

UNITED STATES

1913

PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION
Perforated 12



VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA



PANAMA CANAL



GOLDEN GATE



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

This set of four designs was issued to mark the 400th anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean in 1513, also the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. The first set was perforated with gauge 12 holes; the second (1914-15) had gauge 10 perfs.

1914-15

Perforated 10



VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA



PANAMA CANAL



GOLDEN GATE



DISCOVERY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

The perforations were changed in 1914 from 12 to 10 to strengthen the sheets.

UNITED STATES

1867

Embossed with Grills of Various Sizes



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



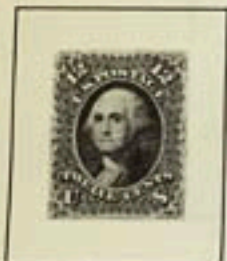
GEORGE WASHINGTON



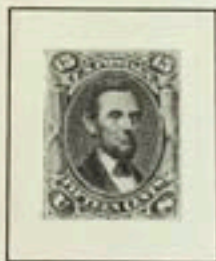
THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



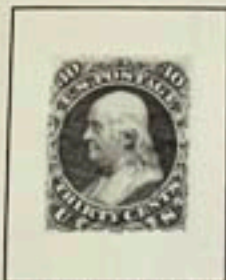
GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

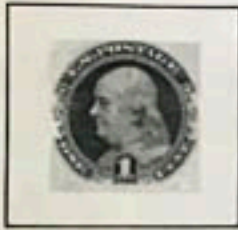


GEORGE WASHINGTON

Some people resorted to the crafty practice of erasing the cancellation marks on stamps and re-using them. In an unsuccessful effort to stop this procedure the Government impressed into the paper on a small quantity of the 1861-66 issues tiny pyramidal designs, called "grills." Since there were many types of grills, a collection of "stamps with grills" is an interesting but very expensive philatelic speciality.

UNITED STATES

1869



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PONY EXPRESS RIDER



EARLY LOCOMOTIVE



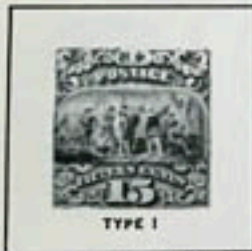
GEORGE WASHINGTON



SHIELD AND EAGLE

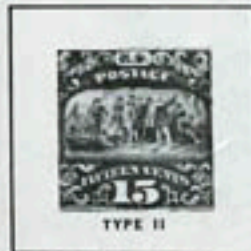


S.S. "ADRIATIC"



TYPE I

LANDING OF COLUMBUS



TYPE II

LANDING OF COLUMBUS



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



SHIELD, EAGLE AND FLAGS



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Because of their odd size and the few familiar portraits, these stamps originally were disliked by the general public. Today, however, all of them are very popular with philatelists. They are the first U.S. pictorials, the first adhesive bicolors, and the shortest-lived regular issue in U.S. postal history. Some of the 15c, 24c and 30c values were printed by error with inverted centers, and have become great rarities.

UNITED STATES

1870-71

National Bank Note Co. Printing
Embossed with Grill



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1870-71

Without Grill



ULTRAMARINE

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



VERMILION

EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



DULL VIOLET

HENRY CLAY



BRIGHT ORANGE

DANIEL WEBSTER



PURPLE

WINFIELD SCOTT



BLACK

ALEXANDER HAMILTON



CARMINE

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

You are now embarked on an exciting philatelic journey among the famous "Bank Note" issues. Fifty-nine major varieties were printed by three companies between 1870 and 1888: National, Continental, and American.

UNITED STATES

1873

Continental Bank Note Co. Printing
Types of 1870-71 with Secret Marks: Thin Hard Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



EDWIN M. STANTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



HENRY CLAY



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

On this page you see the classic stamps produced by Continental, which succeeded National. These issues are renowned for the "secret marks" which set apart Continental's work from that of National. (For more information on this subject, refer to the STAMP IDENTIFIER section.)

1875



ANDREW JACKSON



ZACHARY TAYLOR

The 1873 design, honoring President Andrew Jackson, was now printed in vermilion; and a new blue 5c value, picturing President Zachary Taylor, was issued to comply with the rate set by the international Universal Postal Union for European mail.

UNITED STATES

1879

American Bank Note Co. Printing
Same as 1870-75 Issues: Soft Porous Paper



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ZACHARY TAYLOR



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



DANIEL WEBSTER



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

In 1879 Continental merged with American Bank Note Co. For philatelists the greatest single change, resulting from the merger, was that all the stamps were printed on soft porous paper, instead of the hard paper previously used by National and Continental.

1882



JAMES A. GARFIELD

Issued to memorialize the assassination of James A. Garfield

UNITED STATES

1891-82
Re-engraved



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



THOMAS JEFFERSON

1883



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON

1887



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1888



ANDREW JACKSON



JAMES A. GARFIELD



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

These four issues often confuse collectors because of their resemblance to previous issues. But, on closer examination, minor design differences and new colors as well as new designs distinguish them from their predecessors (refer to STAMP IDENTIFIER).

UNITED STATES

1890-93



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

Last regular issue of U.S. stamps to be printed by a private bank note company, these varieties are prized for their small size and simple design. Continuing an American tradition, these stamps honor U.S. presidents, military heroes and political leaders. Of philatelic note and value are small white "caps" found on some of the 2c values.

UNITED STATES

1893

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION



Columbus in sight of land from the deck of the Santa Maria, as pictured by artist William Powell. Columbus' face is clean-shaven.



Columbus landing at San Salvador in the Bahamas in 1492. The scene is one day after that on the 1c value, now he has a full beard!



The Santa Maria, Columbus' flagship, was copied from an engraving by a Spanish historian-artist and is recognized to be an exact replica.



The entire fleet of Columbus was an imposing sight in 1492, but all three ships could be put on the deck of any modern-day luxury ocean liner.



Columbus, at the Court of Spain, begs Queen Isabella to finance his courageous trip to the Indies, by contributing her precious jewels.



Columbus is welcomed in Barcelona after his discovery of America. The greatest hero of his day, he was received with pomp and honor.



Though undermined by political foes, Columbus regained the favor of Queen Isabella when she learned the truth about the attacks on him.



As a gift, Columbus offered a group of American Indians to Isabella. The Indians were taken to the Cathedral where they were baptized.



The platform where Columbus told of his discoveries and presented the Indians may still be seen as part of the Cathedral in Barcelona.



Columbus shown at the Monastery of Robida explaining his radical theory of a round world. The first dog is pictured on a stamp design.



Queen Isabella recalled Columbus to Barcelona to reconsider the financing of his intended expedition to find a new route to the Indies.



Faced with a Treasury deficit, Queen Isabella pawned her jewels to buy the necessary ships and supplies for Columbus' westward voyage.



Powerful political enemies, who envied Columbus' popularity with the Queen, were successful in having him chained and imprisoned.



After his third trip to America, Columbus proudly returned to Spain. Here, he astounded the Spanish Court with tales of his new discoveries.



This picture of Queen Isabella and Columbus represents the first time a U.S. stamp carried the portrait either of a queen or a non-citizen.



The cast reproduced as the central design was taken from a commemorative half-dollar issued for the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

UNITED STATES

1894

Same as 1890-93 Issue, but with Triangles in Upper Corners: Unwatermarked



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



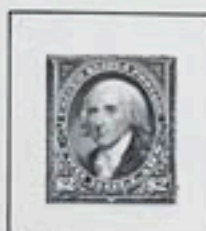
TYPE I

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

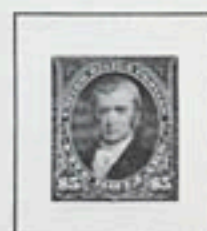


TYPE II

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

These were the first U.S. postage stamps ever printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The addition of small delicate triangles to their upper corners, and the inclusion of one, two and five dollar denominations are the principal differences between these varieties and their 1890 counterparts.

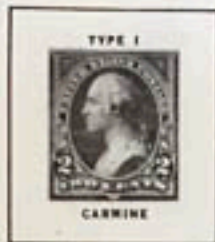
UNITED STATES

1895

Watermarked USPS



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM T. SHERMAN



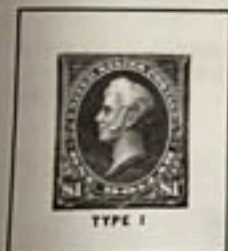
DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY



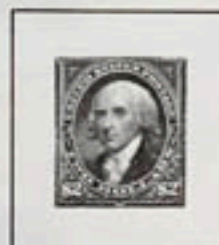
THOMAS JEFFERSON



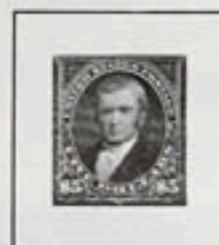
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

These varieties have the same designs as the 1894 issue, but were printed on paper watermarked with the double-line letters USPS, so arranged that one letter or a portion of one appears on each stamp. This was the first time that stamps for postal use were watermarked, and it was done to prevent counterfeiting.

UNITED STATES

1898

Watermarked USPS



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ULYSSES S. GRANT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



DANIEL WEBSTER



DANIEL WEBSTER



HENRY CLAY

1898

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION



A scene from Father Marquette's explorations of the Mississippi River.



Grain harvesting with horse-drawn combines was slow and tedious.



Buffalo were prized by the Indians for food and clothing.



John Charles Frémont planted a U.S. flag on highest peak in Rocky Mts.



The U.S. Cavalry that protected settlers from fierce Indian attacks.



Death of a horse pulling a "Prairie Schooner" was a typical hardship.



Here is a typical gold-mining prospector with his burros and dog.



Western cattle were often killed by blizzards and howling winds.



A marvel of the 1890's: bridge over the Mississippi at St. Louis, Mo.

UNITED STATES

1901

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION



Great Lakes steamships were the major method used in forwarding goods between the midwest and east.



Fast trains provided the best cross country transportation. Pictured here: a New York to Chicago deluxe express train.



Electric operated taxicab in Washington, D.C. heralded the leadership of the U. S. in automotive development.



The bridge at Niagara Falls, an engineering marvel of the 19th century, intrigued visitors at the Exposition.



The famous Sault Ste. Marie canal, through which more shipping tonnage passes than any other in the world.



Crossing the Atlantic in less than 10 days, the S. S. St. Paul was one of the world's fastest ocean liners in 1901.

The Pan-American Exposition, held in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1901, was a tribute to the economic and social progress of North, Central, and South America during the 19th Century. Stamps issued to commemorate the event carried pictures featuring this country's advances in transportation.

UNITED STATES

1902-03

Watermarked USPS

Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ANDREW JACKSON



ULYSSES S. GRANT



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



JAMES A. GARFIELD



MARTHA WASHINGTON



DANIEL WEBSTER



BENJAMIN HARRISON



HENRY CLAY



THOMAS JEFFERSON



DAVID G. FARRAGUT



JAMES MADISON



JOHN MARSHALL

The "Gay 90's" passed into nostalgic history, the new 20th Century dawned, and the Government issued stamps designed to conform to the baroque or "ginger-bread" style of the times. Portraits of American notables in the fields of law, politics, and war were set in decorative frames, biographical data was included. Martha Washington became the first white American woman to appear on a U. S. postage stamp!

1903

Perforated 12



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1906

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1906-08

Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Imperforate



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1904

LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



JAMES MONROE



WILLIAM MCKINLEY



MAP OF LOUISIANA PURCHASE

This set was issued to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase (827,987 sq. mi.), the first major acquisition west of the Mississippi. Pictured on the stamps are the notables who negotiated the vast transaction: Livingston and Monroe bargained with Napoleon; President Jefferson officially approved the deal. President McKinley authorized the St. Louis World's Fair celebrating the centennial of the Purchase.

1907

JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION



CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH



FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN



POCAHONTAS

This set marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. On the 1c value is a picture of Capt. John Smith, who led three ships and 105 settlers to this foreign shore. The 2c has as its illustration a painting showing the hardy settlers landing at Jamestown. Chief Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas, who saved Capt. Smith's life, is pictured on the 5c value.

UNITED STATES

1908-09

Watermarked USPS

Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



These are the first 12 values of issues generally labelled, "The Third Bureau Series of 1908-22." The one and two cent values show the denomination in words instead of numerals. Though Washington is on 11 values, Franklin, never President, is also included; a glowing tribute to his spot in U.S. history.

UNITED STATES

1909

ALASKA-YUKON PACIFIC EXPOSITION



In 1867 William Seward, astute Secretary of State, negotiated with Russia to buy Alaska for seven million two hundred thousand dollars. Called at the time "Seward's Folly," his prophetic good judgment is a fact of history today.

HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION



For the 300th anniversary of the arrival of Henry Hudson in New York aboard the "Half-Moon," and the 100th anniversary of Robert Fulton's first trip in his steamboat "Clermont" a special stamp showing both vessels was issued.

1910-11

Watermarked USPS; Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES

1861
First Designs



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1861-62
Second Designs



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1861-66



ANDREW JACKSON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



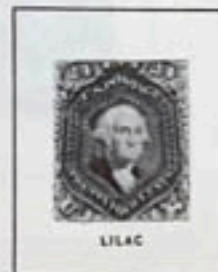
THOMAS JEFFERSON



THOMAS JEFFERSON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



GEORGE WASHINGTON

With the outbreak of the Civil War all previous U.S. postage issues were declared valueless, to prevent their use by Confederates. During the war the 1861-66 stamps were also used by Northerners as "small change," due to the lack of metal coins. These varieties include the famous "Black Jacks" honoring President Andrew Jackson; and the first Abraham Lincoln stamp marking the anniversary of his assassination.

UNITED STATES

1912-14

Perforated 12



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Watermarked USPS



Imperforate



COIL STAMPS

Perforated 8½ Horizontally



Perforated 8½ Vertically



Perforated 12



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Watermarked USPS



The discontinuance of parcel post stamps made necessary five new denominations of ordinary stamps, 7c, 9c, 12c, 20c and 30c. The 7c value bears the head of Washington, the other four show the head of Franklin. The 1c and 2c varieties of this issue are printed with numerals instead of words.

UNITED STATES

1914-15

Watermarked USPS
Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



The continuing experiments to improve stamp separations resulted in changing the gauge of perforations to 10 for stamps in sheet form, thus quite incidentally creating a new set for collectors. It also became necessary to issue an 11c value for the first time in U.S. postal history.

1914

Flat Plate Printing; Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Vertically



1914

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Horizontally



1914

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Imperforate



1915

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Perforated 10

Perforated 11



1914-16

Rotary Press Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Vertically



1915-16

Rotary Press Coil Stamps: Perforated 10 Horizontally



Rotary Press printing was used for the first time. It provided a faster and more economical method of stamp production as compared to the Flat Plate method.

UNITED STATES

1916-17

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Unwatermarked: Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



JAMES MADISON

JOHN MARSHALL

Imperforate



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE I



TYPE II

An unexpected new demand for high value stamps necessitated adding to this regular issue the \$2 and \$5 denominations which were made from the old 1902 dies to save cost. When a new contract for paper was effected it was decided, for the sake of economy, to use unwatermarked paper.

UNITED STATES

1916-22

ROTARY PRESS COIL STAMPS
Perforated 10 Horizontally



GEORGE WASHINGTON



Perforated 10 Vertically



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1917

FLAT PLATE PRINTING
5c Error from Sheet of 2c

Perforated 10



GEORGE WASHINGTON

Perforated 11



The famous "Five Cent Error" occurred during the printing of the 1916-17 and 1917-19 issues. The error occurred where 5c stamps appeared within sheets supposed to contain only 2c values.

UNITED STATES

1917-19
Unwatermarked
Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE 1A



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



1918



OR. RED AND BLACK

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1917



W.K. USPS

GEORGE WASHINGTON

1918



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Further experiments in perforating proved gauge 11 to be the most satisfactory for the type of paper used at this time. It seemed to make for a happy medium between the too fragile perf. 12 and the too strong perf. 10. The perf. 11 "Two Cent" design of 1908 was made from a left-over supply of imperforate sheets.

UNITED STATES

1918-20
OFFSET PRINTING
Unwatermarked: Perforated 11



GEORGE WASHINGTON



TYPE IV



TYPE VI



TYPE IV

Imperforate



TYPE IV



TYPE V



TYPE VA



TYPE VI



TYPE VII



Perforated 12½



In an attempt to economize due to heavy World War I costs the Bureau tried using offset printing on these varieties, but the results were deemed unsatisfactory for stamps.

UNITED STATES

1919-21

ROTARY PRESS PRINTING

Unwatermarked: Perforated 11x10



Perforated 10x11



Perforated 10



Perforated 11



Perforated 11



In an attempt to be thrifty, the Post Office issued this assortment of varieties. Some were "coil waste" made from sheets intended to be used to create coil stamps. This issue completed the Washington-Franklin series.

1919

VICTORY



Hailing the allied victory in World War I, this stamp, showing "Freedom" with flags, was issued Mar. 3, 1919.

1920

PILGRIM TERCENTENARY



THE MAYFLOWER



LANDING OF PILGRIMS



SIGNING OF COMPACT

This set marked the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. Historians agree that while Plymouth Rock will always be featured in connection with the landing, it is an accepted fact that the first landing was at Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod and not at Plymouth.

UNITED STATES

1922-25
FLAT PLATE PRINTING
Perforated 11



NATHAN HALE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



JAMES A. GARFIELD



WILLIAM MCKINLEY



ULYSSES S. GRANT



THOMAS JEFFERSON



JAMES MONROE



RUTHERFORD B. HAYES



GROVER CLEVELAND



AMERICAN INDIAN



STATUE OF LIBERTY

UNITED STATES

1922-25
FLAT PLATE PRINTING
Perforated 11



GOLDEN GATE



NIAGARA FALLS



BISON



ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATRE



LINCOLN MEMORIAL



U.S. CAPITOL



"AMERICA"

Imperforate



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON

This Fourth Bureau Series, 1922 to 1934, marks a progressive era in the development of U.S. stamps. Artistically designed, this issue has both flat plate and rotary press printings, a variety of perforations and some imperforates, several new denominations, and a wide range of illustrations.

UNITED STATES

1923-29

COIL STAMPS

Perforated 10 Vertically



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON



GEORGE WASHINGTON



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



MARTHA WASHINGTON



THEODORE ROOSEVELT



JAMES MONROE

Perforated 10 Horizontally



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



WARREN G. HARDING



GEORGE WASHINGTON

This issue includes sheet stamps printed on rotary presses perf. 10, as well rotary coils with the same perfs.

1923

HARDING MEMORIAL

Flat Plate Printing



Flat Plate Printing



Rotary Press Printing



On Sept. 1, 1923, a month after his untimely death, a stamp was issued in U.S. President Harding's memory. Its popularity made it necessary to supplement the flat plate printing (Perf. 11) with a rotary press printing (Perf. 10). Imperforate sheets were issued on demand for those who wished to frame parts of sheets as a memorial of the late chief executive.