Cat?

Step one:

Give your cats whatever they want.

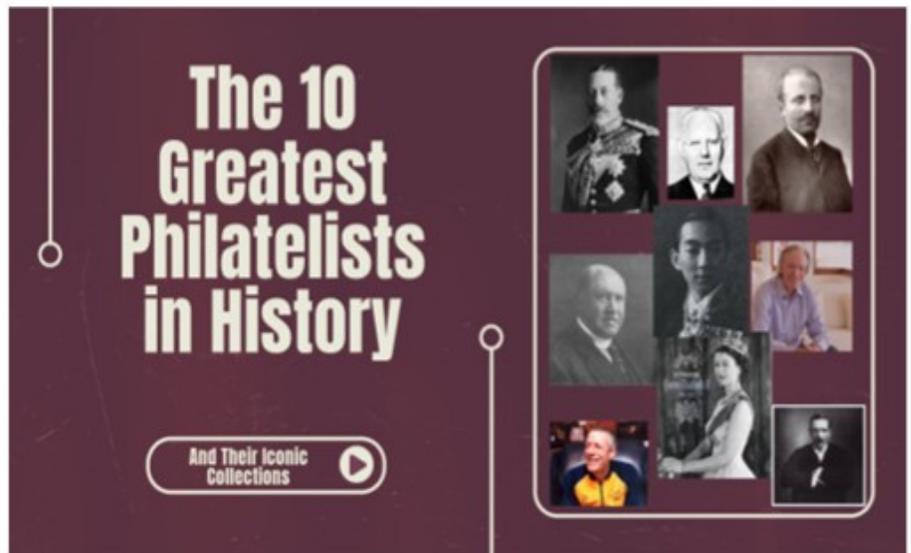
Step two:

End Negotiation.



The 10 Greatest Philatelists in history

We all know stamp collectors — members of our local stamp club, people we see at stamp shows, philatelic friends, and so on. But this video shows stamp collectors we likely don't know personally, but should know about: The 10 Greatest Philatelists in history! To view the video, go to the following website address: stampaware.weebly.com/video.html. Reprint — *The First State Philatelist*, Brandywine Valley Stamp Club February 2026.



Buying and Selling Precancel Philatelic Material

Suppose you have some precancel material to sell. The first



dealer offers you \$500. The second dealer offers \$900.

Obviously, the first dealer is trying to rip you off. Not so fast! Offers from different dealers can vary for several reasons.

One dealer may overlook something in the material. The first dealer may have overlooked a scarce item that the second dealer notices. It happens.

On a similar note, dealers may disagree on the material involved. The first dealer may believe that there are box cancels and fakes involved. Their offer will be less because they have strong suspicions that some of the material is not what it purports to be. A second dealer believes everything is fine and they will offer more.



Another factor is duplication. The first dealer may have a lot of the same material already in stock. They do not want to pay a higher price for duplicate

material. The second dealer may not have a deep stock. This is all new material to them. They will pay more to bolster their inventory.

Does the dealer have the correct customer base for the material? For example, if you had a collection of French precancels, you want to sell to a dealer that sells French precancels. A dealer who handles only Bureau Precancels is going to offer a low price if they do not pass on the material altogether. It is not because they are taking advantage of you.

They might be sitting on this material a long time until they find buyers elsewhere. The offer is going to be less because of the extended time involved finding a buyer.

Dealers have different customer bases. For example, suppose you are selling a collection of precancel plate number singles. The first dealer may not price the material at a premium because they do not have a customer looking for plate

number singles. A second dealer may have a customer that is not a PSS member and that person specializes in precancel plate number singles. The collection would be of great interest to them. The second dealer will offer more because they have a customer just waiting to buy this specialized collection.



I gave a few examples here. There may be other reasons why the offers from different dealers can vary. The dealer with the lower offer may not be trying to take advantage of you. Their circumstances may be different. They are just trying to manage their risk. Sometimes it takes a little bit of work on your part (as the seller) to find the dealer that is in the best position to handle what you are trying to sell Good luck!

— reprint from *The Precancel Forum*, December 2025 by Scott Shaulis



Precancel Stamp Society

Famous & Favorite U.S. Early Series Issues 1894-1930

The first U.S. issues were all definitive stamps. This means they were regular workaday stamps and not ones that commemorated a certain event (which are called commemoratives).

To have the 1800 stamps printed the Post Office Department contracted with private companies, usually awarding the contract to the lowest bidder. In the 1890s stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company and after 1894 the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed U.S. currency. In the summer of that year, Congress and the Post Office Department decided the



John Marshall, Scott 263

Bureau would begin printing U.S. postage stamps. The hope was that the change would improve security and cost effectiveness.

The first series of definitive stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was called the **First Bureau Issue** and many collectors of U.S. stamps use this terminology. The **Second Bureau Issue** (1902-1908) displays prominent persons in the government with the intricate designs and was known as the Washington-Franklin series.



Benjamin Franklin, Scott 300

For the **Second Bureau Issue** coils were made for the 1-cent, 2-cent and 5-cent values. However, not many of these were sold. The most common of the Second Bureau Issue coils can sell for more than \$1,000. A 1-cent vertical coil from the Second Bureau Issue was sold at auction for \$130,000 in 2009. And the 2-cent vertical

(Continued on page 5)

March Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

March 2, 7:00 pm — Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell, Trade

March 9 — 7:00 pm Board meeting

March 16 — Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

AUCTION #2—Regular member Auction

(Continued from page 1)

and this is what caused joint line pairs to exist. That is, the extra ink made a line between some of the stamps when the printing plate touched the paper.

Line pair coils

To recap, a line pair is a pair of coil stamps which have an inked line in between the two stamps. Sometimes this is done on purpose, for example, when a guide line is meant to be printed between some stamps. Guide lines helped printers to count the stamps. But other times the ink just collects in the seam of the cylindrical printing plate and that makes unintended joint lines between two stamps.

Line pair coils are less common than non-line pair coils so they often command higher prices. Also note that line pairs are usually a coil stamp phenomenon because of the way coils are produced. Regular stamps sold in sheets do not usually have lines between the stamps.

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Coil pairs

Coil pairs are just what you might

think: two coil stamps attached to each other. Why is this a thing? Many collectors prefer to collect two coil stamps together to emphasize how they are connected to each other. Having a pair also helps the viewer appreciate the differences between the perforated edges and the smooth edges.

Horizontal vs. vertical coils

Some coil stamps are separated from one another by horizontal perforations and some are separated by vertical perforations. Each type is illustrated with this article. For U.S. stamps horizontal coils are usually more common than vertical coils. Also note that the perforation of coil stamps usually results in two smooth sides of the stamp and two perforated sides of the stamp. The two smooth sides are parallel to each other and the two perforated sides are parallel to each other. That is, the stamps are perforated either to the right and the left of the design or at the top and bottom. This is the easiest way to distinguish U.S. coils from those which came from a sheet. Another way to distinguish coil stamps is that businesses often cut between stamps with a blade instead of tearing each stamp off by

hand. This makes the perforations appear straight cut instead of having jagged perfs. You may be able to find examples of this among your junk mail.

Note that when the perforations are vertical the stamps form a horizontal coil pair. When the perforations run horizontally, the stamps are a vertical coil pair. If you find this irony confusing, check out the illustrations with this article. To add to the confusion, coil stamps from some countries other than the U.S. show perforations on all four sides.



Paste-up pair: where the two strips of stamps have been pasted together

Plate number coils (PNCs)

Another phenomenon among American coil stamps is plate number coils. Back in the mists of the late 20th century the United States Postal Service began to print small plate numbers at the bottom of some coil stamps. How often the little numerals occurred and which numbers they used depended on



1908 Guide line pair from the Washington-Franklin issue



1917 Vertical coil line pair from the Washington-Franklin series



As the Dayton Stamp Club (DSC) representative to the American Topical Association (ATA) it's time to renew our membership as an affiliate club. **If you are a current member of the ATA please email Pat Westby** your name and ATA member number (see your mail label) to LAPIDARY13@gmail.com. We need to list six people with dual membership to continue our free membership, **otherwise** the cost is \$35.

(Continued on page 6)

The Great American Stamp Show 2027



August 19-22nd, 2027

The Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

(Continued from page 3)

coils are even rarer than that with only 8 copies known.



Martha Washington, Scott 556



George Washington, Scott 406

The Third Bureau Issue

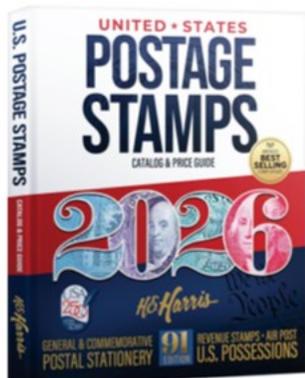
is also called the Washington-Franklin series since its stamps feature portraits of the founders of our nation.

The **Fourth Bureau Issue** is the 1922-1930 definitive series.

In upcoming newsletters we will explore the designs, purposes, and functions of each series. If you forget which definitive series bears which bureau number, you can ask Google and it knows which series is which.

H.E. Harris

2026 United States Postage Stamp Catalog & Price Guide, 91st Edition Has made changes to its newest edition.



The 2026 edition of Harris' U.S. Stamp Catalogue has jellisoned many of its former listings, including those for Canada, Canadian Provinces, the United Nations, and modern day U.S. territories.

H.E. Harris has issued its 2026 stamp catalogue. That catalogue, formerly known as the *U.S./BNA Catalog (United States/ British North America)*, had featured listings for stamps of the United States, U.S. Possessions, the United Nations, Canada, Canadian Provinces, modern-day U.S. territories (such as Northern Mariana Islands), and former U.S. Trust Territories (such as Palau).

But that is evidently changing with the 2026 catalogue. The new edition, renamed *The United States Postage Stamp Catalog and Price Guide*, has eschewed listings for Canada, Canadian Provinces, the United Nations, and modern/former U.S. Trust Territories.

This new edition is strictly a United States catalogue. The catalogue's size has similarly been reduced from 400 to 352 pages. The "reimagined" 2026 edition of Harris' U.S. Stamp Catalog has jettisoned many of its former listings, including those for Canada, Canadian Provinces, the United Nations, and

modern-day U.S. territories. *The United States Postage Stamp Catalog and Price Guide* is now in a lay-flat Swiss-bound hardcover format.

A press release from H.E. Harris announced that the 2026 catalogue has been "updated and reimagined." It features a listing for all regular and commemorative U.S. stamps, including a vast back-of-the-book section with airmail, postage due, special delivery, cut squares, hunting permit stamps (U.S. and by state), revenues, postcards, postal stationery, special handling, officials, and much, much more. U.S. possessions included are the Canal Zone, Cuba, Guam, Hawaii, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and the Ryukyu Islands.

H.E. Harris' United States stamp catalogue is the number one best-selling philatelic publication according to Amazon.com. The new 91st edition retails for \$34.95. For collectors who want British North America and United Nations listings, the previous edition (2025, 90th edition) is still in plentiful supply and can be easily found online at Amazon and elsewhere for a reasonable price.

Harris' 2025 catalogue was the last edition that carried listings for stamps of Canada, Canadian Provinces, the United Nations, and modern-day U.S. territories. The new 2026 edition is a U.S. only stamp catalogue.

(Continued from page 4)

which printing plate was used to print them. The first U.S. coil stamp to show plate numbers was Scott #1891, the 18-cent flag stamp. For this issue the back numbers occurred on every 52nd stamp.

The transportation coil series began and more U.S. stamps were issued with plate numbers. Collector interest increased rapidly. Perhaps you can understand why. Something that appeared to be an ordinary definitive coil, now had various subtypes (different plate numbers) that made the search into a treasure hunt. Many collectors attempted to build a collection of one of each plate number which existed. Some collectors kept only the single stamp with the plate number, but others saved 3 mint coil stamps with the number in the middle or 5 stamps with the number at the bottom of the middle stamp (Notice the plate number on the transportation stamp, S11.) This is sometimes called PNC3 or PNC5 (plate number coil 5). The five-stamp format is probably the most common among current plate number coil enthusiasts. However, the 5-stamp format was not popular for the first few years of U.S. plate number coils so early PNC5s command a premium due to scarcity.



Perhaps you can understand why. Something that appeared to be an ordinary definitive coil, now had various subtypes (different plate numbers) that made the search into a treasure hunt. Many collectors attempted to build a collection of one of each plate number which existed. Some collectors kept only the single stamp with the plate number, but others saved 3 mint coil stamps with the number in the middle or 5 stamps with the number at the bottom of the middle stamp (Notice the plate number on the transportation stamp, S11.) This is sometimes called PNC3 or PNC5 (plate number coil 5). The five-stamp format is probably the most common among current plate number coil enthusiasts. However, the 5-stamp format was not popular for the first few years of U.S. plate number coils so early PNC5s command a premium due to scarcity.

Additionally, some collectors prefer to save PNCs on cover, that is, with the stamp still affixed to its envelope. These collectors usually like to save the entire envelope rather than just to have a cutout of the top right of the envelope. But it depends on the individual.

Also, sometimes the plate number has a capital letter and several numerals. The plate number appears on one stamp out of whatever number of stamps is printed on one revolution of the rotary press used to print the stamps. Interval

numbers have varied from 7 to 52. In any case collecting plate number coils is often affordable and offers hours of treasure hunting for those who appreciate modern U.S. stamps

Paste-up pairs

As mentioned above the early U.S. coil rolls were made from stamps taken from 400 stamp sheets pasted together. The sheets were gummed, perforated in only one direction and cut in the other direction, making twenty strips of 20 stamps each. The strips were then pasted together into coil rolls of 500 or 1000 stamps (example of paste-up coil stamps is on page 1 in this article). This means that every twenty stamps on the roll there was a place where the strips were pasted together. If you have a coil pair that splits where the two strips were joined, it shows the end of one strip overlapping the next. A pair of coil stamps that shows the overlap is called a paste-up pair. Some collectors like these because they demonstrate the stamp production techniques. Others try to avoid them since the coil pair is not pristine. In the 1920s U.S. coils began to be printed on a very long roll of paper on a rotary press so pasting strips of coils became unnecessary.

Transportation coils

Above we mentioned that the U.S. transportation coil series began in 1981. These popular definitives were issued in dozens of denominations until 1995. Every stamp issued was in the coil format and

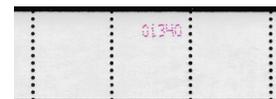


5-cent transportation coil with plate number S11

all but three were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington D.C.,. Transportation designs were minimal – usually a line drawing on white paper. Each stamp showed only an American type of vehicle, a date and a denomination. Some rates represented decimal rates for bulk rate

or presorted mail such as 16.7 cents. Plate numbers appeared on every 24th stamp, every 48th stamp or every 52nd stamp depending on which printing press was used. Despite the fact that these stamps were used by the millions, some specific plate numbers remain hard to find.

Counting numbers (or “back numbers”)



Printed numbers on the back of the coil stamps

German postal authorities had printed

counting numbers on the back of their coil stamps since the 1950s. This helped postal clerks to count how many stamps had been sold off of a roll. Starting in 1994 some U.S. stamps were issued with numerals printed on the back of the liner paper (not on the back of the stamp itself) as a trial. For example a numeral might be sprayed on the back of every tenth stamp. The first U.S. issue to show counting numbers was the 32-cent (G rate) coil. Both the German numerals and the U.S. back numerals were printed in ink which is water-soluble so if you soak the stamp on its backing the counting number may disappear. Collectors should note that counting numerals are different than the plate numbers on the front; their purpose was entirely different. Plate numbers on the front of the stamp indicate which printing plate was used. Counting numbers on the back help postal clerks to determine how many coil stamps have been sold off of a roll.

Self-adhesive coil stamps

In 1989 the 25-cent self-adhesive U.S. Eagle and Shield stamp was issued in strips of 18 which are often considered the first U.S. self-adhesive coils. These were sold to the public only through mail-order. Each stamp was spaced apart from each other stamp on the coated adhesive backing paper and they were imperforate. No perforation was needed to separate one stamp from another. Later self-

(Continued on page 9)

USPS March and February 2026 New Issues



March 13, Lowriders, Five (78c) Forever commemorative stamps, pane of 15.



February 24, Galaxy Pair. Single \$33.25 Priority Mail Express definitive stamp, pane of 4



February 24, Crab Nebula. Single \$11.95 Priority Mail definitive stamp, pane of 4.



Feb. 3, Lunar New Year of the Horse, Single (78c) Forever, commemorative stamp, pane of 20.



Feb. 18, Bruce Lee. Single (78c) Forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20.



Feb. 28, Harriet Powers, strip of 4



March 14, Sunflowers. Single (78c) Forever stamp, double-sided pane of 20 booklet.

Martha Washington: Our First Lady

Martha Dandridge Custis Washington (1731-1802) made her name in the annals of American history by being the wife of George Washington, the first President of the United States. This first "First Lady" of the United States was never referred to by that title during her lifetime, but rather was referred to by the Brit-

from an illness at one of the encampments in 1781. The Washingtons were unable to conceive children and spent the remainder of their years as a childless couple.

With American victory in 1783, Martha sought a quiet retirement from public life. That retirement proved short-lived when, in 1789, George Washington was elected as our nation's first President. She moved with her husband to New York City and then Philadelphia — the nation's first two capital cities. She began the custom of opening the Presidential mansion to visitors annually on New Year's Day (a practice that continued through the presidency of Herbert Hoover).

With the end of the Washington presidency, George and Martha retired to Mount Vernon. George passed from a throat infection in 1799, at age 67; Martha followed George in death two years later, in 1802, from a severe fever, at age 70. Twenty-four stamps comprise a fully realized Martha Washington topical collection.

— reprint from *The First State Philatelist*, Bradywine Valley Stamp Club, February 2026

(Continued from page 1)

Zoom—Topical Collecting and Exhibits
DSC Member Speaker—Joe Shearer

JULY

JUL 6, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, My Other Hobby, Member Participation 4-6 minutes

Jul 13, Board meeting

Jul 11-12, MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show. Midwest Dealers Association, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 Franklin Rd., Lawrence IN. website: msdastampshow.com.

Jul 20, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell, Trade

AUGUST

Aug 3, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, [AUCTION #5—Regular Member Auction](#)

Aug 10, Board meeting, AIRPEX Review

Aug 17, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britain DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger

Aug 21-22, AIRPEX 2026 @ Emerge Center (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm), 2960 W.Enon Rd., Xenia OH 45385

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7, NO MEETING, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—CHURCH CLOSED

Sep 12, TUSCOPEX 2026, Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, q61 Tuscora Ave, NW, New Philadelphia email: slwors-ham@frontier.com.

Sep 18-20, INDYPEX 2026. Indiana Stamp Club, Hendricks County Fairgrounds & Exhibition Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville IN, website: indianastampclub.org.

Sep 21, ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom — TBD

OCTOBER

Oct 5, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom [AUCTION #6—Regular Member Auction](#)

Oct 12, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Oct 19, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Member Bourse & Club Open House—[Buy. Sell. Trade](#)

NOVEMBER

Nov 2, **>>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<<** Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Santa

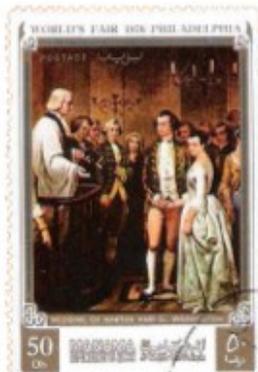
(Continued on page 9)



While George and Martha Washington appeared together on some 19th-century United States currency (such as the 1891 Silver Certificate shown above), they never appeared together on a U.S. postage stamp. The closest they came to a joint appearance was in the 1938 prexies series. In that series, George and Martha Washington appear on the 1¢ and the 1 ½¢ stamps, respectively (Scott #804-805 — shown above, left and right, respectively).

ish-style title of "Lady Washington." Martha Dandridge was born to John and Frances Dandridge, who ran a tobacco plantation in colonial-era Virginia. The oldest of eight children, Martha married Daniel Curtis when she was 19; the couple had four children, three of whom did not survive to adulthood. Daniel himself died in 1757, leaving Martha as a 26-year-old widow. In 1759, she married George Washington, the owner of a plantation in Mount Vernon (Fairfax, Virginia).

During the Revolutionary War (1776-1783), George Washington became the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army of the fledgling United States. Martha played her part in the war by visiting the soldiers in encampments at various times. Her sole surviving child, John Parke Custis, died



In 1976, Manama (a Dependency of the Trucial State of Ajman) did what the U.S. never did: it issued a stamp (Scott #795a) showing George and Martha Washington together (getting married).



A very modern-looking, well-coiffed Martha Washington is pictured on this 2007 stamp from The Gambia (Scott #3075a), part of its "First Ladies of the United States" stamp series.

(Continued from page 6)

adhesive coils were die cut in a wavy line that mimicked perforation. This was done because the public was accustomed to stamps having perforations on their sides.

Linerless self-adhesive coil stamps

One fairly recent innovation for the U.S. Postal Service is linerless self-adhesive coil stamps. Until 1997 all U.S. self-adhesive coils were sold with a coated backing paper. Stamps had to be peeled off the backing. But that year the 32-cent Flag over Porch coils were sold with no backing. They came in a roll like adhesive tape for ease of placing them onto envelopes for bulk mailers. Usually the linerless coil rolls were only available when purchasing thousands of stamps.

Other coils sold in the linerless format were the nondenominated (25-cent) jukebox (Scott 3132) and the 33-cent Fruit berries. The fruit berries coils were also unusual because they came in multiple designs. Most U.S. coil stamps on one roll have all had the same design.

Currently on sale

Coil stamps are still available in the United States. For instance the U.S.P.S. website currently offers large rolls of presorted coils showing bridges. A roll of 3000 stamps costs \$750.00 and a roll of 10,000 coils sells for \$2,500.00. These are probably sold mostly to bulk mailers.

Coil test stamps

One other subtype of U.S. coil stamps is coil test stamps. These are dummy stamps – not valid for postage – which can be used to test tension chocks in vending machines. They have also been used for training bulk mail company employees how to affix stamps to envelopes. Coil test stamps can also be used to test



Coil test stamps with plate number

new machines that a company is just getting into stock. They don't want to ruin hundreds of real postage stamps training employees how to work the new machine.

The early coil test stamps were printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing but recent ones have all been produced by private companies under contract. Avery Dennison is one of these printing companies.

In 1996 some test coils began to show little plate numbers so there do exist plate number coils for coil test stamps. Another subtype of U.S. coil test stamps is ones used to test machines to see if they could use linerless self-adhesive stamps. For one of these only one roll of 1997 test stamps is known.

Overview of coil stamps

Coil stamps are an interesting collecting area and if collectors are so inclined they could probably limit themselves to just collecting varieties of U.S. coil stamps. Still all collectors can benefit from a broad understanding of coils: why they occur, who used them and how they were produced in the factory. This sort of knowledge can help you determine what you have in your collection and why it exists. Plus, occasionally you might be able to find a gem among your common modern definitive stamps.

Further resources

The Production of Washington and Franklin Flat Plate Coils 1909-1915, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyXxuGJTD3M>, accessed 10 Feb 2026

My Stamp Collection of Joint Line Pairs - and A Viewer Top-10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGQB1qdVIMU>

Transportation Coils and Definitive Stamps <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFFuUWrzUjk>

Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, <https://www.pnc3.org/>

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Claus on Stamps and Seals, DSC Member—Susan Kolze

Nov 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Set 2026 Calendar & Budget Review

Nov 16, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom -Club Election for 2026

DECEMBER

Dec 7, HolidayPEX Party Starts at 6:30pm at Church, Dinner Party at Church

Dec 14, Board Meeting

Dec 21, NO MEETING. ENJOY the HOLIDAYS!

Booklets Introduced in 1902

In 1900 the U.S. Post Office for the first time had offered stamps in booklets. These each contained 2¢ stamps from the First Bureau Series configured in panes of six.

In preparing the Series of 1902, 2¢-booklet production figured in the Post Office's earliest plans. Accordingly, the Washington "flag" stamp booklets of two, four, or eight panes went on sale only a week after the sheet version appeared, on January 24, 1903. In the case of the 2¢ "shield" replacement, the booklet followed the sheet by three weeks.

Booklet production required separate printing plates containing 180 images (the normal plates for sheets of lower-valued stamps contained 400 examples; for denominations of 50¢ and higher, plates of 200 images were employed).

The Post office did not at first consider booklets of the 1¢ stamp necessary, but eventually decided to prepare plates for a 1¢ Franklin booklet, which appeared on March 1, 1907.

As shown in the illustration, stamps from a booklet pane of this issue differ in the way they are perforated, with two stamps imperforate on the left side only and two imperforate on the right side only, while the bottom two stamps have imperforate corners (bottom and left; bottom and right).



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Coil stamp, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coil_stamp, accessed 10 Feb 2026

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Forever stamps, USPS website, <https://www.stampsforever.com/stamps/bridges/751604>, accessed 10 Feb 2026

Line pair, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_pair, accessed 10 Feb 2026 My Stamp Collection of Joint Line Pairs - and A Viewer Top-10,

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The Production of Washington and Franklin Flat Plate Coils 1909-1915, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyXxuGJTD3M>, accessed 10 Feb 2026

Transportation Coils and Definitive Stamps, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFFuUWrzUjk>, accessed 10 Feb 2026

What is the difference between a coil pair, a line pair and a se-tenant pair?, Arpin Philately website, <https://blog.arpinphilately.com/faq-what-is-the-difference-between-a-coil-pair-a-line-pair-and-a-se-tenant-pair/>, accessed 10 Feb 2026

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AIRPEX 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 and SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

DAYTON STAMP SHOW



Map to Emerge Center 2960 W Enon Rd, Xenia, OH 45385

