

The Third Bureau

Washington and Franklin

Coils

1908 to 1922

Tonight's Presentation

- 1) Flat Plate Coil Issues**
- 2) History and development**
- 3) Is it the real McCoy ?**
- 4) Questions & Answers**

Third Bureau Issues

- **Issued over a 14 year period**
- **250 separate and distinct issues**
- **Only 5 basic designs**
- **Just 2 separate engravings**
- **55 coil varieties**
- **6 coil waste**

Flat Plate Coils

Perf-12 Issues

1) Scott #348-356

2) Scott #385-389

Perf-8.5 Issues

1) Scott #390-396

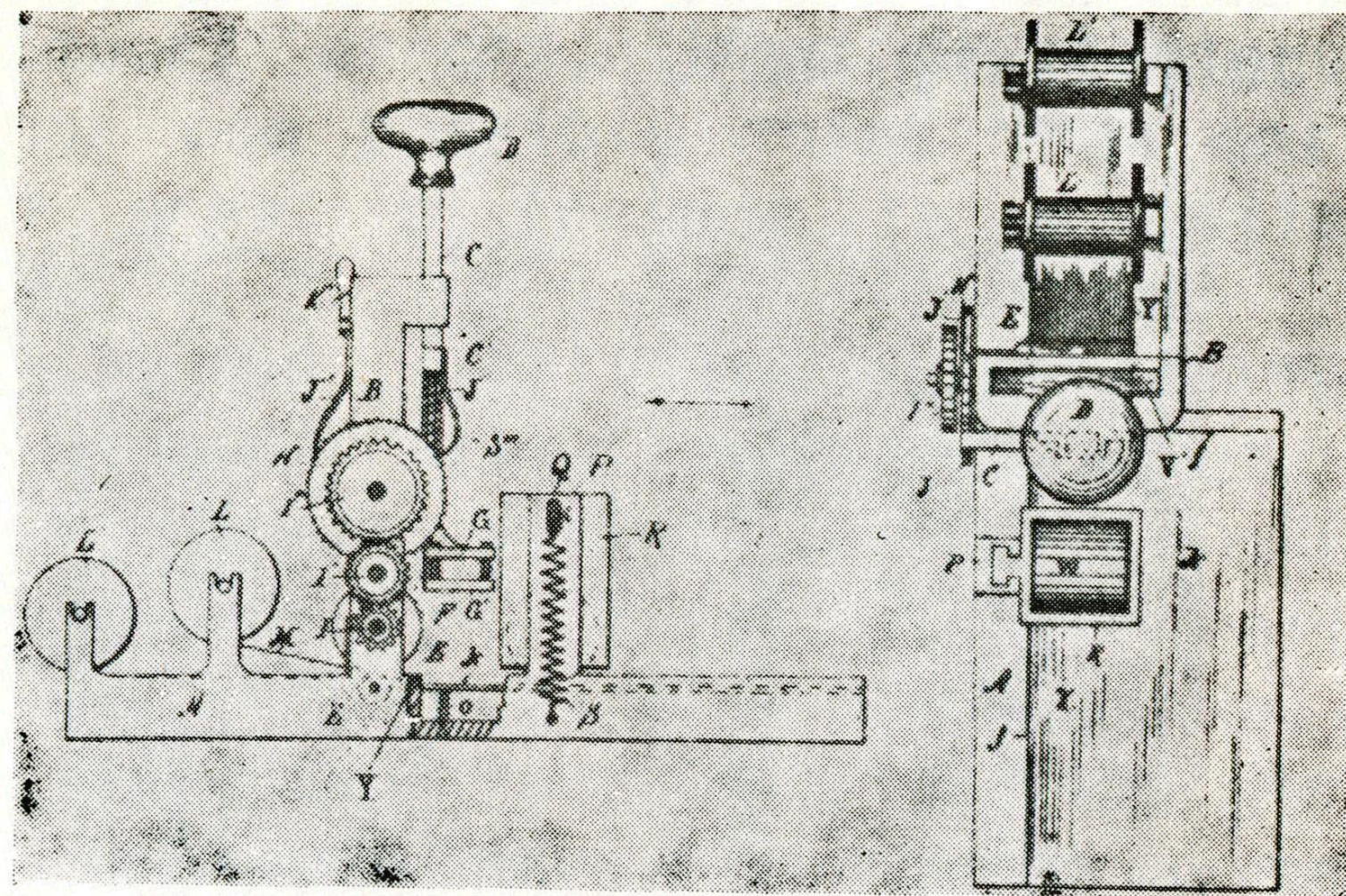
2) Scott #410-413

Perf-10 Issues

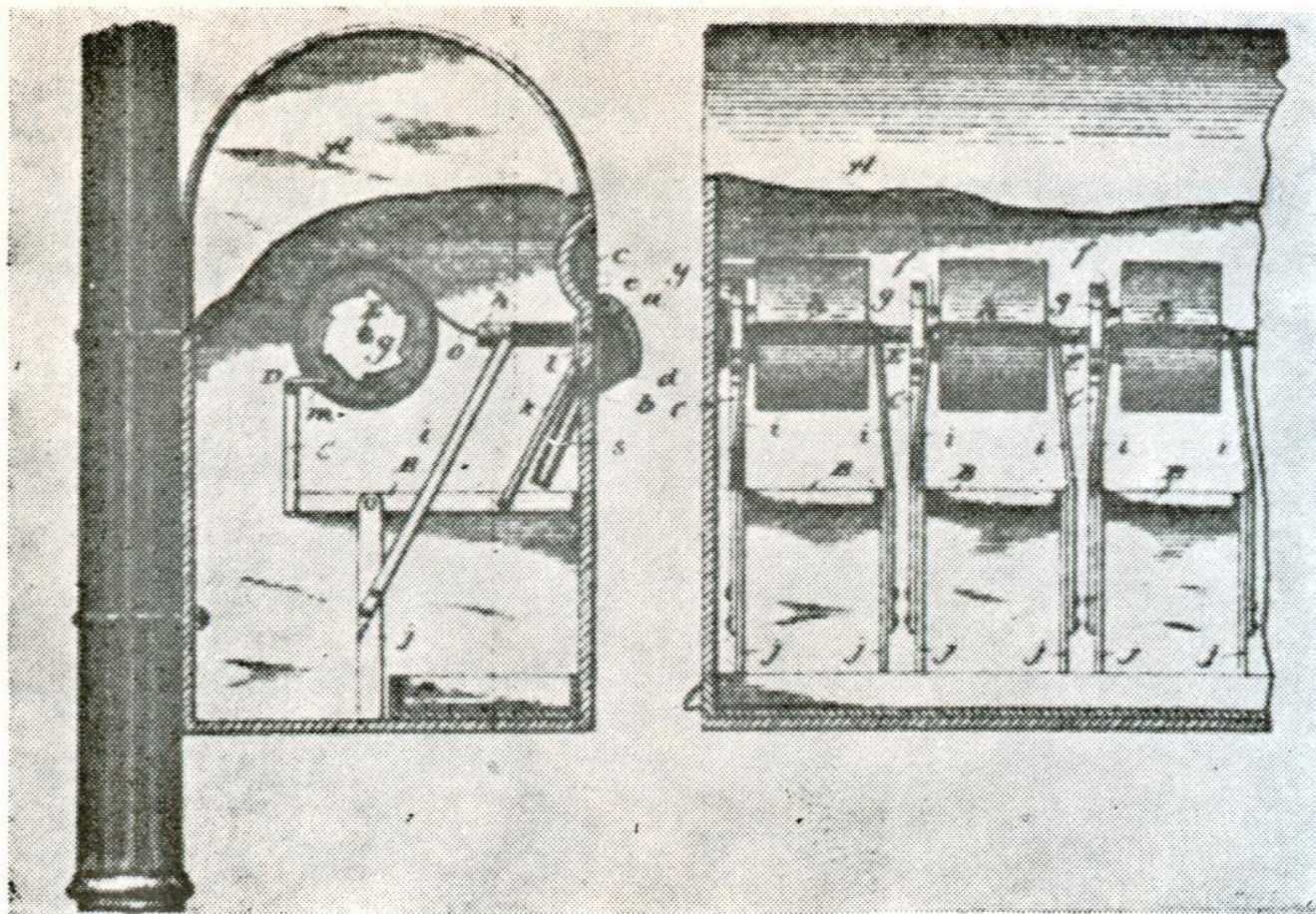
1) Scott #441-447

Industrial Revolution

- **Late 1800s to early 1900s**
- **Period of tremendous growth**
- **A wide variety of vending machines were invented**
 - **Dispensed post cards to gumballs**
- **Stamp business provided opportunity**
 - **Government contracts**
 - **Large demand for affixing devices**



First Affixier to use Coiled Stamps



First Coil Vending Machine

Vending Machine Companies

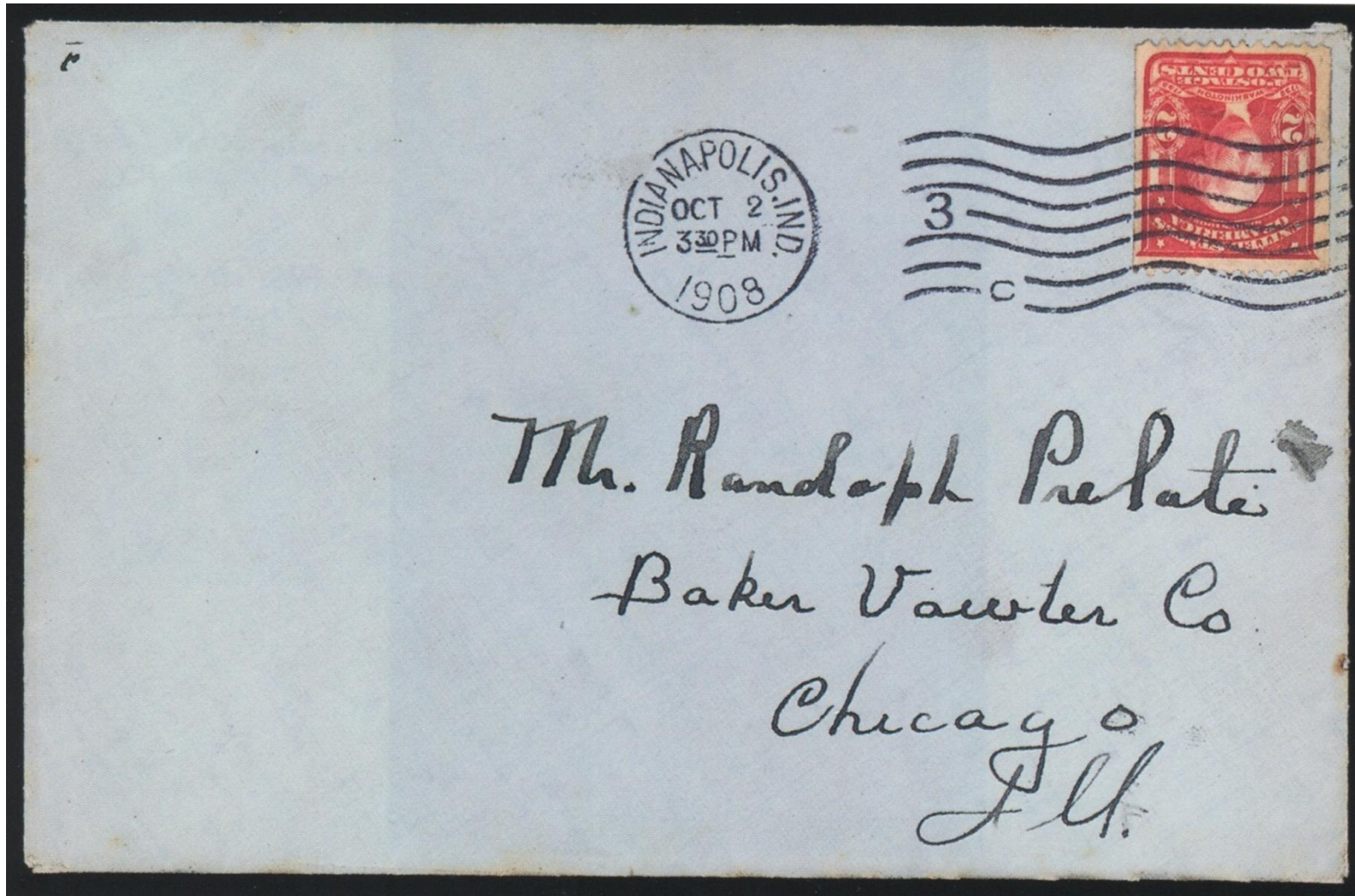
- Responsible for creating many different types of private perforations
- Requested full imperforate sheets from Government
- Started the development of experimental Government coils
- Government saw opportunity to make money

Government Issued Coils

- Experimental Issues
- First constructed by hand
- Made from individual strips of ten pasted together
- Extremely rare
- Distinct color



Cover of 2 cent shield coil



Third Bureau Government Coils

- The first coils were perforated 12
- Were produced from sheet stamps
- They were hand assembled
- Took 17 workers to produce a coil roll
- Time consuming and costly

Coil Production Perf-12

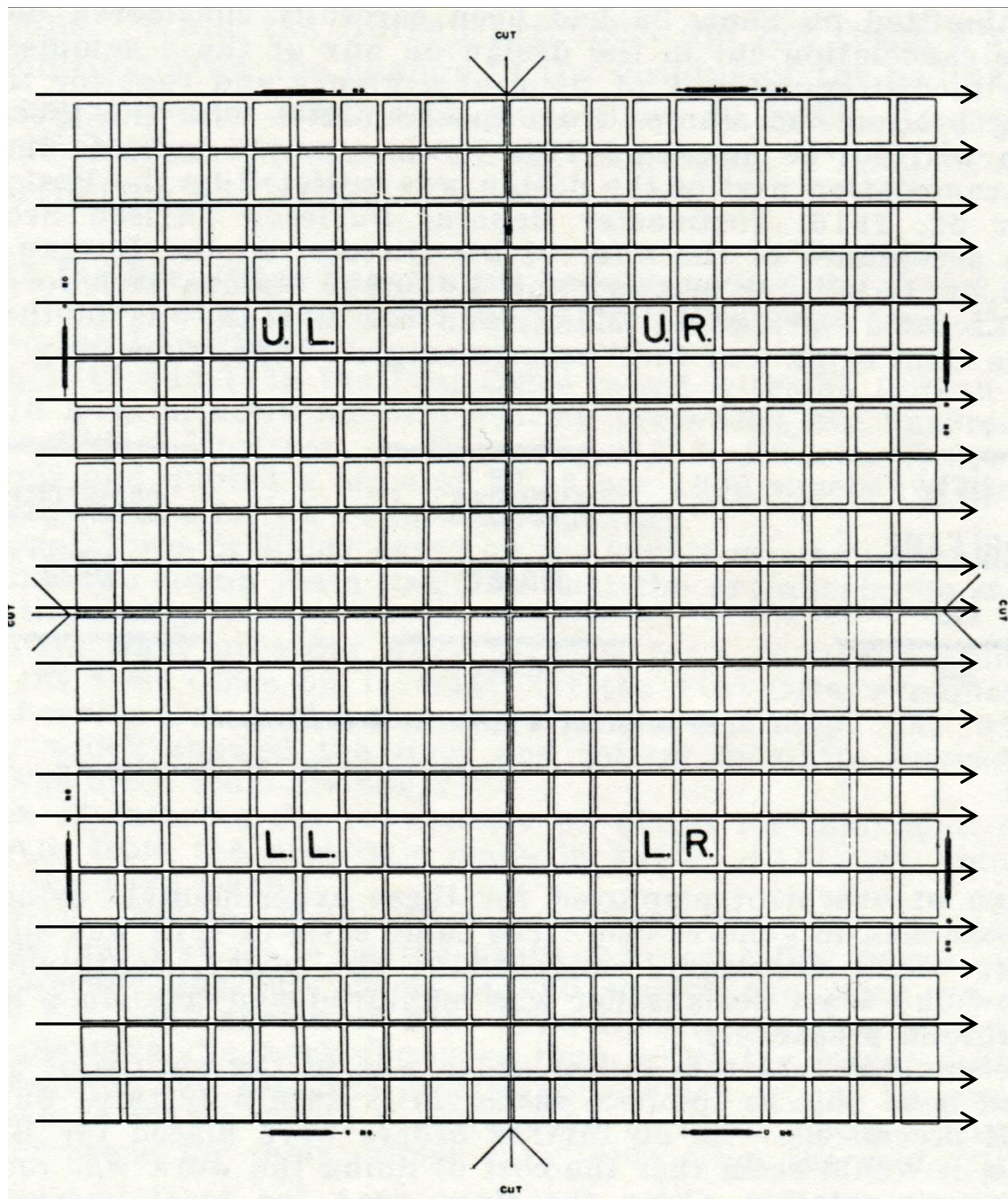
The first sheet stamps used for the production of perf-12 coils were made from the plates which had 2mm spacing

2mm Spacing



Coil Production Perf-12

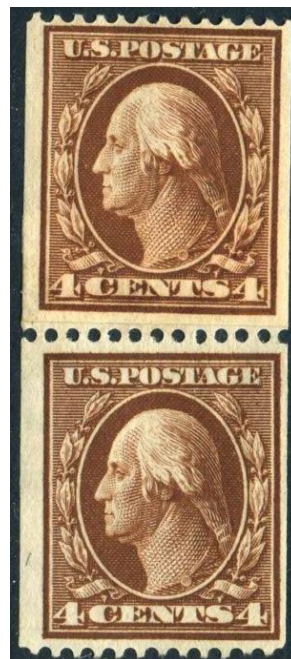
- The 400 subject panes were cut into strips of 20.
- The strips were then pasted together by hand.
- The long strips were then wound into coils of 500 or 1,000.



Complete
pane of
400

Double Line Watermark

Scott #348-356





- It was found when the stamps were printed the paper shrank unevenly.
- This caused the stamps to be off center and of poor quality when perforated.

- A new plate was made called the Star plate.
- It had a variety of spacing.
- Note the following figure showing the horizontal spacing between stamp designs.

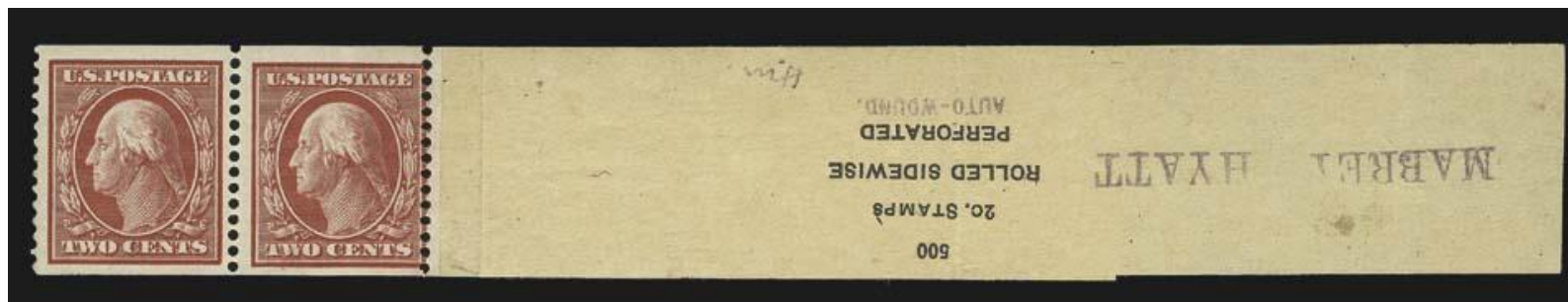


The outer 6 rows of the 400 subject pane had 3mm spacing while the inner 4 rows had 2mm spacing

Single Line Watermark

Scott #385-389







“Orangeburg Coil”

Collector Interest

- The first coils were not well received
- Regular sheet stamps had one straight edge
- Collectors disliked straight edges
- Coils with two straight edges were even less appealing
- Many of the first issue coils were not saved by collectors

Coil Production Changes

- The perf-12 coils were too brittle and frequently broke during the coiling stage
- The gauge was changed to 8.5
- Stronger paper solved the breakage problem
- The “star plates” were not successful in solving the spacing problem.



1910 Issue
Perf-8.5

1910 Issue Perf-8.5

- A new plate was designed called the “A plate”
- It had a consistent horizontal spacing of 2.5mm between stamp designs.
- The following figure shows a partial plate proof with the 2.75mm spacing.

2.75mm

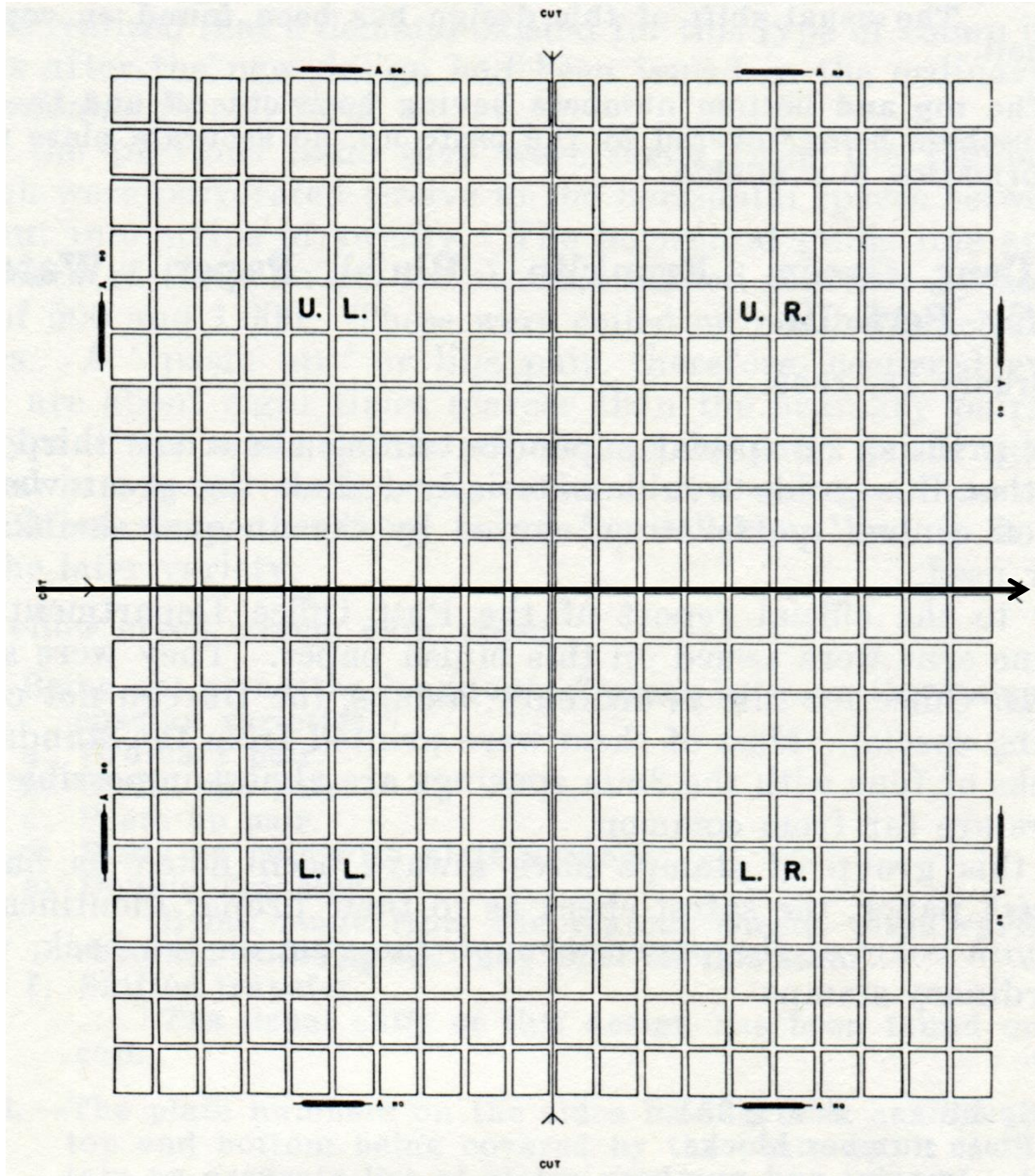


1910 Production Changes

- The 400 subject panes were cut into two smaller panes of 200
- The left margins were trimmed off.
- The two sheets were then pasted together.
- The larger rolls were then placed on a slitting machine.
- The large roll was then cut into 10 coils.
- The coils were wound into individual rolls of 500 or 1,000 stamps.

Complete
pane of
400

The pane
was slit in
half.



Collector Interest

- The issue of 1910 created collector interest in coils
- Stamps were only produced in coil format with 8.5 gauge perforations
- Collectors finally recognized coils as a new area to collect
- Created an interest in the first coils

1912 Coil Issue



1912 Major Changes

The 1 & 2 cent denominations now included numerals to conform to the UPU regulations

1910

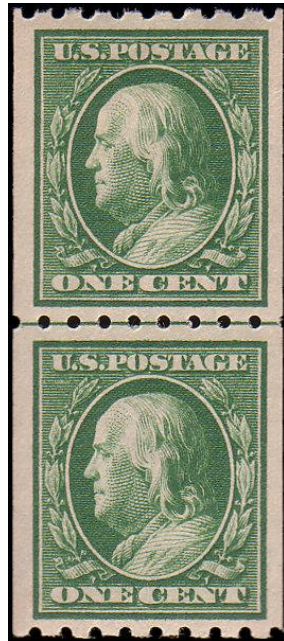


1912



Washington replaced Franklin on the 1 cent design

1910

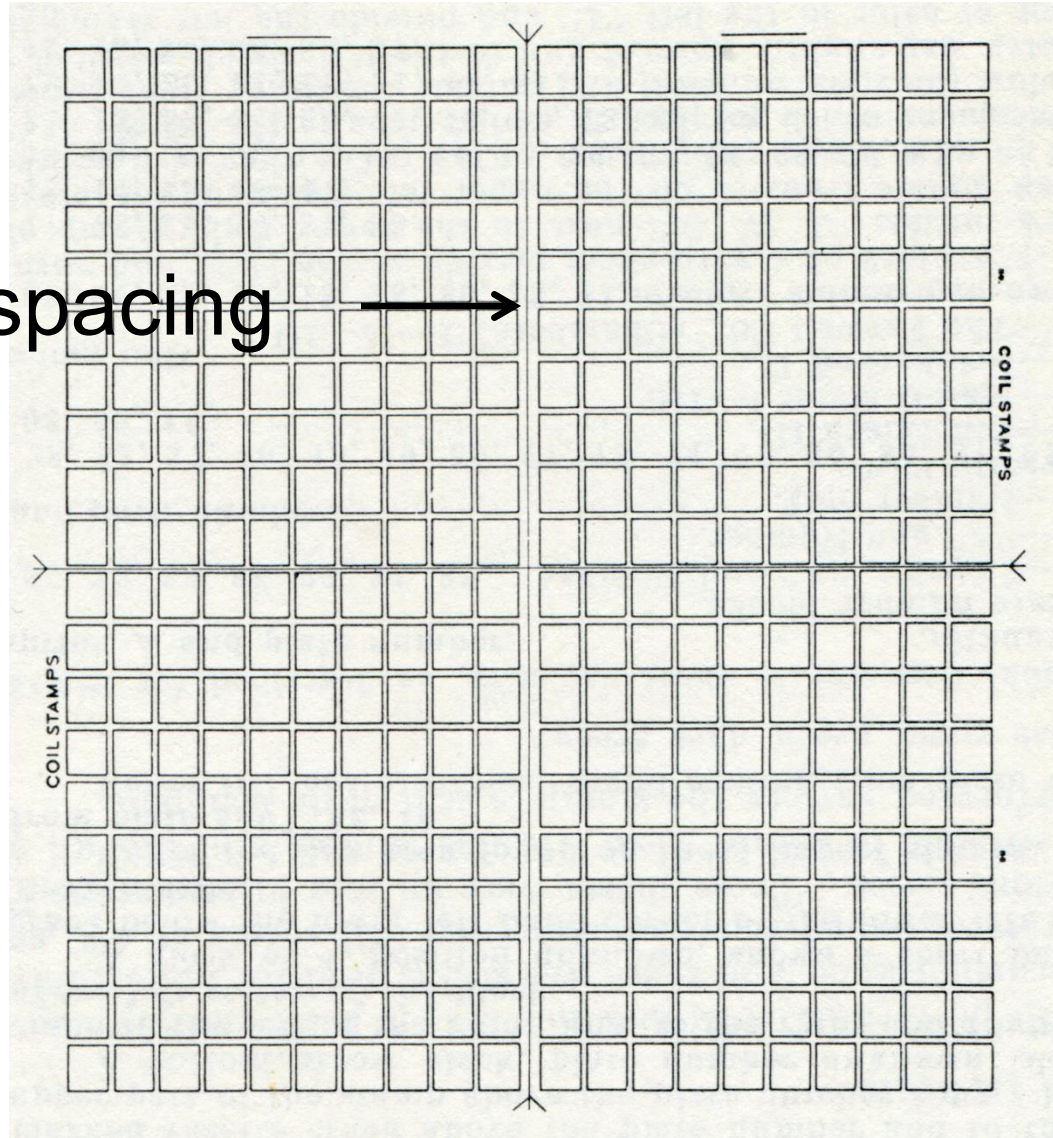


1912



New Vertical Plate Design

1 cm spacing →



Vertical Coil Production

- A 1cm spacing was added between the 10th and 11th vertical rows on the plate.
- This spacing created enough margin for every vertical row to be the same width when the coils were slit.
- The imprint “COIL STAMPS” was added to the margins.
- This was to alert BEP employees of the new plate being used for vertical coils.

Scott #390 Leader Strip



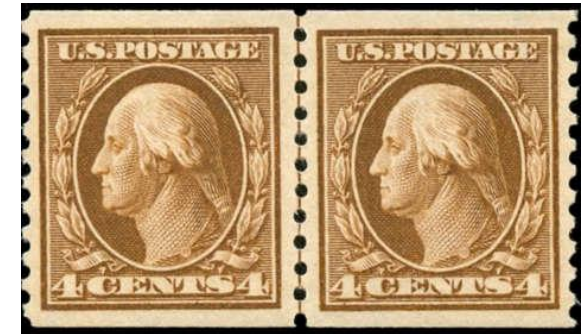
Note the narrow width of the coil.

Perf-8.5 Coil Problems

- The coils were found to be difficult to separate.



1914 Coil Issue



1914 Production Changes

- The perforation gauge was changed from 8.5 to 10.
- This was the best gauge for easily separating the stamps.
- This issue was very short lived due to the development of the rotary press.
- The rotary press coils were released in the same year.

Genuine Coils

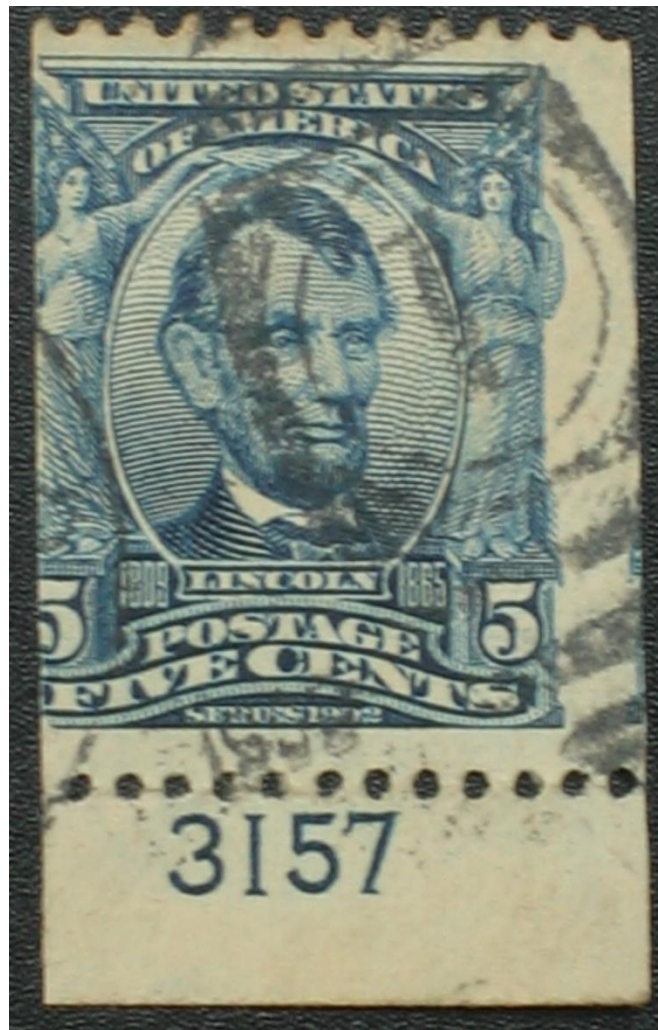
- Many early coils were not saved
- Many imitations have been made.
- Definition of a perf-12 Coil.
- “Send it in for a cert and it comes back a fake”, Frank Backenheimer

Elija McCoy

- Famous inventor from the 1800s.
- Known for quality workmanship
- Many tried to imitate his inventions
- People questioned, Is it real?
 - Hence the phrase
 - “The Real McCoy”



One should think of the phrase
Is it the “Real McCoy”



The Real McCoy ?



Genuine
Or
Fake?

Perf-12 Coils

- Many were not saved by collectors
- Majority of coils were lost or destroyed
- Created a shortage and high demand
- Resulted in a large number of fakes and forgeries being created to meet the demand of collectors
- Many different techniques used to create the fake coils

“The Real McCoy”

- Always question is it genuine ?????
- Is it “The Real McCoy”
- Over 40% of coils submitted to the Philatelic Foundation are fakes.
- Always use the “Buyer Beware” attitude in purchasing a flat plate coil.
- Request a certificate if in doubt.

Expertizing Procedure

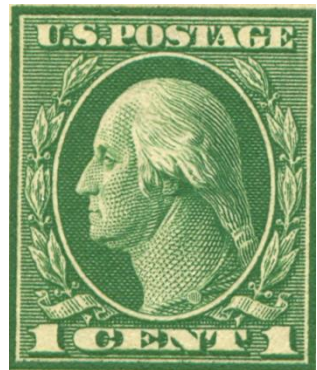
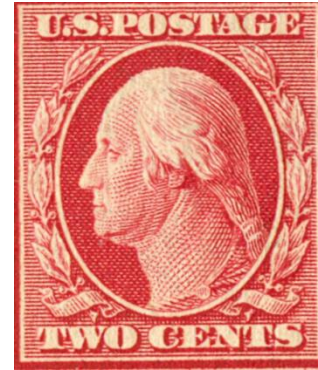
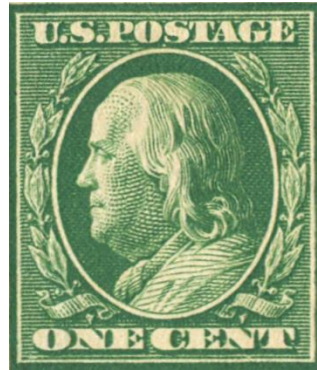
Flat Plate Coils

- Design Type/Scott Number
- Quality Evaluation
- Coil Size
- Cut Edges
- Perforations
- Guidelines
- Watermarks

Design Type

- Take note of stamp's denomination
- Determine perforation gauge
- Determine type of watermark
- Identify appropriate Scott number
- Determine if flat plate or rotary press

Design Type



Quality Evaluation



Is It Too Good To Be True ???



Genuine or Fake?

Typical Centering



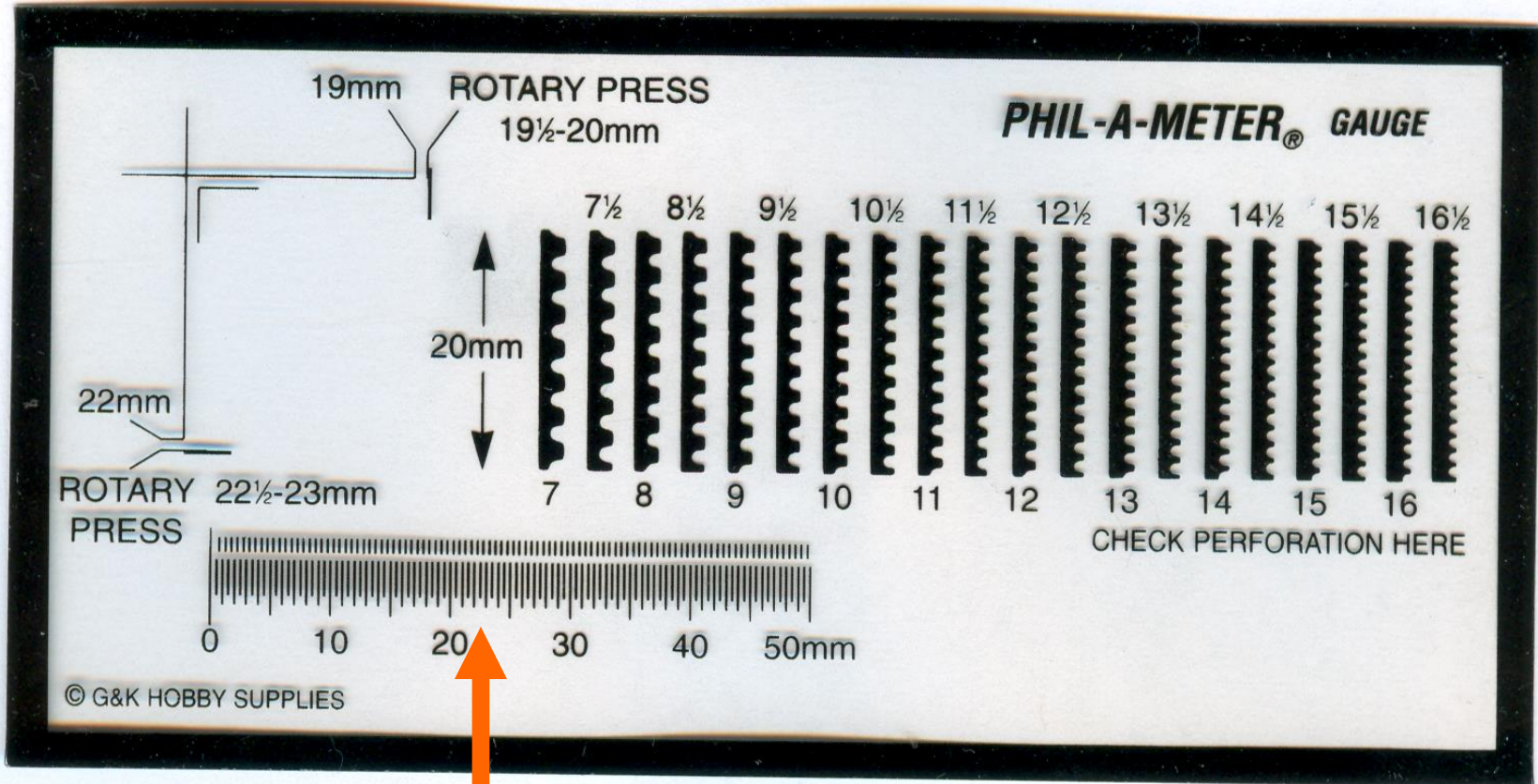


Is It The Real McCoy?

**Well centered
examples do
exist, but ?????**



Coil Size



An overlay gauge can correctly measure the height or width of coil.

Ideal Measurement



Vertical Coils

21.5 mm wide



Horizontal Coils

25 mm high

Cut Edges

- Check for waviness
- Are cut edges parallel ?
- Examine for perforation holes on cut edges.
- Any hole deformation along the cut edge?
- Look and Feel?
- Smooth or sharp cut edges?

Waviness



Fake pair of Scott #388 made from the imperforate Scott #384



Note, top edge with gold highlight showing waviness.

Look and Feel



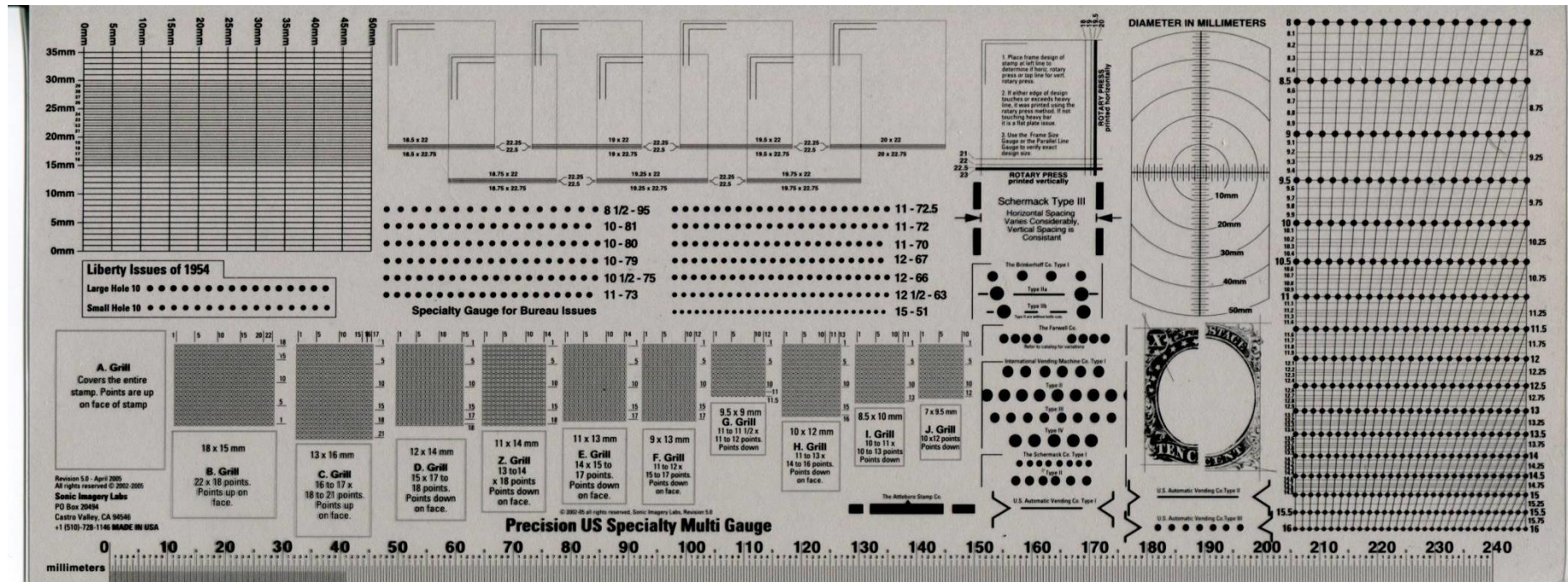
Rounded and smooth

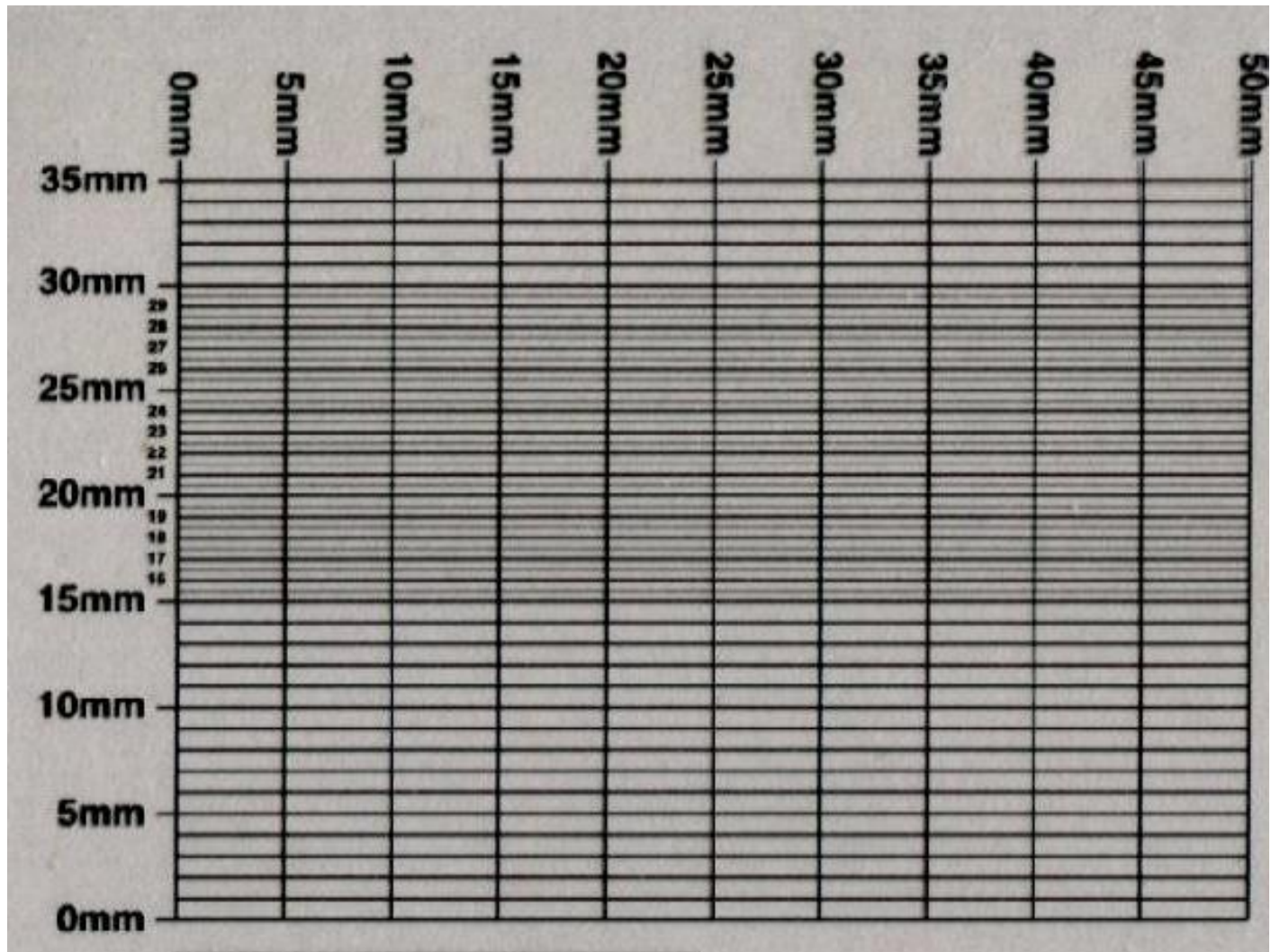


Sharp and distinct

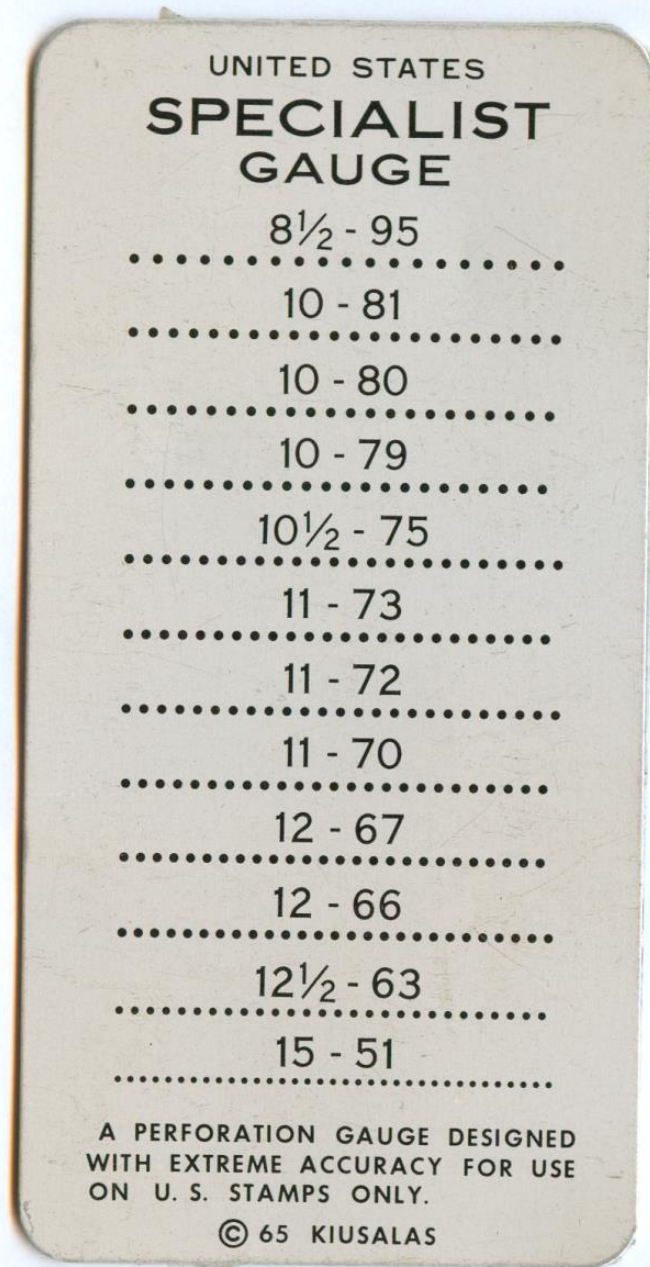


Precision U.S. Specialty Multi-Gauge





Millimeter gauge to check if edges are parallel.



Perforations

Measurements

8 ½ - 95

10 - 79

12 - 66

Specialist Gauge

Hole Configuration

- Hole Shape
- Hole Size
- Hole Alignment:
 - a) within the row
 - b) between rows
- Hole Deformation
- Perforation Tips

Hole Shape



Genuine



Fake

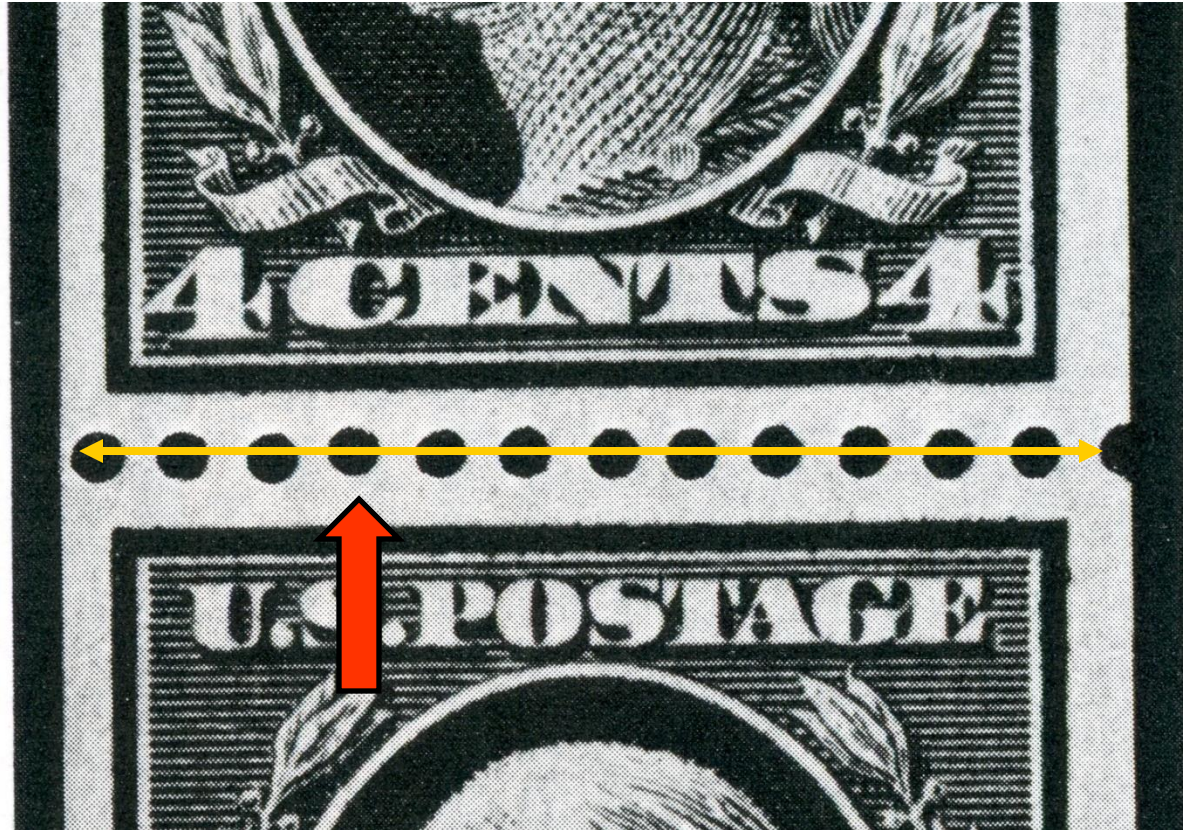
Hole Size

**Note, the top
paste-up pair
is genuine.**

**The holes on
the bottom
pair are too
small and do
not gauge
correctly.**



Hole Alignment



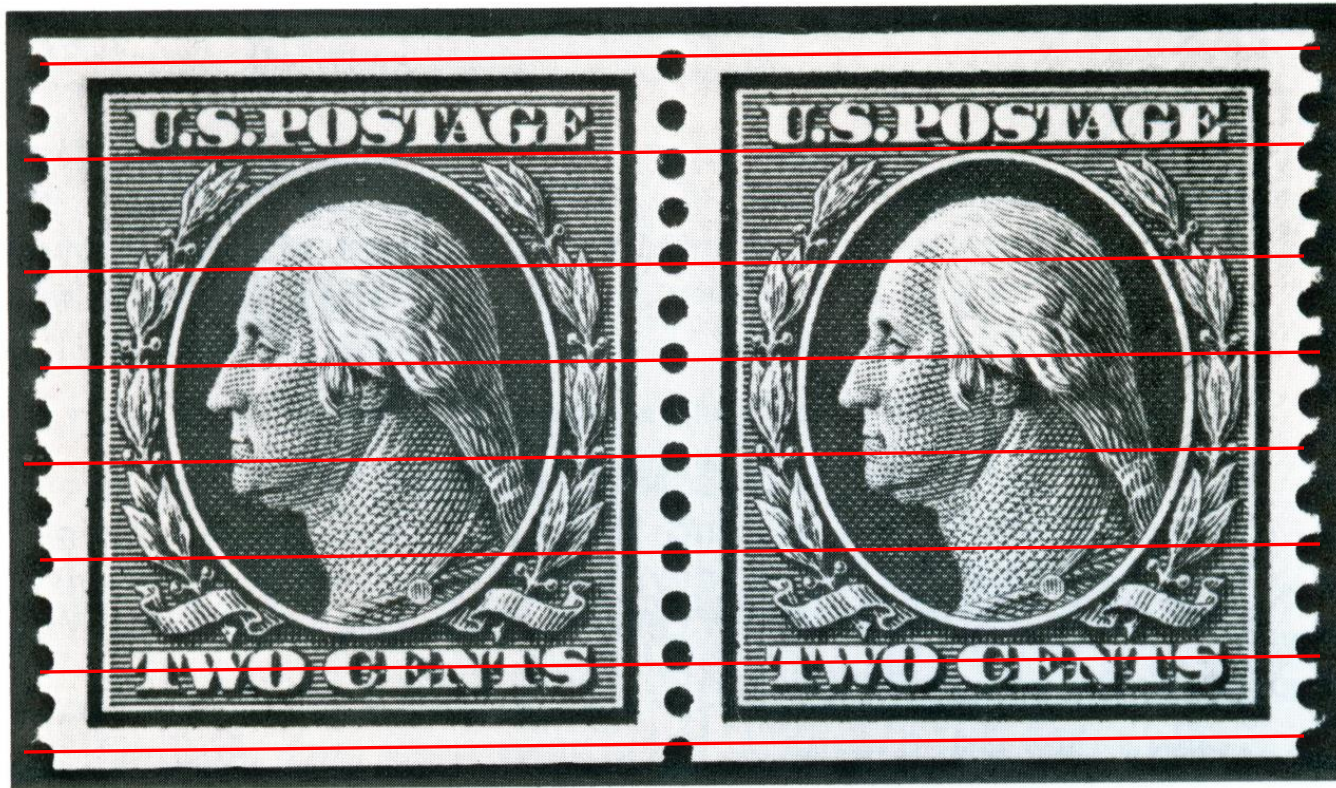
Within The Row

Hole Alignment Between Rows



Genuine

The holes do not line up in the same position in each row.



Fake, holes line up across the coil.

Hole Deformation

- The hole shape should be more oval than round.
- A bit of paper or fiber should be evident on one edge of the hole.
- This should be consistent for each hole.



Perforation Tips



Note, fibers on tips

Guidelines

- Determine if genuine
- Guidelines are engraved just like the rest of the stamp
- Color must match exactly
- There should not be any color inside the perforation holes





Fake, note color is different

Genuine Guide Line





Genuine Guide Line Pair



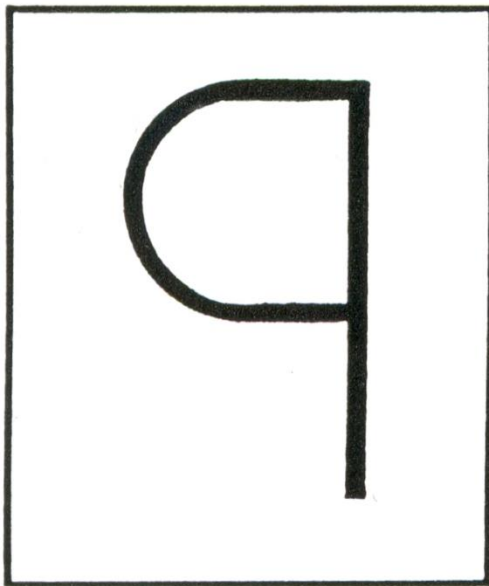
Fake, 2mm spacing



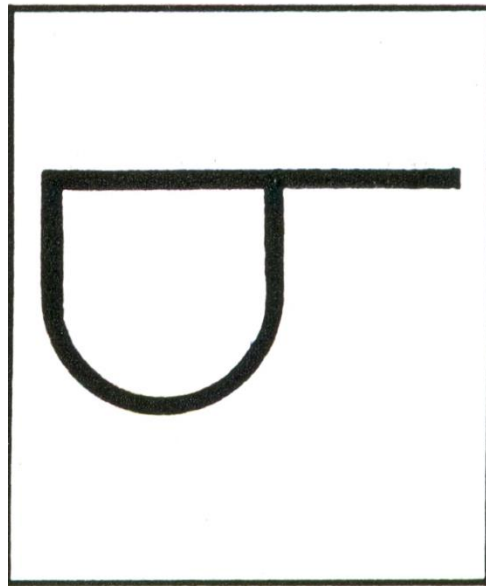


Fake, 3mm spacing on 3 cent coil

Watermarks



"HORIZONTAL"



"VERTICAL"

U S P S

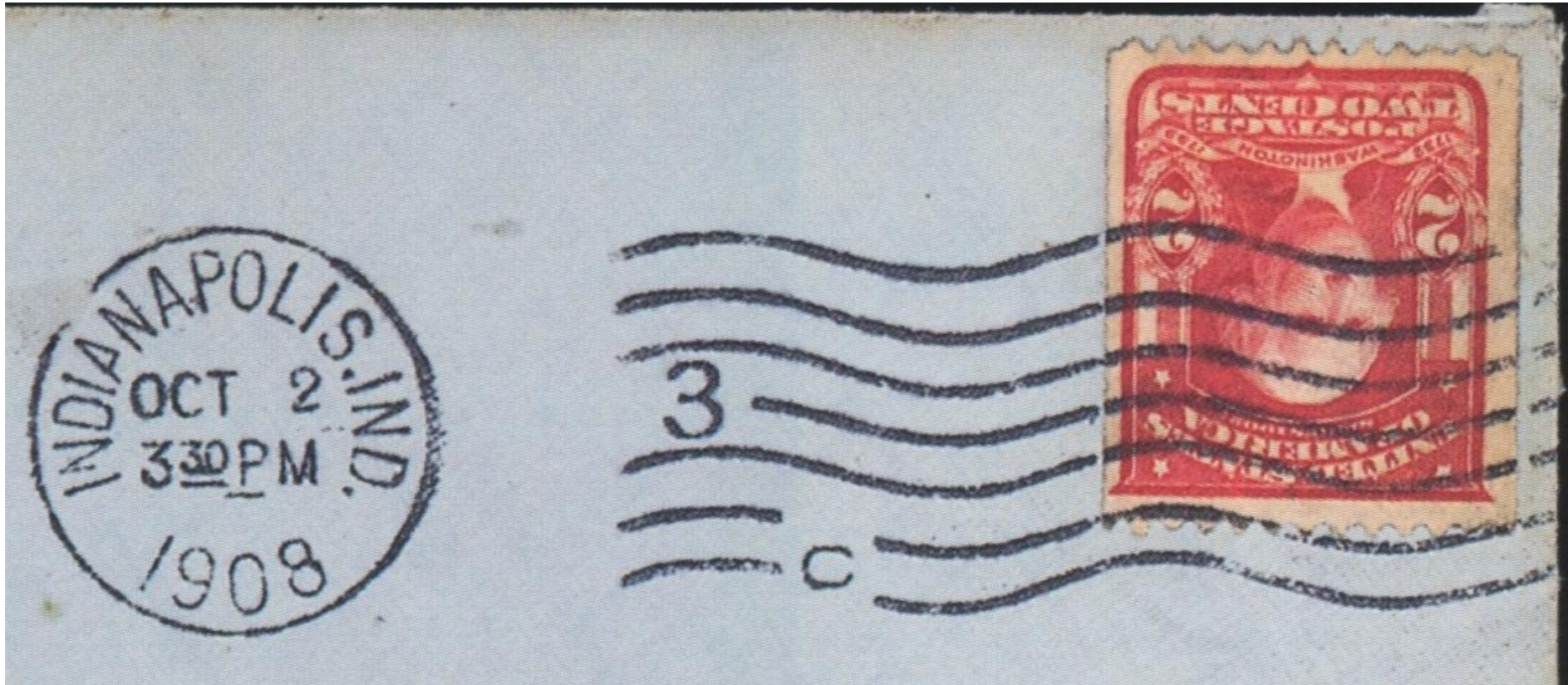
Single Line

U S P S

Double Line

Watermark Orientation

- All flat plate coils were printed on paper with a horizontal watermark.
- Any Washington/Franklin coil that shows a vertical watermark is made from a booklet pane.
- Vertical pairs with a genuine perforations and a guideline can be made from a booklet pane.



Stamp was lifted and checked for correct watermark orientation.

Creative Minds at Work

No. 110 681

July 30, 1982

THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION

270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the applicant described as follows:

Country USA Issue 1910 Denomination 3 ¢
Color violet Cat. No. 389

Brief description or additional information

All Catalogue numbers are Scott's unless otherwise specified.

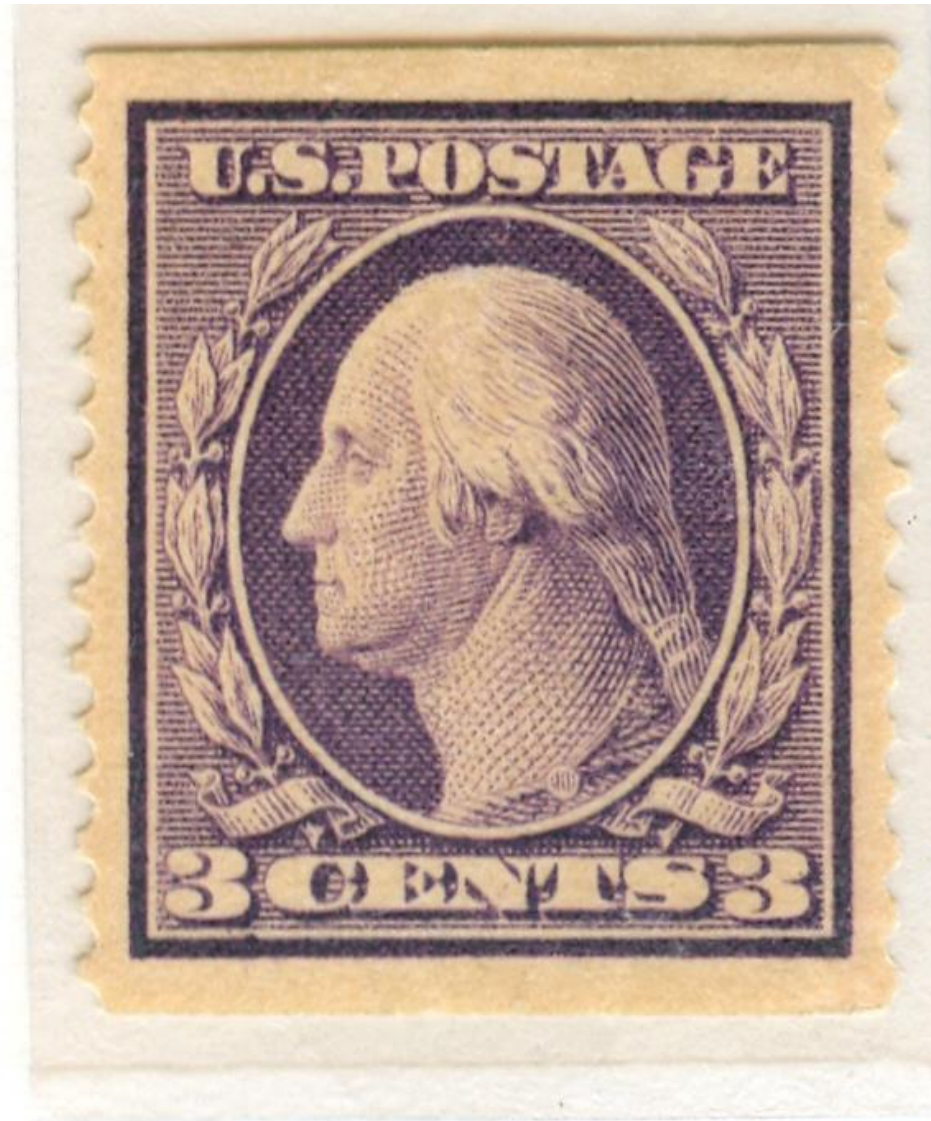
Unused, o.g.

of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion

that it is genuine.-----



[Signature]
For The Expert Committee
Chairman



Note, different type set

July 30, 1982
Issue 1910 Denomination 3 ¢
Cat. No. 389

The diagram consists of three arrows forming a triangle. One arrow points from the '19' in '1982' down to the '1910' in 'Issue 1910'. A second arrow points from the '82' in '1982' down to the '3 ¢' in 'Denomination 3 ¢'. A third arrow points from the '30' in 'July 30,' down to the '389' in 'Cat. No. 389'.

ional

All Catalogue numbers are Scott's unless

Beware !!!

Ingenious Minds at Work

This certificate was doctored by using white out.

They blocked out the old information and typed in the new.

The old and new type do not match.

Only accept an original document from any expertizing agency.


No. 110 681 July 30, 1982


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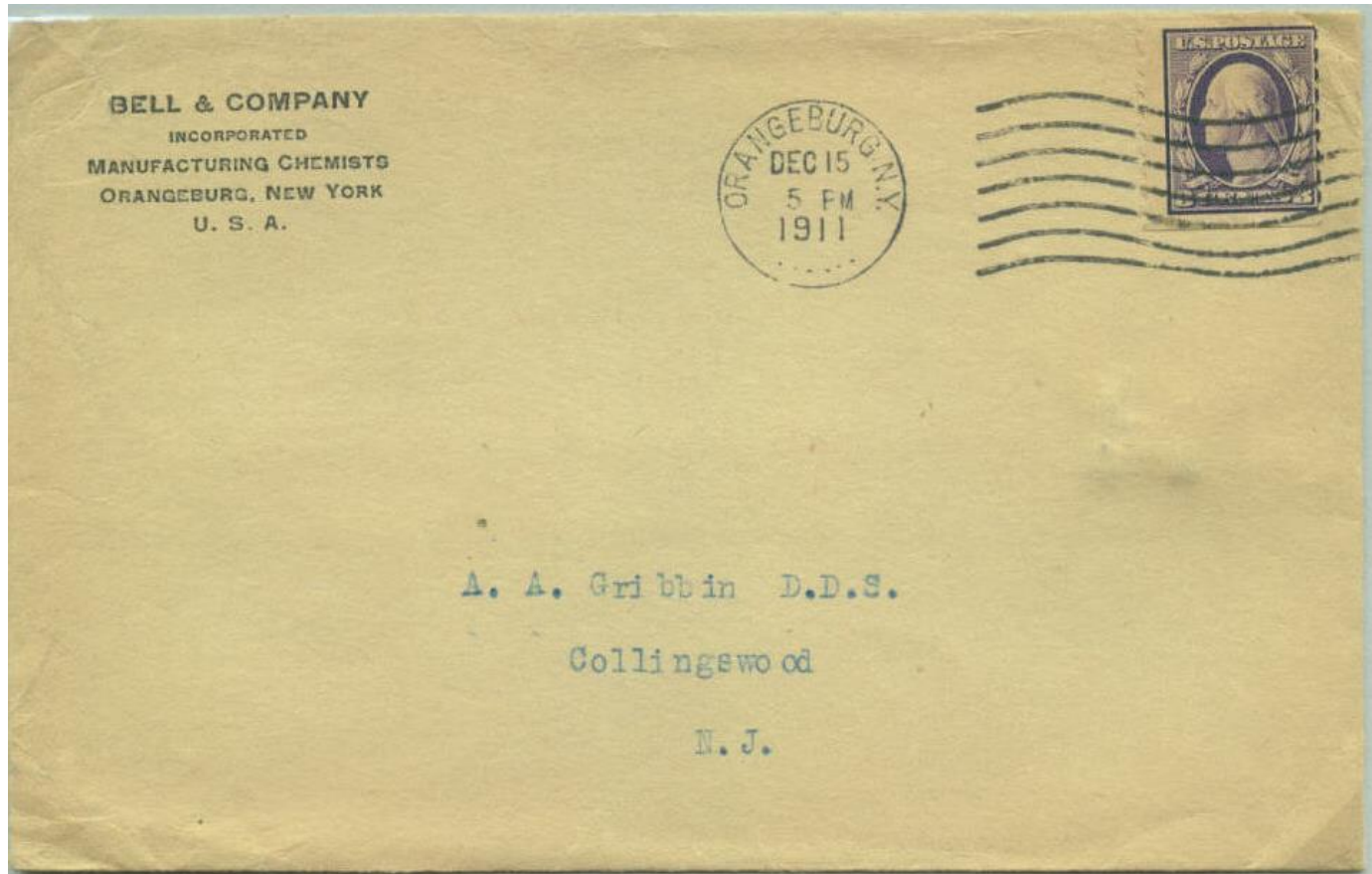
of which a photograph is attached and are of the opinion
that it is genuine.-----



 110 681

For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Adding Stamps to a Cover



The More Common Perf-8.5 Example

Examples of the rare # 389 Orangeburg coil have been placed on covers that had the more common example of the perf-8.5 #394 flat plate coil.



Used Coils

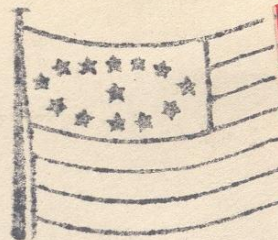
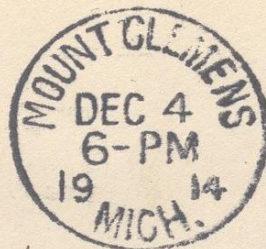
- Beware of well centered used coils
- Many examples have had fake cancels applied.
- Non-contemporary out of time period cancels are common.
- Laser printers are another method used to apply a cancel.





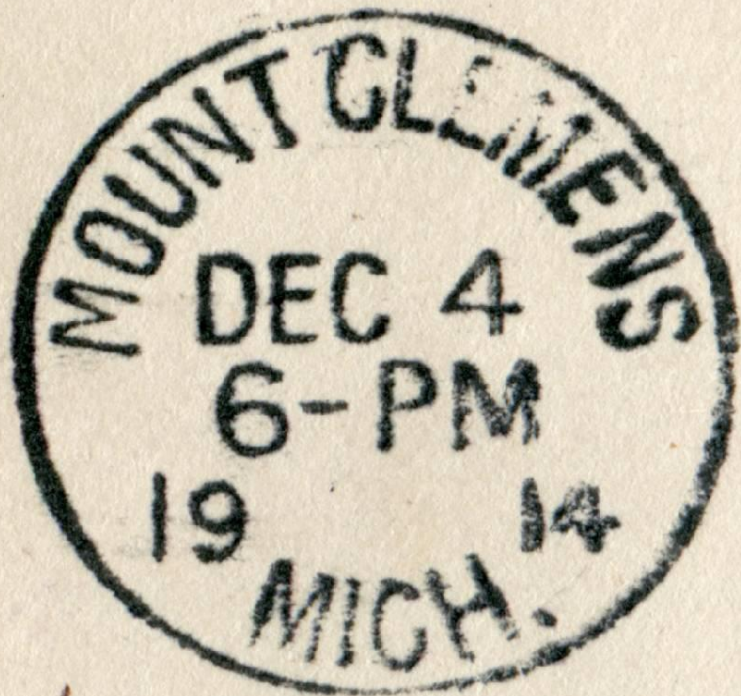
PARK HOTEL
MT. CLEMENS
MICH.

Open All The Year



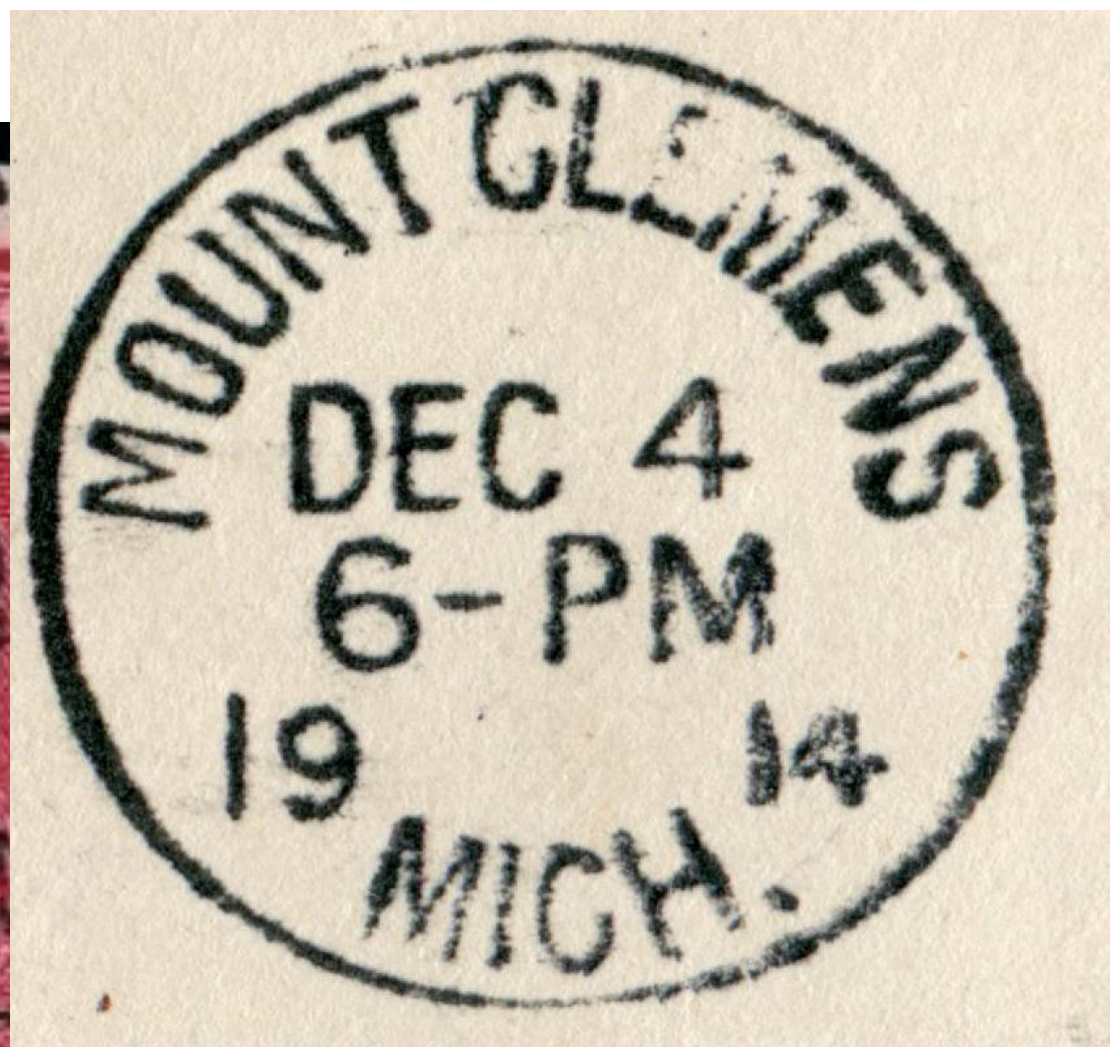
Mr. John Kay,
Of Grainger Hannan Kay,
Detroit, Mich.

238 Woodward.









When In Doubt

- Send it out for Certificate
- The PF, PSE, APS, or PSAG
- Request a certificate if you have any questions about it being genuine.
- Any reputable dealer will back up the cost of expertizing.
- If you are not sure, pass and let it go.